



Our Ref: .....

Your Ref: .....

29<sup>th</sup> August, 2025

**DECREE APPROVING AN ASSOCIATION WITH THE INTENT OF BECOMING A CLERICAL SOCIETY OF APOSTOLIC LIFE**

**HIS LORDSHIP  
RIGHT REVEREND WANOK SANCTUS LINO  
BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE AUTHORITY OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE  
BISHOP OF LIRA DIOCESE**

**GRANT A DECREE OF PASTORAL RECOGNATION TO THE SONS OF ST. PIUS OF PIETRELCINA (PADRE PIO BROTHERS) AS A PRIVATE ASSOCIATION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITHFUL WITH THE INTENT OF BECOMING A SOCIETY OF APOSTOLIC LIFE**

Rev. Fr. Michael Onyango and Sr. Margaret Awor, the Founders of the *de facto* association known as Sons of St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio Brothers), have petitioned so that the Association can be canonically approved as a Private Association of the Christian Faithful in Lira Diocese, Lira City.

Having carefully considered the petition and examining its statutes; and

Having determined that this Association would be useful to the Clergy, Religious, and Lay faithful of the Diocese of Lira; and

Having been assured that this Association has the means and resources to achieve its designated purpose; And to provide suitably for the care of souls;

I, the undersigned Bishop of Lira do hereby, by this Decree, accept and approve the Statutes of Sons of St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio Brothers) and herewith canonically approve Sons of St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio Brothers) as a Private Association of the Christian Faithful in the Diocese of Lira for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the People of God and for the purpose defined in its Statutes.

The Sons of St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio Brothers) has been established with the intention that it will be erected in the future as a Society of Apostolic Life of diocesan right. Its members will consist of celibate consecrated men, clerics and lay who can live as if they are religious, until the Association is established as a Society of Apostolic Life. They are permitted to own a novitiate, a motherhouse and other temporal goods, to wear a specific religious habit, to have its own government, chapters, superiors, councils, to pronounce private vows of chastity, poverty, obedience, and to have temporarily and perpetually professed members.

The Association, however, is subject to the oversight authority of the Ordinary, who is to exercise vigilance so that:

- i. The goods of the association are used for its proper purposes.
- ii. The integrity of faith and morals is preserved in the association.
- iii. Abuse does not creep into ecclesiastical discipline.
- iv. Dissipation of the energies of the association is avoided.

- v. The exercise of the apostolate of the association is ordered to the common good. (cc. 305 §1 and 323 §2).

By virtue of canon 397 §1, I reserve to myself and successors the right of ordinary episcopal visitation to ensure that its spiritual and material matters are directed according to the norm of law and its statutes.

The approved statutes of the Association cannot be changed or amended without the approval of the competent ecclesiastical authority.

Given at the Chancery of Lira Diocese on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2025

✠ Wanok Lino Sanctus  
Bishop of Lira Diocese



Fr. Opio Enty,  
Chancellor

