



**DECREE OF EXTINGTIVE UNION**  
**FOR**  
**ST. MARY PARISH IN SEATTLE**

To Our Brothers and Sisters of the Archdiocese of Seattle:

Whereas, St. Mary Parish in Seattle was established in 1889 to provide for the needs of the Catholic faithful in the area; and

Whereas, the South Seattle Deanery initiated a planning process in 2015 to ensure that parish structures are oriented toward mission and “capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.” (*Evangelii gaudium*, 27); and

Whereas, the results of a review concerning the condition of the parish, the vitality of its ministries, the efficacy of its outreach and evangelization efforts, and the pastoral needs of its people demonstrated that:

- a general downward trend exists in the reception of sacraments, pointing to the need to revitalize a sense of missionary discipleship to ensure a robust community into the future;
- few registered parishioners live within St. Mary’s geographical parish boundaries, but travel from a distance to attend liturgies and parish meetings;
- there are several nearby parish churches in Seattle in close proximity to St. Mary parish church, including one that offers liturgies and pastoral care in the Spanish language;
- the parish has experienced a continuing reduction in income from regular collections, relying overwhelmingly on rental income to cover expenses;
- a merger with St. Therese Parish in Seattle would allow these communities to combine resources for the benefit of all;

Therefore, having considered the necessary information and proofs; having heard, in accordance with canon 50, all those whose rights might be injured, in particular through regular meetings with the Parish Stakeholder Team beginning March 12, 2021, and listening sessions with the parishioners on April 29, 2021, May 19, 2021, May 26, 2021, August 11, 2021, and May 17, 2022; having heard the Presbyteral Council,

in accordance with canon 515 §2, on March 10, 2022; and with due consideration for the good of souls; I, the undersigned Archbishop of Seattle do hereby decree the following:

1. By means of an extinctive union, St. Mary Parish in Seattle shall be subsumed into St. Therese Parish in Seattle so that only St. Therese Parish remains, in accordance with canon 121.
2. St. Therese Parish obtains the goods and patrimonial rights proper to the extinct St. Mary Parish and assumes its obligations. With regard to the allocation of goods in particular and to the fulfillment of obligations, the intention of the founders and donors as well as acquired rights must be respected in accordance with the norm of law. (cc. 121, 1267 §3)
3. All sacramental registers of the extinct St. Mary Parish are to be properly preserved and safeguarded by St. Therese Parish in accordance with the norm of law.
4. Henceforth, the boundaries of St. Therese Parish shall be as follows:
  - **North:** Beginning at the western border of East Montlake Park on the Montlake Cut, proceed east and south along the Park's boundary to Marsh Island,
  - thence east along the northern shores of Marsh and Foster Islands and the Washington Park Arboretum to the shoreline of Lake Washington.
  - **East:** South along the shore of Lake Washington to where the extension of S McClellan St meets the shore of Lake Washington.
  - **South:** West on S McMillan St to its intersection with Rainier Ave S.
  - **West:** Northwest on Rainier Ave S to its intersection with 14<sup>th</sup> Ave S,
  - thence north on 14<sup>th</sup> Ave S to E Yesler Way,
  - thence east on E Yesler Way to the intersection with 27<sup>th</sup> Ave
  - thence north on 27<sup>th</sup> Ave and 27<sup>th</sup> Ave E to E Madison St,
  - thence northeast on E Madison St to its intersection with the southern boundary of the Washington Park Playfield/Washington Park Arboretum,
  - thence west and north along the western boundary of the Washington Park Arboretum to Lake Washington Blvd E at 24<sup>th</sup> Ave E,
  - thence north under Hwy 520 and along the western boundary of E Montlake Park to the Montlake Cut, the point of beginning.
5. This decree becomes effective on July 1, 2022.
6. A separate decree for St. Therese Parish has also been issued this day to provide a summary of facts particular to that parish's condition.

7. This decree is to be communicated to the pastoral coordinator of St. Mary Parish, who will notify the parishioners as soon as possible upon receipt. It may be challenged within the peremptory time limit of ten useful days from the legitimate notification of the decree and in accordance with the norm of law (c. 1734 §2). Any initial recourse is to be sent to the Archbishop of Seattle at 710 9th Avenue Seattle, Washington, 98104.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the chancery  
of the Archdiocese of Seattle  
this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May  
in the year of our Lord 2022.



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Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL  
Archbishop of Seattle

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Benjamin Altenhofen  
Chancellor