



The Catholic Community of South Columbus

672 South 3rd Street Columbus, OH 43206

(O)614-445-9668 (F)614-444-1688

April 16, 2023

Dear South End Catholics,

I hope all of you are continuing to have a happy and blessed Easter!

I am writing to inform you that the Real Presence, Real Future recommendation to close Corpus Christi and St. Ladislav Churches and merge them into St. Mary Church was unanimously approved by the Presbyteral Council and forwarded to Bishop Fernandes. Bishop Fernandes has accepted the recommendation. The decree is effective July 1, 2023.

While this news is not a surprise, I know that this is a sad moment for many. As I listened to your stories in our recent conversations, I was deeply moved and inspired by how God has worked in countless small and large ways through our parishes for generations. We are who we are now because of the faith of our people, and more so, because of God's faithfulness to us all.

I am filled with gratitude for our people in all three parishes. You have helped me to grow more fully into my vocation as a priest by teaching me how to love and serve God's people and our community. And what a beautiful community you are!

I want to take this opportunity to say to you again: I have grown to know and love the people of Corpus Christi, St. Ladislav, and St. Mary's. You are God's people, and your journey to the present day continues to be holy and blessed by God. Indeed, how beautiful is the Body of Christ!

As we grow into the future together, please know this: We cannot be who God calls us to be as a faith community without you! John Cardinal Newman said it this way:

“God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission.”



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It is my hope that you will be faithful to your mission at St. Mary Church as we grow into becoming a new faith community. I am most concerned about your souls and your relationship with our Lord. If St. Mary's does not fit for you, please find a Catholic Church to celebrate the sacraments and continue your journey of faith. God's love and mercy will follow wherever you go.

I truly believe that our best days lie ahead, as in Christ all things are made anew.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Vince Nguyen

Father Vince Nguyen