

December 11, 2023



**The Diocese of Columbus**

197 E Gay St,  
Columbus, OH 43215

•  
**Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes**  
*Bishop of Columbus*



**The Diocese of Steubenville**

422 Washington Street  
Steubenville, OH 43952

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**Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley**  
*Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville*

## **Bishops Issue Joint Statement on Dioceses Potential Merger**

Bishop Paul J. Bradley, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville, and Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of the Diocese of Columbus, along with their staffs, have begun very preliminary discussions regarding the potential merger of the dioceses.

The Apostolic Nunciature has asked the dioceses to work together to consider how different dimensions of the dioceses, including the temporal aspects of life, might be affected by such a proposal.

While no decision has been made, due diligence is needed so an educated and responsible decision can be discerned in a timely manner. Ultimately the decision is up to the Holy Father.

The work has begun, and as the work continues, updates will be provided.

Bishops Bradley and Fernandes ask the clergy and the laity to pray that the unified work may be fruitful.

+ *Earl K. Fernandes*

**Earl K. Fernandes**  
*Bishop of Columbus*

+ *Paul J. Bradley*

**Paul J. Bradley**  
*Apostolic Administrator of the  
Diocese of Steubenville*