



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Office of the Bishop
614 • 224 • 2251

DECREE NOTABLY ALTERING the PARISH BOUNDARIES of St. Mary, Marion

WHEREAS, a parish is defined as “a certain community of the Christian faithful stably constituted in particular church, whose pastoral care is entrusted to a pastor as its proper pastor under the authority of the diocesan bishop” (can. 515 §1);

WHEREAS, “as a general rule, a parish is to be territorial, that is, one which includes all the faithful of a certain territory” (can. 518);

WHEREAS, there has not been an accurate definition of the parish boundaries of St. Mary Parish in Marion County and the custom has been to consider the parish boundaries those of the county lines;

WHEREAS, the recommendation is to define the parish boundaries of St. Mary as those of the present county lines of Marion County;


WHEREAS, having duly consulted with the pastor whose territory is impacted by the proposed alteration (c. 50); having heard the Presbyteral Council which was provided with the necessary information and lawfully convoked according to cc. 127 and 166 on 26 September 2024 and offered genuine consultation according to c. 515 §2 in the form of unanimous agreement with the proposed clarification of the parish boundaries;

WHEREAS, having determined that the good of souls will suffer no harm and will benefit from a more certain definition of parish boundaries of the parish;


THEREFORE, having considered the law and the facts, I, Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, decree the following:

- 1) That the territory of St. Mary is defined by the present county lines of Marion County.
- 2) That this alteration shall take effect upon the promulgation of this decree.
- 3) That this decree shall be promulgated by publication on the Diocese of Columbus website and in *The Catholic Times* diocesan newspaper.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio this 3rd day of October, 2024.


Deacon Tom Berg, Jr.
Chancellor




Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus