



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Office of the Bishop
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DECREE OF EXTINCTIVE UNION OF OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL PARISH COLUMBUS, OHIO WITH ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON PARISH PICKERINGTON, OHIO

WHEREAS, due to the decline in priestly vocations in the Diocese of Columbus, the parish of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (OLMM) has shared parochial leadership with the pastor of Seton Parish, who has served as the parochial administrator of OLMM, since 2023;

WHEREAS, the population of the parish of OLMM has been low but relatively steady over the past eight years with only 243 registered households in 2016 and 262 registered households in 2024. The number of baptisms has been steady but low with 9 baptisms in 2016, 8 of which were infants and 8 baptisms in 2024. In those same years there were 12 funerals and 6 funerals respectively. The average Sunday Mass attendance is currently only 235. This is all while the city of Columbus has seen significant growth in that time period;

WHEREAS, the Francophone community will move to St. Dominic parish beginning July 8, which will lead to a notable decline in these aforementioned figures as 70% of the PSR students at OLMM are from the Francophone Community and 30% are Latino, who will be served by other parishes with robust Latino ministry;

WHEREAS, the offertory of OLMM has shown significant decline in recent years. The annual offertory of OLMM has declined by nearly \$100,000 over an eight-year period from \$369,834.40 in 2016 to \$279,572.46 in 2024. These financial pressures are exacerbated by the \$742,000 deferred maintenance from the May 2025 estimate for the campus of OLMM;

WHEREAS, a plan has been carefully developed through the Real Presence Real Future Pastoral Planning initiative in which parishioners were consulted about the pastoral needs of their parishes over an 18-month period of time from Autumn 2021 to Summer 2022. The final recommendation of Real Presence Real Future for OLMM parish was rejected by Bishop Fernandes in June 2023 with the qualification that the parishes of Seton and OLMM be merged but both churches remain open. The transfer of the Francophone community to St. Dominic to be better pastorally served renews the urgency to initiate the recommendation to merge the parishes together;

WHEREAS, the leadership and staff of OLMM was informed as recently as May 2025 that a merger of the two parishes was still possible and even probable for the aforementioned reasons;

WHEREAS, the resources available to the united parish can be better allocated to furthering initiatives in evangelization, catechesis, faith formation and social outreach to the faithful and residents of the new parish;

WHEREAS, having consulted with the pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish and the Parochial Administrator of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal according to c. 50; having heard the Presbyteral Council which was provided with the necessary information and lawfully convoked according to c. 127 and c. 166 on 22 May 2025 and offered genuine consultation according to c. 515 §2 in the form of unanimous agreement with the proposal to merge the parishes;

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

- 1) The extinctive union of the parishes of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Our Lady of The Miraculous Medal. The parish of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal is effectively suppressed and the territory, assets, and liabilities of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal are assumed by the remaining parish of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.
- 2) The new boundaries for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, the parish church for which is located at 600 Hill Road North, Pickerington, OH 43147-9201 are the following:

The coordinates of the parish's boundaries are defined by the following latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates and geographic landmarks: Northern boundary: Starting at the intersection of East Main Street, Columbus, and Big Walnut Creek in the center of Big Walnut Creek, east on the center of East Main Street to Brice Road; south on the center of Brice Road to Interstate 70; east on center of Interstate 70 to the point where the Interstate 70 intersects Palmer Road; east on the center of Palmer to Tollgate Road SW; south on the center of Tollgate Road SW to the continuation of Palmer Road; east on the center of Palmer Road to State Route 310 (Hazelton-Etna Road SW). Eastern boundary: Starting at the intersection of State Route 310 (Hazelton-Etna Road SW) and Palmer Road, south on the center of State Route 310 to Blacklick Eastern Road NW (State Route 204); east and then south on the center of Blacklick Eastern Road NW to Mauger Road; south on the center of Mauger Road to Refugee Road; west on the center of Refugee Road to Stoudertown NW; south on the center of Stoudertown NW to Basil Western Road NW; east on the center of Basil Western Road NW to Eversole Road NW; south on the center of Eversole Road NW to Bish Road NW; west on the center of Bish Road NW to Carroll Northern Road; south on the center of Carroll Northern Road to Allen Road. Southern boundary: Starting at the intersection of Carroll Northern Road and Allen Road, west on the center of Allen Road to U.S. Route 33; northwest on the center of U. S. Route 33 to 39.85547, -82.81856; straight north on an air line from 39.85547, -82.81856 to the center of Winchester Pike; northwest on Winchester Pike to Noe Bixby Road. Western boundary: Starting at the intersection of Winchester Pike and Noe Bixby Road, north on the center of Noe Bixby Road to Refugee Road; west on the center of Refugee Road to the center of Big Walnut Creek at 39.91500, -82.87068; north on the center of Big Walnut Creek at 39.91500, -82.87068 to East Main Street, Columbus, at 39.95478, -82.85304.

- 3) The church of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal retains its title, but is now a non-parochial church in the territory of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. The sacramental records for which are now held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church.
- 4) This extinctive union takes effect upon promulgation of this decree which is accomplished by publication on the Diocesan website by which it is made known to the Faithful.

Furthermore, this decree should be disseminated in the affected parishes in the Sunday bulletin and communicated to the parishioners as deemed appropriate by the pastor.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 27th day of June 2025.

+ Earl K. Fernandes

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

Michael R. Hartge

Very Rev. Michael R. Hartge
Vicar General/ Notary

