



**DECREE OF EXTINGTIVE UNION
OF THE PARISH OF ST. AGNES, COLUMBUS, OHIO
WITH THE PARISH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE, COLUMBUS, OHIO**

WHEREAS, due to the decline in priestly vocations in the Diocese of Columbus, the parishes of St. Agnes and St. Mary Magdalene share a priest who serves as a pastor and administrator respectively, and;

WHEREAS, the offertory of St. Mary Magdalene has shown decline but some recovery in the last ten years since 2016 when it was \$349,197.34, 2021 (post- COVID-19) when it was \$259,774, and at the end of FY 2024 – 2025 when it was \$302,849.31. The offertory of St. Agnes has shown an increase from \$88,759.35 in FY 2016 to \$204,023.00 at the end of FY 2025, and;

WHEREAS, the deferred maintenance of the buildings on the property of St. Mary Magdalene shows a total of \$1,166,400.00 in deferred maintenance and an annual expenditure of \$264,662.00 per year for ten years to respond to deferred maintenance and to keep up with the health of the buildings. The deferred maintenance of the buildings of St. Agnes Parish amount to \$1,293,350.00 with an annual expenditure per year for ten years to respond to the deferred maintenance and maintain building health of \$219,883.00, and;

WHEREAS, the population of St. Mary Magdalene Parish has seen a decline in both registered households and Mass attendance. The registered households in 2015 were 571 and has declined to 426 in 2025. The October Mass Count for St. Mary Magdalene was 387 in 2015 and was 296 in 2025. The registered households of St. Agnes were 289 in 2015. There are no records of registered households since 2017 when that number was 267. The October Mass Count for St. Agnes was 310 in 2015 and increases to 770 in 2025. Neither registered households nor Mass counts are the best indicators of the size and health of the parish because the faithful are mobile and go to a Mass which best suits their needs on a weekend, but they are the available numbers. Both of these numbers, while consistent, are low in order to provide for the financial needs of the parish described above. Additionally, the city of Columbus, has experienced significant growth during this time period especially among the Latino community, and;

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. The final recommendation of Real Presence Real Future for St. Stephen and St. Agnes to be “merged” together as a parish was rejected by Bishop Fernandes in June 2023 with the qualification that the model for St. Agnes be re-evaluated at a later date as needed, and;

WHEREAS, town hall meetings were held in at both parishes recently: November 2025 in Spanish at St. Agnes, January 18, 2025 in English at St. Mary Magdalene, and February 1, 2025 in Spanish at St. Agnes. Additionally, Transition Team Committee meetings representing both parishes were held to discuss the situation 10 times from 26 March 2025 to 15 January 2026, and;

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, and;

WHEREAS, the church and school at St. Mary Magdalene are larger and more conducive to fostering growth in the new area of the parish, and;

WHEREAS, having consulted with the pastor of St. Agnes and the parochial administrator of St. Mary Magdalene according to 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 March 2026 and offered genuine consultation according to c. 515 §2 in the form of unanimous agreement with this plan;

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 parish of St. Agnes into St. Mary Magdalene. The parish of Agnes is effectively suppressed and the territory, assets, and liabilities of St. Agnes are assumed by the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, which remains.
- 2) The new boundaries for ST. MARY MAGDALENE PARISH, the parish church for which is located at 473 S Roys Ave, Columbus, OH 43204 are the following: Northern boundary: Starting at the center of West Broad Street (U.S. Rte. 40) at geographic point 39.95410, -83.09164, east on the center of West Broad Street to Hague Avenue; south on the center of South Hague Avenue to Sullivant Avenue; east on the center of Sullivant Avenue to South Central Avenue. Eastern boundary: Starting at the intersection of Sullivant and South Central avenues, south on the center of South Central Avenue to the intersection of South Central Avenue, West Mound Street, and Harrisburg Pike (U.S. Rte. 62); southwest on center of Harrisburg Pike to the intersection of Harrisburg Pike, October Ridge Drive, and Briggs Road. Southern boundary: Starting at the intersection of Harrisburg Pike, October Ridge Drive, and Briggs Road, northwest on the center of Briggs Road to geographic point 39.93443, -83.09376 on the center of Briggs Road. Western boundary: Starting at geographic point 39.93443, -83.09376 on the center of Briggs Road, north on an air line to the intersection of Sullivant and Josephine avenues; north on the center of Josephine Avenue to Wicklow Road; east on the center of Wicklow Road to Derrer Road; north on the center of Derrer Road to its terminus at 39.95358, -83.09164; north on an air line to the center of West Broad Street (U.S. Rte. 40) at 39.95410, -83.09164.
- 3) The parish church of St. Agnes retains its title, but is now a non-parochial church in the territory of St. Mary Magdalene. The sacramental records for which are now held at St. Mary Magdalene.
- 4) This extinctive union takes effect upon promulgation of this decree which is to be promulgated by publication on the Diocesan website in the electronic *Catholic Times*, and disseminated in the affected parishes in the Sunday bulletin or some other means of social communication as deemed appropriate by the pastor.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 27th day of March 2026.


Deacon Tom BERG, Jr.
Chancellor




Most Reverend Earl K. FERNANDES
Bishop of Columbus