



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Chancery Office
614-224-2251

6 August 2026

NOTICE DECISION OF THE SUPREME TRIBUNAL OF THE APOSTOLIC SIGNATURA THE "SUPPRESSION" ST. MATTHIAS PARISH

Regarding the recourse that was lodged against Bishop Fernandes' decree of suppression or "extinctive union" of the parish of St. Matthias with that of St. Elizabeth, the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura found in favor of the decision of the Dicastery of Clergy, which upheld Bishop Fernandes' original decree. There were no procedural errors and there was sufficient reason found for Bishop to issue his decree. By sharing this information on the Diocese of Columbus website and with the parishioners of St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, the decision is made known to those who would have an interest in its legal effects as requested in the dispositive part of the decision which states in part:

**PROT. N. 57544/24 CA
COLUMBEN.**

**SUPPRESSIONIS PAROECIAE SANCTI MATTHIAE
(D.NA I. BRUNACHE ET ALII – DICASTERIUM PRO CLERICIS)**

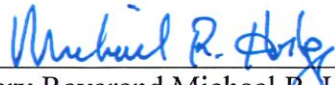
Decretum ab Exc.mo. H.S.T. [huius sacri tribunalis] Secretario die 15 ianuarii 2025 latum confirmandum esse.

The decree issued to His Excellency the Secretary of the H.S.T. [His sacred tribunal] on January 15, 2025, **must be confirmed.**

partes suo quaeque Cl. mo Patrono congrum sovant honorarium et notificetur omnibus, quorum interst, ad omnes iuris effectus

Each party is to pay the appropriate honorarium to the advocate and **the legal effects are to be notified to all those interested.**

The result of this decision is that there is no further recourse in this case and the parish of St. Matthias is now confirmed to be part of the parish of the new parish of St. Josephine Bakhita according to Bishop Fernandes' original decree of 21 March 2024.


Very Reverend Michael R. HARTGE
Vicar General