



+ May 27, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters at St. Therese parish,

Today I have issued the official decree to merge the parish of St. Mary into St. Therese Parish, effective July 1, 2022. Father Woody McCallister will continue as the Pastor of St. Therese and the new boundaries will include the current boundaries of St. Mary's Parish. This change also means that the St. Mary's Food bank will now be part of St. Therese Parish.

Both parishes are located near downtown Seattle and share a geographical boundary. However, this shared boundary is not the sole reason why St. Therese Parish was chosen. The strategic planning committee, the stakeholders and the parishioners of St. Mary's intentionally chose to merge into St. Therese Parish. I believe people recognized the similar emphasis on faith life, outreach, and social justice. Both parishes celebrate their multi-cultural communities and welcome immigrants. These are wonderful aspects of our Catholic faith and I encourage you to continue to live them out as you are welcoming new members to your community.

My goal with these strategic planning efforts is to ensure we are a mission-oriented Church that continually draws people closer to Christ. By bringing together communities and resources we are better able to provide vibrant pastoral care for all of God's people. As part of this effort, I also hope to enhance the vital ministry of St. Therese Parish School, which is an essential part of our Archdiocesan mission of Catholic education.

After your listening sessions last year, the strategic planning team reported that your discussion quickly turned to the future. You were immediately asking how to revitalize your own parish – and how to welcome new people. I am greatly encouraged by this because I know the Holy Spirit is actively working through all of us to shape a better future for all Catholics in Western Washington.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who participated in this process and accompanied people on this journey. Please know of my continued prayers for you and for the vibrant future of St. Therese Parish and School. As always, I remain,

In the Heart of Christ,

Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
Archbishop of Seattle