



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

Office of the Archbishop

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June 29, 2023

Mr. [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

I am writing in response to your letter to me, dated June 5, 2023, in which you request that I revoke or emend my Decree by which I altered the juridic structure of your Parish effective August 1, 2023.

I give thanks to God for the way in which the members of Saint Roch Parish have contributed to the Skinker-DeBaliviere community. Truly, the many personal testimonies I have received show the importance of the people at Saint Roch Parish. It is my hope that your efforts, when united with those of your new fellow parishioners, will produce still greater things for the glory of God.

A certain number of people have objected that my Decree does not accurately describe the financial situation of Saint Roch Parish, and in this regard they objected that I should have considered the Parish and School separately in my deliberations. To do that, however, would have been to treat Saint Roch Parish differently than every other Parish operating a school. In reality, the Parish supports the School financially, and the rising cost of education makes this burden increasingly impractical for a small Parish such as Saint Roch.

Their hope would have been that Saint Roch remain a small parish in the future. The religious diversity which enriches your neighborhood also means that your Parish territory has fewer Catholics who might increase your ranks by means of an invitation to return to church. While many Catholics attend Washington University, many are served by the Catholic Student Center. As a result, it was difficult to foresee Saint Roch Parish growing to be roughly comparable with other parishes. This was a particular concern because of the need to distribute priests equitably throughout the Archdiocese. I am distressed to learn of the confusion sown by the use of the term “pastorate” during the strategic planning process.

This having been said, I wish to clarify that my Decree contained no decision regarding the future use of Saint Roch Church and the parish facilities. Your new Pastor, the Reverend Monsignor Michael Turek, has received the responsibility to provide the sacraments and pastoral care to all members of the Parish. Together with lay Parish leadership, he must discern when Mass is celebrated in Saint Roch Church. In receiving this, please realize that a consequence of the new

Parish structure is that members of the former Saint Roch Parish should now be included among the Christ the King Parish lay leadership.

I have decided not to revoke nor emend my decision regarding Saint Roch Parish. This letter stands as my response to your request, in accordance with canon 1735 of the Code of Canon Law. I hope that you can accept my decision for the wellbeing of your Parish.

If you consider yourself aggrieved by my decision, you have the right to make recourse to the Dicastery for the Clergy, in accordance with canon 1737. If you choose to do so, you are asked to propose your recourse in writing to me at 20 Archbishop May Drive, Saint Louis, Missouri 63119. I will then forward your petition to the Dicastery for the Clergy. Your request for recourse must be postmarked no later than 15 business days from your receipt of the present letter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of Saint Louis

Nicholas J. Muenks

Reverend Nicholas J. Muenks, J.C.D.
Notary

