

**Decree**  
*Extinctive Union*

*Whereas*, I the Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City, possess the authority to erect, suppress, or alter parishes within the Diocese of Jefferson City according to canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law;

*Whereas*, the Church of the Resurrection Parish was established in 1873 and has operated as a parish continuously since that time, at times sharing a pastor with nearby St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg and more recently sharing a Parochial Administrator with Immaculate Conception Parish in Montgomery City;

*Whereas*, I have received a request for an extinctive union with the neighboring St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg from the representatives of the Christian faithful of the Church of the Resurrection Parish;

*Whereas*, I have determined that the care of souls for the people of the Church of the Resurrection Parish require this union and that the just cause in favor of this extinctive union exists because of, among other reasons, the steady and continued decline in the population of the City of Wellsville and surrounding countryside, the discontinuation of Sunday Mass in the parish and the resultant scattering of parishioners to nearby parishes for Sunday worship, and the inability of the parish to support its own pastor or thriving parochial life;

*Whereas*, on 20 September 2022, I consulted the lawfully convoked Presbyteral Council about the possible extinctive union and after providing them with the relevant information, received each member's recommendation which was a unanimous agreement that a just cause exists to unite the parish with St. Joseph in Martinsburg;

*Whereas*, I have consulted all concerned parties as required by canon 50, including the parish leadership, the pastor and parochial administrator of nearby parishes, and the Dean of the Central Deanery in which the parish is located;

*Whereas*, I have determined that no harm to souls will come from this extinctive union between the Church of the Resurrection and St. Joseph Parish and have received the favorable votum from the Pastor of St. Joseph Parish indicating that his parish is ready to welcome the addition of the people and goods of the Church of the Resurrection, and;

*Whereas*, there is no viable alternative to this course of action,

I therefore

**DECREE**

That the Church of the Resurrection Parish in Wellsville, Missouri will be extintively united to St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg, Missouri;

That all of the temporal goods owned or controlled by or on behalf of the Church of the Resurrection Parish shall be transferred to the control or benefit of St. Joseph Parish as required by canon 121;

That St. Joseph Parish shall assume any and all liabilities of Church of the Resurrection Parish, including maintenance of the church and grounds;

That the territorial borders of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg shall be redefined as follows to include all of the previous territory of the Church of the Resurrection Parish in Wellsville, however, consistent with diocesan policy, the Catholic faithful remain free to participate in any parish they wish, though they are encouraged to attend the parish in which they reside;

North – From the intersection of Hwy A and US Hwy 54, follow Hwy 54 eastward, continuing onto State lettered Hwy BB to the intersection of the Audrain/Montgomery Co. line and continuing along the county line to the northeast corner of Montgomery Co.

East – Montgomery Co. line from the northeast corner to a point 10 miles south.

South – From the intersection of Hwy A and Hwy B and following Hwy B east to the intersection of Hwy ZZ. From this intersection follow an imaginary line northeast to the intersection of Hwy 19 and Porters Rd (Co.Rd. 172) and continuing on an imaginary line to the intersection of Hwy 161 and Meadowlark Rd. (Co.Rd. 147, in Buell) and following Hwy 161 south to the intersection of Hwy V. Following on Hwy V to the intersection of Hwy E and continuing on an imaginary line due east to the Montgomery Co. line.

West – From the intersection of US Hwy 54 and Hwy A and following Hwy A south to the intersection of Hwy B.

That upon the effective date of 9 November 2022 the juridic person of the Church of the Resurrection Parish shall no longer exist, having been subsumed into St. Joseph Parish.

This decree is to be communicated without delay to the affected parishes. The presiding priest at each Sunday Mass is to announce this decision at the conclusion of Mass and a copy of this decree must be published in the bulletin distributed to parishioners. Parishes are required to return a copy of the bulletin containing this decree to the Chancery. The decree itself must be kept in the parish archives.

The prescriptive period for hierarchical recourse begins with the legitimate notification of this decree. Recourse may be made according to the norms in canons 1734-1739.

It is my firm hope that this new configuration of parishes will enable the Catholic faithful to thrive for generations to come in Wellsville and Martinsburg.

Given at the Chancery on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year of Our Lord 2022.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Shawn McKnight", written above a horizontal line.

The Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, S.T.D.  
Bishop of Jefferson City

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ben Roodhouse", written above a horizontal line.

Mr. Benjamin H. Roodhouse, J.D., J.C.L.  
Chancellor

*Second original copy for parish archives*