



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vatican Accepts 2 Requests to Review Decrees Related to Catholic Parishes

On Pentecost of this year, Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski issued 83 decrees as part of the All Things New strategic planning process and after many months of analysis, consultation, and discernment. Since then, every parish in the Archdiocese of St. Louis has been called to rededicate themselves to new modes of evangelization and social outreach.

Meanwhile, members of several parishes pursued hierarchical recourse against the decrees affecting their parishes.

This week, Archbishop Rozanski received correspondence from the Dicastery for the Clergy regarding some of those petitions for hierarchical recourse.

The Dicastery for the Clergy accepted petitions for recourse against decrees related to two parishes: St. Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist Parish in St. Louis and Sts. Philip and James Parish in River aux Vases. In each case, the Dicastery also sent a letter to the recurrent (person who petitioned for recourse).

In accepting a petition for hierarchical recourse, the Dicastery for the Clergy does not reverse the archbishop's decision but agrees to review the decision at the request of the recurrent.

At the request of the Dicastery for the Clergy, the Metropolitan Tribunal is preparing the acts related to the decrees for the Dicastery's review. The Dicastery indicated that communication will continue with the recurrences after the acts have been studied.

Canon 139 §2 states that a lower authority is not to become involved in cases submitted to a higher authority except for a grave and urgent cause. In these matters, the Archbishop of St. Louis is the lower authority and will therefore make no further decisions while the recourse process is pending.

The Dicastery for the Clergy rejected petitions for recourse against decrees related to two parishes: Blessed Teresa of Calcutta in Ferguson and St. Matthew the Apostle in St. Louis.

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“This is an anticipated part of the All Things New pastoral planning process,” said Archbishop Rozanski. “Over the next several months, we expect to receive additional Dicastery communications regarding other petitions that were submitted.”

The Dicastery for Clergy also rejected three petitions for recourse related to new priest appointments at these parishes: Holy Rosary in Warrenton and St. Mary’s in Hawk Point; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Saint Charles County; Holy Family Parish in Port Hudson, St. Ann Parish in Clover Bottom, and St. Gertrude Parish in Krakow; and Annunziata Parish in Ladue and Ste. Genevieve du Bois Parish in Warson Woods.

Please visit [our website](#) for a related Glossary of Terms and Q&A.

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