



Diocese of Fall River
Office of the Bishop
Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.

June 30, 2025

Dear Parishioners,

As a follow-up to Father Babiczuk's communications last year, we are sharing an update regarding the future of St. Mary's Church. After careful assessment, it is clear that the significant structural repairs and safety upgrades needed for St. Mary's Church far exceed what is financially feasible. The \$10+ million cost shared last year and required to make the space safe and sustainable for continued use as a house of worship is simply beyond the parish's current and projected resources.

Therefore, with heavy hearts and aware of how difficult this decision is, we must share that St. Mary's Church and Parish will need to officially close. For many of us, this church is not just a place of worship, it is a spiritual home filled with memories, milestones, and deep connections.

Please know that this decision was not made lightly. It comes after extensive consultation, prayer, and consideration for the long-term well-being of our faith community. While the building may close, the spirit of the parish will live on at St. Anthony's and St. Jude. A formal decree will be published next month.

Early in June, the Unification Team of Taunton Catholic North met with officials from the Diocese to discuss the path forward for our Collaborative with the hope of being as transparent and compassionate as possible as we walk this journey together.

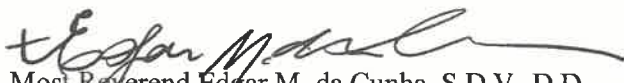
Over the last year, the diocese has been actively exploring potential buyers who may be interested in preserving the building and maintaining it in a respectful and meaningful way. Our hope is to find a path forward that honors the historical value of the church, even if it can no longer serve as our place of worship. We will keep the community informed as this process develops.

The Unification Team and members of my team are working together to thoughtfully plan a special event to celebrate our shared history, and to honor the spirit and the incredible legacy of St. Mary's Parish. This will be a time to come together with gratitude, reflection, and hope for the future. More details will be shared, and we hope you will join us.

The Unification Team and I, along with your new Pastor, Fr. Bill Rodrigues, remain committed to supporting one another during this time of transition. If you have questions or need someone to talk to, please do not hesitate to reach out to members of the team or to the Diocesan Strategic & Pastoral Planning Office – 508-675-1311.

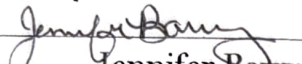
With prayerful best wishes and kindest personal regards, we are

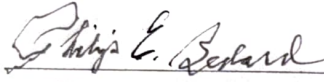
Sincerely yours in Christ,

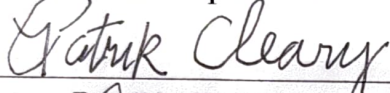

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.
Bishop of Fall River

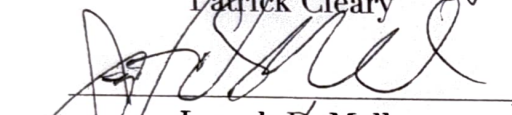


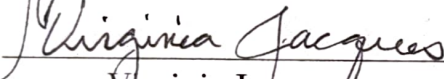
Taunton Catholic North Collaborative Unification Team

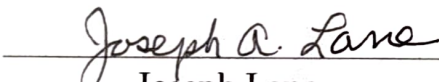

Jennifer Barry



Deacon Phillip Bedard


Patrick Cleary

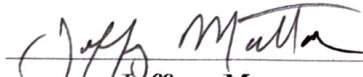

Joseph DeMello



Virginia Jacques

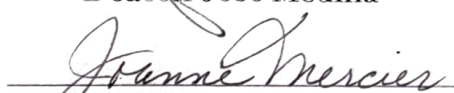

Joseph Lane

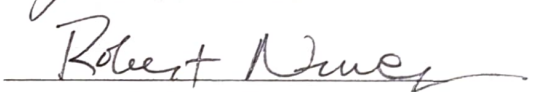

Francine Leal


Allison Lima


Jeffrey Mattson



Deacon José Medina


Joanne Mercier


Robert Nunes


James Parker


Jane Santos


Humberto Da Silva


Judith Silvia