



**MOST REVEREND JOSEPH R. KOPACZ, D.D., PH.D.**  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE of JACKSON

**Decree Suppression**  
**St. Mary Church, Jackson Mississippi**

*In nomine Domini. Amen*

Having gratefulness for Bishop Richard Gerow who called forth the Catholic community of what became St. Mary Church in West Jackson on July of 1948 and in defining the parish boundaries by August of 1948, it was with joy that St. Mary Church celebrated the dedication of its gothic church and multi dwelling rectory on October 25, 1955. History records that ministry at St. Mary Church flourished in a period when the area was thriving;

Having had numerous meetings and consultations with Rev. Ricardo Phipps, St. Mary Parish's Pastoral Council, Finance Council, interested members of the parish, the less than 20 families living in the territory and those who are registered as parishioners but live outside the territory, that makes for a total of 96 families. As well as having heard from various experts, about the viability and sustainability of the parish. I have come to the following decision:

The grave reasons that motivate this decision are that St. Mary parish is unable to be considered a viable parish in regards to providing a stable ministry emphasizing evangelization, good liturgy, community, spiritual and social outreach, as well as financial stability. It has proven impossible for the community to provide or procure from other sources the financial means to provide a safe and useable church building for worship or other spaces for gathering as a community.

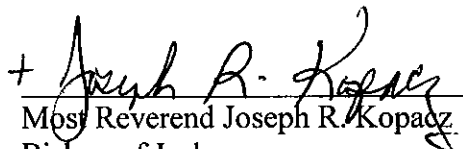
Therefore having the good of souls as my primary concern I have consulted with anyone who legitimately claimed rights for themselves in the parish (cc. 1222 §2; 1267 §1; 1300), having heard from the Vicar General and Vicar for Clergy as well as Diocesan Director of Administration and Finance regarding the assets of the parish and the difficulty of other sources of revenue to maintain the parish. Having consulted with the Presbyteral Council regarding the parish, it was their unanimous recommendation that the parish be suppressed. Further it has been recommended that the territory of St. Mary parish be incorporated into the territorial parish of St. Therese. Therefore on this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2015 I decree that St. Mary Parish be suppressed and the territory that was St. Mary Parish be incorporated into the territory of St. Therese Parish.

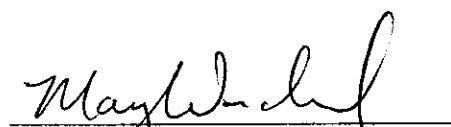
Furthermore, I decree that any of St. Mary Church's assets, savings and/or debt will be incorporated into St. Therese Church. St. Therese Finance Council is to include representation of membership from the previous existing St. Mary Church's territorial parishioners. The pastor of St. Therese Church, in consultation with the new St. Therese Finance Council, will have the primary responsibility of determining how to proceed with the now closed St. Mary parish church and buildings.

Therefore, having fulfilled the requirements of canon 515, §2, and guided by canon 127, §2, 2°, I hereby decree today, 27th of February, 2015, St. Mary Church of Jackson, Mississippi is suppressed and incorporated into St. Therese Church of Jackson, Mississippi in accord with the provision of canons 120, §1, 123 and 515, §2 of the Code of Canon Law.

This decree is to be given to the pastor and to the faithful of the parish. A petition for revocation or emendation of this decree is subject to the applicable canons (*CIC*, cc. 1732-1739).

Given at the Chancery of the  
Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi  
On this date, the 27th of February, 2015

+   
Most Reverend Joseph R. Kopacz  
Bishop of Jackson

  
Mary Woodward  
Chancellor

Seal