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## ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

## OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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January 29, 2020

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to inform you of a new initiative the Archdiocese of St. Louis is undertaking with our brothers and sisters of the Maronite Catholic faithful of St. Louis regarding St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish.

Like all of you, I have great affection for St. Elizabeth of Hungary. Over the last decade, the parish has faced a lot of transition and uncertainty regarding its future. We have now found a solution which we are confident will provide long-term stability for St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

After much work and consideration by both the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Maronite Catholics of St. Raymond's, St. Elizabeth of Hungary will begin a new partnership with St. Raymond's under the Catholic Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon-Los Angeles.

Effective July 1, 2020, Fr. John Nahal of the Catholic Maronite Rite will become the pastor of the parish partnership, serving a greater community by continuing to offer Roman Catholic Latin-Rite Masses, but adding Catholic Maronite-Rite Masses. All Roman Catholic Latin-Rite sacramental needs of the parishioners of St. Elizabeth will continue to be fulfilled. We welcome Fr. John Nahal and offer our support in his appointment to Pastor of St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

Fr. Brian Fallon will receive a new parish assignment, effective July 1, and will continue to serve in his leadership role in the Vocation Office of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. We are grateful to him for his work at St. Elizabeth and in this transition.

No changes will be made to existing leases for ministries operating out of St. Elizabeth. All Mary Queen of Peace sports teams will continue to use the parish athletic fields through their existing leases. The Catholic Renewal Center of the Archdiocese of St. Louis will continue to operate out of St. Elizabeth for the next year.

The coming months provide us with the opportunity to welcome the Catholic Maronite faithful, to support this mission of unity, and to more thoroughly define what this joint initiative will mean for the larger community that St. Elizabeth will soon become. To understand more about the Catholic Maronite Rite, I encourage you to visit St. Raymond's website that clearly defines the reporting structure up to the Pope, as well as how the same sacraments are administered to the faithful.

We pray to our Lord Jesus Christ as he continues to guide us in the careful administration of the operations of his holy Church.

God bless you all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson  
Archbishop of St. Louis