



FACT SHEET – ST. COLMAN PARISH APPEAL

THE NEWS: Bishop Lennon has announced the merger of St. Colman with St. Stephen **AT ST. STEPHEN'S.** We only have until March 27 to file our appeal to the Bishop.

THE FACTS:

- **St. Colman Parish** has 1301 registered members in 657 households, as reported to the Bishop last Fall.
- **St. Colman Parish** pays its bills every month and has a \$100,000 savings available for emergencies.
- **St. Colman's Outreach Ministry** serves hundreds of people each week. We have the Office Space for staff, volunteers and resources to support the 20 to 30 daily requests – by phone and in person - for assistance, counseling and referrals. The St. Stephen's facilities cannot accommodate this volume of assistance.
 - Examples include processing hundreds of requests for Birth Certificates, State ID's, help to prevent evictions, utility shutoffs, bus passes for work and medical appointments, payment of otherwise unaffordable medical prescriptions and many more types of emergency assistance to its Parish neighbors.
- **St. Colman's Outreach Ministry** welcomes all people in need to come to its doors. Since Metro Catholic School is on St. Stephen's property, some people needing assistance will not legally be able to come onto the property.
- **St. Colman's twice monthly Neighborhood Meals Program** serves more than 450 men, women and children, with hundreds of volunteers – St. Stephen's facilities cannot support this program.
- **St. Colman's 350-person capacity Parish Hall** is used for neighborhood and Parish events and major fund raisers year-round. St. Stephen's does not have a comparable facility.
 - Examples include yearly distribution of more than 2000 bags of school supplies, donated through the St. Vincent de Paul Society all around the Diocese; hosting Block Club meetings; Health Fairs and more.
- **St. Colman School Building** which holds the Parish ministries of the **African Immigrant Cultural Center, STAIRS** -- the after-school program for immigrant children, **Casa Latina**, the cultural and educational program for Latina women and girls and a jobs training program for **Health Care Aids** also will be forced to close. There is no space at St. Stephen's for these programs.
- **St. Colman's former Convent** houses Edna House, a residential rehabilitation facility which ministers to women recovering from alcohol addiction -- this vital program will have to relocate if St. Colman's closes.
- **St. Colman's campus** includes **Colman Court**, the fully HUD- subsidized and affordable home to 33 senior citizens – if St. Colman's buildings close, it will be left alone amidst dangerously empty and at-risk buildings, putting these residents in danger. These residents moved here because the building was part of a vibrant parish campus.
- **St. Colman's central location**, on or near three major streets (West 65, Lorain, Madison) and at a brand-new Rapid Transit Station makes it far more accessible than St. Stephen's, which is located on a side street.
- **St. Colman's and its Cluster Partners' plan** to maintain and expand St. Colman's ministries (especially to include the outreach work of St. Procop) will not have adequate space in which to operate at St. Stephen's.
- **St. Colman Parish Campus has room to grow:** meeting space, office space, 3 floors of potential for growth of the staff, the School Building with space available, and resources needed to work to serve the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood today and into the future.
- **St. Colman Church seats 1000 people** -- a place our Cluster envisioned as perfect for celebrating and worshipping together, under one roof, regularly with all of the people of St. Colman, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, La Sagrada Familia, St. Procop **AND** St. Stephen's.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- **Tell your friends, families and neighbors** about this effort and direct them to our website at www.StColmanParish.org.
- **Fill out the Appeal Ballot on the back of this Fact Sheet** and send it to the Parish (2027 West 65 Street Cleveland 44102). Printable copies are available on our website.
- **VERY IMPORTANT: Write a personal letter to Bishop Richard Lennon** about why you think that St. Colman's should stay open, and send it right away to him at 1027 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, 44114 (**and please email us a copy of your letter at saintcolmanparish@gmail.com**).

Please complete the Appeal Form on the opposite side and get it to the Parish – AND send your letter to Bishop – By March 25 so that everything is in to him by the March 27 deadline.

THANK YOU!

**Bishop Lennon has recommended that St. Colman Parish merge
With St. Stephen at the St. Stephen site**

**I BELIEVE THAT THIS DECISION SHOULD BE APPEALED
AND I KNOW THAT THE DEADLINE FOR THE APPEAL IS March 27th**

Name: _____

Address: _____ **City** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Telephone: _____ **Email:** _____

Registered St. Colman Member: _____ **Friend of St. Colman:** _____

Registered at another Parish: _____ (please indicate Parish name)

My reasons for keeping St. Colman open are:

Please return this form to the Parish ASAP no later than March 25.

**This effort is being led by the Parish Council of St. Colman Parish
2027 West 65 Street, Cleveland, OH 44102
(216) 651-0550
Email: Saintcolmanparish@gmail.com**

**Along with this form, personal letters to Bishop Richard Lennon will be very effective.
His address is 1027 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114.**

**Please feel free to copy this document. Printable copies of this notice can be found on our
website at
www.stcolmanparish.org.**