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Re: Decision to Merge Saint Anthony's Parish

**The Most Reverend Joseph A. Galante  
Bishop of the Diocese of Camden  
631 Market Street  
Camden, NJ 08102**

Your Excellency,

We are very concerned about the future of our Parish of Saint Anthony in Waterford. We are not in agreement with the plan to merge with Assumption and Blessed John XXIII parishes. Although promises have been made to remain open for mass on Sunday, without the rights of a parish, those promises can easily be broken. We have a high percentage rate of participation in the ministries. We have a higher than average contribution rate. We are continually growing with Baptisms and reception of the Sacraments. The merger will scatter our community and send many away. We are only one of two parishes in the world to pray to Saint Sostine. We wish to live on in the building up of the Body of Christ, not divide it. Many parishioners have said that they will not move on to attend mass at Assumption Church. Again, Your Excellency, please reconsider your decision as it will surely lose souls. Our core team recommendation is to keep St. Anthony's Church open for weekend masses and continued sacraments is in concert with our parish community's wishes. We request your written assurances that we can reach some common ground and not have our fate rest in the decision of the new pastor.

Sincerely,

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**cc: The Most Reverend Pietro Sambì  
Apostolic Nuncio  
3339 Massachusetts Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20008**

**Mr. Larry Farmer  
Camden Diocese Pastoral Planning  
631 Market Street  
Camden, NJ 08102**