



BISHOP OF STEUBENVILLE
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November 7, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Since the October 10th announcement of a proposed merger between the Diocese of Steubenville and the Diocese of Columbus, many have voiced their counsel, including disappointment and even fear. The results from the recent survey provide further evidence of a division in the future vision for the Church's service in the Ohio Valley.

Therefore, I have requested the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to remove discussion of a merger and subsequent vote from the plenary session's agenda at this time. There will be no vote next week. Further discussion regarding the Diocese of Steubenville's future will be conducted at the diocesan level.

As we continue to promote the Kingdom of God in a world desirous to hear the Good News, may we keep each other in prayer. With prayerful best wishes to you and your family, and entrusting you to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Patroness of our beloved diocese, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. Monforton", with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Monforton
Bishop of Steubenville