



## DECREE

The merger of  
St. Aloysius Parish of Elba, Minnesota,  
with St. Charles Borromeo Parish of St. Charles, Minnesota

St. Aloysius Parish of Elba, Minnesota, was founded in 1877, serving the faithful of the area for 145 years. In 2011 the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, with the assistance of professional consultants, embarked upon Vision 2016: a comprehensive visioning and planning process aimed at providing opportunities to enhance the pastoral care of the faithful, address shortages in clergy, and evaluate current parish structures in light of changing demographic trends. The project employed extensive collaboration among clergy and lay leaders throughout the Diocese. The insights drawn from multiple deanery level meetings, the recommendations of pastoral planning experts, and other relevant data was presented to a working committee in 2014, which subsequently recommended merging 21 of the 115 parishes, as the need would arise. The proposal was released publically on February 1, 2015, and members of the faithful of St. Aloysius Parish and St. Charles Borromeo Parish were asked to make known their needs and desires about the proposed merger. Guidance was solicited from the Presbyteral Council throughout the pastoral planning process.

On December 14, 2021, the Presbyteral Council provided consultation, in accord with canon 515, §§2, 3, concerning the proposal that St. Aloysius Parish be merged (*unio extinctiva*) into St. Charles Borromeo Parish. Upon full discussion, at which time due consideration was given to reasons for and against the proposed merger, and with opportunity to suggest alternate courses of action, members of the Presbyteral Council expressed unanimous agreement in favor of the proposed merger.

The following just causes suggest that St. Aloysius Parish be merged into St. Charles Borromeo Parish:

- 1) The declining number of faithful attending Mass and the limited quantity of additional sacramental experiences;
- 2) The enhancement of collaborative ministry and to ensure the best utilization of priest personnel;
- 3) The recent and projected shifts in populations, moving from rural to urban settings;
- 4) A consolidation of human resources directed toward strengthening the quality of the liturgy and encouraging fuller active participation;
- 5) To better effect the preaching and spread of the Gospel.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescription of canon 121 and 515, §2 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, having judged that just causes are present, that the intentions of donors and any other

acquired rights have been examined and given due consideration, and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired,

**I HEREBY DECREE AN EXTINGUISHIVE UNION BY WHICH  
ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH OF ELBA, MINNESOTA  
BE MERGED INTO  
ST. CHARLES BORROMEO PARISH OF ST. CHARLES, MINNESOTA.**

Furthermore, the newly established territorial boundaries of St. Charles Borromeo Parish are to be:

Starting in the northwest corner at the intersection of County Road 10 and the Olmsted / Wabasha County line. Head east along the Olmsted / Wabasha County line to the Winona / Wabasha County line. Head north then east along the Winona / Wabasha County line to Minnesota Highway 74. Head south along Minnesota Highway 74 to the first intersection with East Center Street / County Highway 26. Head east on East Center Street / County Highway 26 to the intersection with County Highway 37. Head directly south on a continuous line to the intersection with County Highway 14. Head directly west from this intersection on a continuous line to the intersection with the Winona / Olmsted County line. Head south on the Winona / Olmsted County line to the Fillmore / Olmsted County line. Head west along the Olmsted / Fillmore County line to County Road 10. Head directly north to the starting point.

Upon the completion of the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of the St. Aloysius Parish shall take such actions at civil law as are necessary to dissolve itself. Furthermore, any other patrimony, including sacramental records, deaths, and items or documents of historical or spiritual significance shall be transferred to St. Charles Borromeo Parish.

This decree becomes effective February 21, 2022. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the pastor of St. Aloysius Parish and St. Charles Borromeo Parish and its contents is to be communicated at all of the Masses of obligation on the weekend of Saturday, January 29, 2022, and Sunday, January 30, 2022. Furthermore, this decree is to be published on the diocesan website. Any legitimate party, considering himself aggrieved by this decree, retains the right to request emendation or revocation within ten (10) useful days (c. 1734 §§1, 2).

Given in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester on this twentieth day of January in the year of Our Lord 2022.

**+John M. Quinn**

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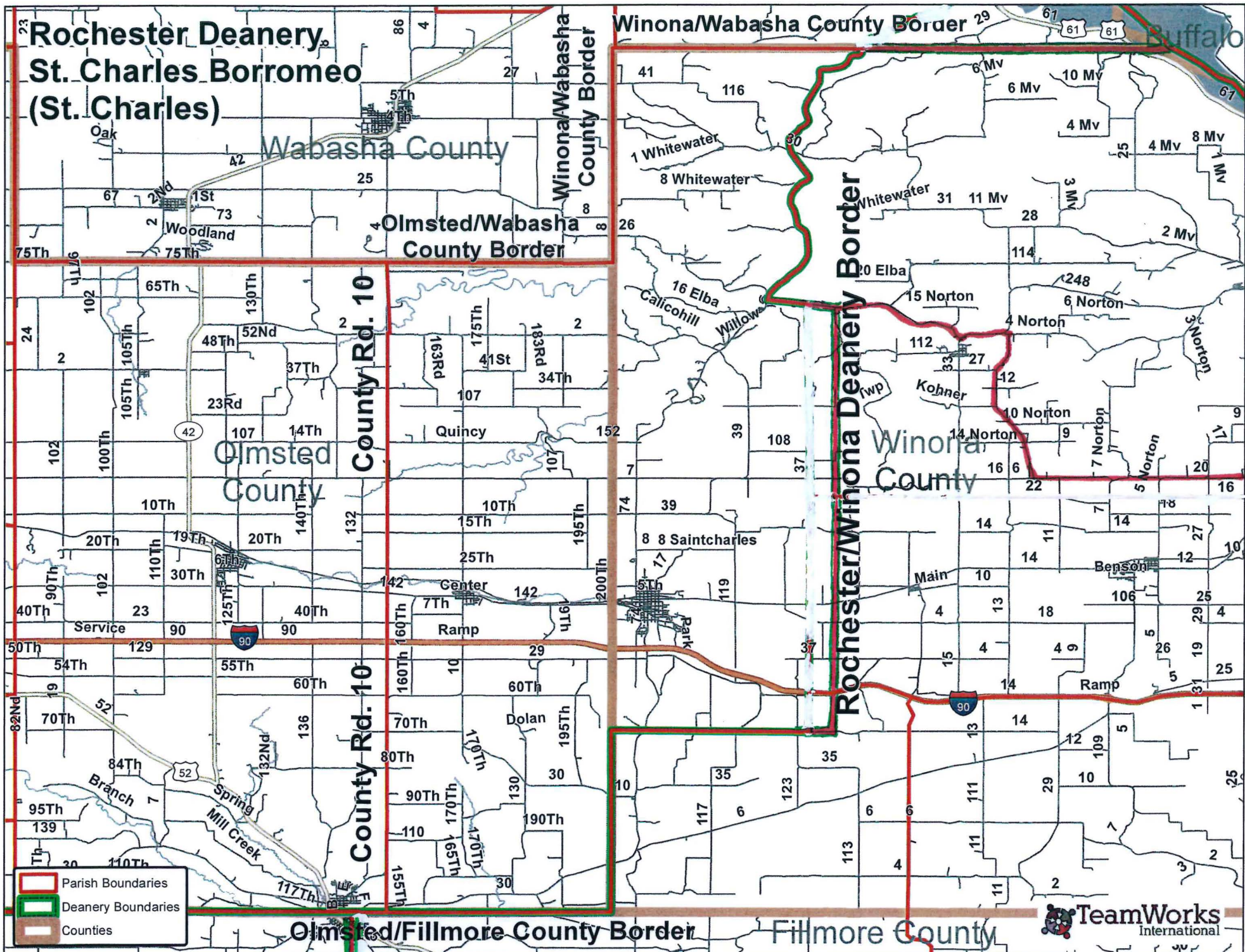
The Most Reverend John M. Quinn  
Bishop of Winona-Rochester

**Andrew D. Brannon**

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Vice Chancellor

SEAL



- Parish Boundaries
- Deanery Boundaries
- Counties