



## DECREE

The merger of  
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish of Harmony, Minnesota,  
with Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish of Canton, Minnesota

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish of Harmony, Minnesota, was founded in 1905, serving the faithful of the area for over 118 years. On December 19, 2023, the Presbyteral Council provided consultation, in accord with canon 515, §§2, 3, concerning the proposal that Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish be merged (*unio extinctiva*) into Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 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 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish be merged into Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish:

- 1) The declining number of faithful attending Mass and the limited quantity of additional sacramental experiences;
- 2) Current and projected decrease in necessary resources to maintain physical property of the parish;
- 3) The enhancement of collaborative ministry and to ensure the best utilization of priest personnel;
- 4) The recent and projected shifts in populations, moving from rural to urban settings;
- 5) A consolidation of human resources directed toward strengthening the quality of the liturgy and encouraging fuller active participation;
- 6) 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 EXTINCTIVE UNION BY WHICH  
NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH OF HARMONY, MINNESOTA  
BE MERGED INTO  
ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH OF CANTON, MINNESOTA.**

Furthermore, the newly established territorial boundaries of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish are to be:

Starting in the southwest corner of the parish: at the intersection of the Minnesota/Iowa border and County Road 5 (CR-5), head north for 3 miles on CR-5 to the intersection with CR-44. At this point CR-5 becomes 191st Avenue. Continue heading north on 191st Avenue for 1 mile. Head straight east for 9 miles on a line that overlaps 140th Street. At the intersection of 140th Street and CR-17, head north for 2 miles to the point where the road curves to the east. Head east on CR-17 for 0.4 miles. At this point CR-17 turns north and CR-22 begins. Continue heading east for 2 miles on a line that overlaps CR-22 to the intersection with 305th Avenue. Head straight north for 2.7 miles to the intersection with Harvest Drive. Head east for 4.5 miles to a point on Evergreen Road that intersects a line extending north from the intersection of 180th Street and CR-19. Head south for 0.7 miles along this line to the intersection of 180th Street. Head east for 4.6 miles along a line that overlaps and extends east from 180th Street. Head south for approximately 6.3 miles on Deer Road to the intersection with 120th Street. Head east on 120th Street for 1.8 miles to the intersection with 411th Avenue. Head south on 411th Avenue for 2.1 miles to the intersection with the Minnesota/Iowa border. Head west along the Minnesota/Iowa border for 22 miles to the starting point.

This decree becomes effective February 4, 2024. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish and its contents is to be communicated at all of the Masses of obligation on the weekend of Saturday, January 20, 2024, and January 21, 2024. 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 seventeenth day of January in the year of Our Lord 2024.

+ *Robert Barron*

The Most Reverend Robert Barron  
Bishop of Winona-Rochester

*Michelle K Gerlach*

Chancellor



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