



## DECREE

The merger of  
St. Martin Parish of Woodstock, Minnesota,  
with St. Leo Parish of Pipestone, Minnesota

St. Martin Parish of Woodstock, Minnesota, was founded in 1883, serving the faithful of the area for 139 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. Martin Parish and St. Leo 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. Martin Parish be merged (*unio extinctiva*) into St. Leo 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. Martin Parish be merged into St. Leo 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 EXTINCTIVE UNION BY WHICH  
ST. MARTIN PARISH OF WOODSTOCK, MINNESOTA  
BE MERGED INTO  
ST. LEO PARISH OF PIPESTONE, MINNESOTA.**

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

Starting in the southwest corner at the intersection of 241st Street / Road 82 and the Minnesota / South Dakota Border. Head east on a continuous line that overlaps 241st Street / Road 82 which becomes County Highway 10 / 110th Street to Birkett Avenue. Head north on Birkett Avenue to 1st Street. Head west on 1st Street to 20th Avenue. Head north on a continuous line that overlaps 20th Avenue to 241<sup>st</sup> Street. Head west on 241st Street to the Minnesota / South Dakota Border. Head south along the Minnesota / South Dakota Border to the starting point.

Upon the completion of the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of the St. Martin 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. Leo Parish.

This decree becomes effective February 21, 2022. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the pastor of St. Martin Parish and St. Leo 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

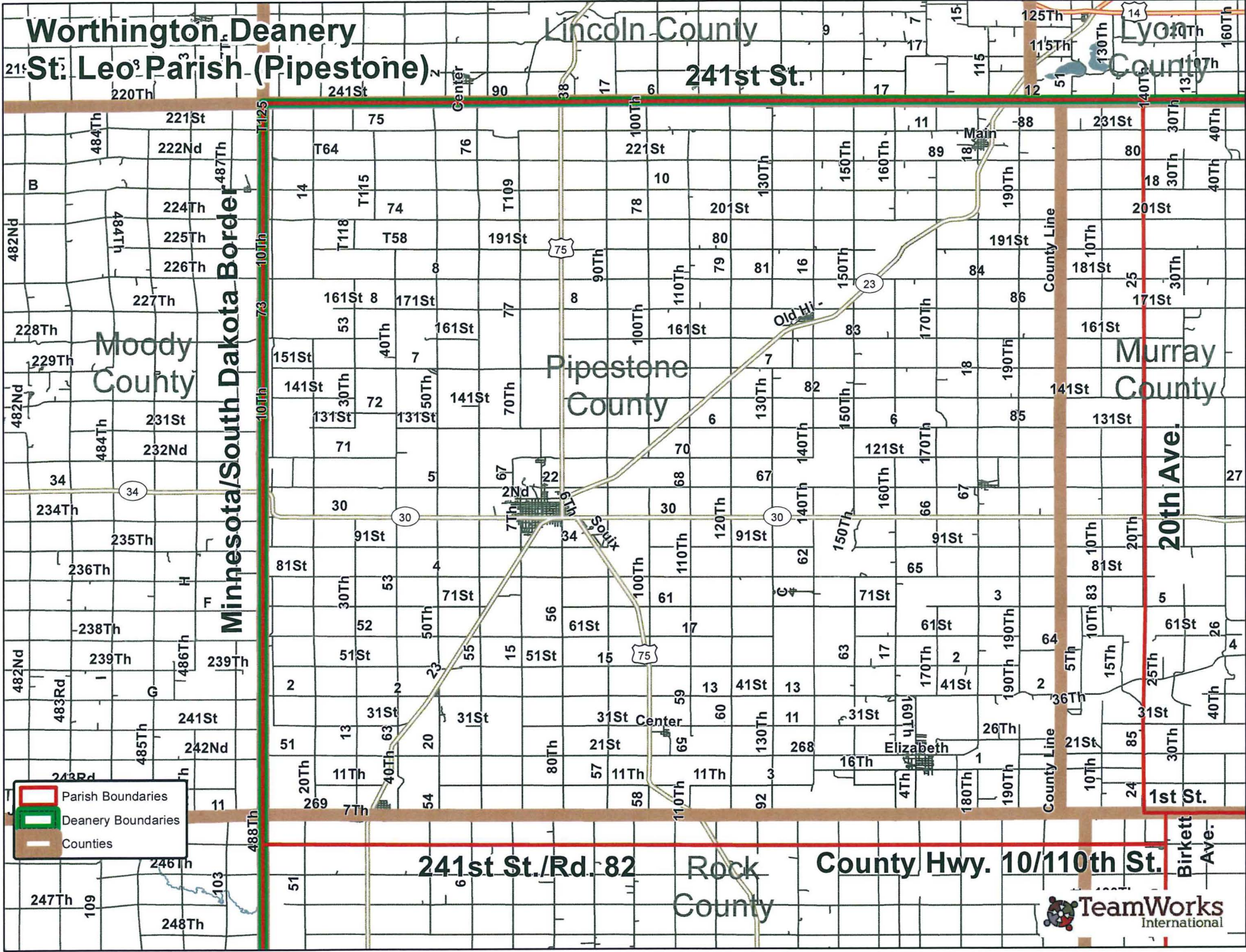
**Andrew D. Brannon**

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Vice Chancellor

SEAL





Worthington Deanery  
 St. Leo Parish (Pipestone)

Lincoln County

Lyon County

Moody County

Pipestone County

Murray County

Rock County

- Parish Boundaries
- Deanery Boundaries
- Counties

241st St./Rd. 82      Rock County Hwy. 10/110th St.

