



DECREE

The merger of
St. Mary Parish of Minneiska, Minnesota,
with St. Agnes Parish of Kellogg, Minnesota

St. Mary Parish of Minneiska, Minnesota, was founded in 1867, serving the faithful of the area for 155 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. Mary 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 October 25, 2022, the Presbyteral Council provided consultation, in accord with canon 515, §§2, 3, concerning the proposal that St. Mary Parish be merged (*unio extinctiva*) into St. Agnes 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. Mary Parish be merged into St. Agnes 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. MARY PARISH OF MINNEISKA, MINNESOTA
BE MERGED INTO
ST. AGNES PARISH OF KELLOGG, MINNESOTA.**

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

Starting in the southwest corner of the parish: at the northwest corner of Winona County, head directly north to the Zumbro River. Head eastward along the Zumbro River to the Minnesota/Wisconsin border (centerline of the Mississippi River). Head southeastward along the Minnesota/Wisconsin border to the Wabasha/Winona County border. Head west along the Wabasha/Winona County border to the starting point.

Upon the completion of the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of the St. Mary 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. Agnes Parish.

This decree becomes effective December 1, 2022. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the pastor of St. Mary Parish and St. Agnes Parish and its contents is to be communicated at all of the Masses of obligation on the weekend of Saturday, November 12, 2022, and Sunday, November 13, 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 ninth day of November in the year of Our Lord 2022.

+Robert Barron

The Most Reverend Robert Barron
Bishop of Winona-Rochester

Andrew D. Brannon

Vice Chancellor



