Administrative Recourse Against Decrees Issued by the Bishop

A person who believes that s/he has been aggrieved by a decree has ten days to communicate a request for revocation or emendation of the decree to the Bishop. This request must be made within ten useful days of when the public was notified of the decree. The written letter should provide:

- explanation why the person has legitimate standing to make the request;
- what exactly the person is requesting and;
- reasons why the decree should be partially or wholly rescinded. Communications of emotion, disenchantment with processes, or personal opinion do not constitute a request for reconsideration.

A valid request for the reconsideration of a parish merger might say:

> *My name is Jane Doe and I have been a parishioner of Saint Joseph Catholic Church for seven years. With this letter, I respectfully request that you withdraw your decision to merge Saint Joseph Catholic Church into Saint Mary Catholic Church for the following reasons . . . .*

Prior to the close of business on the tenth (10th) useful day after legal notice of the decree, a written request for Bishop Quinn to revoke or amend the decree must be sent or delivered to:

> Most Reverend John M. Quinn
> Diocese of Winona
> 55 W. Sanborn St.
> PO Box 588
> Winona, MN 55987

The following type of requests will <u>not</u> be accepted:

- those that are not specific as to what is sought or why;
- those postmarked or hand delivered after the tenth (10th) useful day after public notice of the decree or;
- those sent via email or fax.

Upon receiving a valid request for revocation or emendation, if no response is given in thirty (30) days, a negative response is to be assumed.

If, after a legitimate petition has been presented, Bishop Quinn does not amend or revoke the initial decree, the petitioner possesses the right to make recourse to the Holy See. This must be done within a peremptory time limit of fifteen (15) useful days. This recourse is to be made in writing, along with the reasons for seeking recourse, to the Holy See.