



DECREE

The merger of
Our Lady of Loretto Parish of Brownsdale, Minnesota
with Queen of Angels Parish of Austin, Minnesota

Our Lady of Loretto Parish of Brownsdale, Minnesota, was founded in 1946, serving the faithful of the area for 70 years. In 2011 the Diocese of Winona, 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. The proposal was released publicly on Feb 1, 2015, and members of the faithful of Our Lady of Loretto Parish and Queen of Angels 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 May 19, 2016, the Presbyteral Council provided consultation, in accord with canon 515, §§2, 3, concerning the proposal that Our Lady of Loretto Parish be merged (*unio extinctiva*) into Queen of Angels 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 Our Lady of Loretto Parish be merged into Queen of Angels 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
OUR LADY OF LORETTO PARISH OF BROWNSDALE, MINNESOTA
BE MERGED INTO
QUEEN OF ANGELS PARISH OF AUSTIN, MINNESOTA.**


Furthermore, the newly established territorial boundaries of Queen of Angels Parish are to be:

Beginning in the Northeast Corner at the intersection of 290th St. and 630th Avenue, south on 630th Avenue to Interstate 90, west on Interstate 90 to 575th Avenue, south on 575th Avenue to 140th Street, west on 140th Street to 540th Avenue, north on a continuous line that overlaps 540th Avenue to an intersection where a continuous line that extends west from 290th Street, east on a continuous line that overlaps 290th Street to the beginning point.

Upon the completion of the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of the Our Lady of Loretto 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 Queen of Angels Parish.

This decree becomes effective September 30, 2016. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the pastor of Our Lady of Loretto Parish and Queen of Angels Parish and its contents is to be communicated at all of the Masses of obligation on the weekend of Saturday, September 3, 2016, and Sunday, September 4, 2016. 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 on this thirty-first day of August in the year of Our Lord 2016.


The Most Reverend John M. Quinn
Bishop of Winona


The Very Reverend Glenn K. Frerichs
Chancellor

SEAL

