



DECREE

The merger of
St. Francis de Sales Parish of Claremont, Minnesota
with St. John Baptist de la Salle Parish of Dodge Center, Minnesota

St. Francis de Sales Parish of Claremont, Minnesota, was founded in 1869, serving the faithful of the area for 147 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 St. Francis de Sales Parish and St. John Baptist de la Salle 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 St. Francis de Sales Parish be merged (*unio extinctiva*) into St. John Baptist de la Salle 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. Francis de Sales Parish be merged into St. John Baptist de la Salle 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 EXTINGUISHIVE UNION BY WHICH
ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH OF CLAREMONT, MINNESOTA
BE MERGED INTO
ST. JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE PARISH OF DODGE CENTER, MINNESOTA.**


Furthermore, the newly established territorial boundaries of St. John Baptist de la Salle Parish are to be:

Beginning in the northwest corner at the intersection of NE 84th Avenue and 520th Street/NE 86th Street, east on continuous line that overlaps 520th Street/NE 86th Street which eventually becomes County Road 27 to the Olmsted County boundary, south along the Dodge/Olmsted County boundary to 590th Street, west on 590th Street to 220th Avenue, south on 220th Avenue to 670th Street, west on continuous line that overlaps 670th St. to 150th Avenue, south on 150th Avenue to 700th Street, west on 700th Street which becomes 108th Street to 89th Avenue, north on 89th Avenue to 58th Street, west on 58th Street to 84th Avenue, north on 84th Avenue to the beginning point.

Upon the completion of the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of the St. Francis de Sales 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. John Baptist de la Salle Parish.

This decree becomes effective September 30, 2016. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish and St. John Baptist de la Salle 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

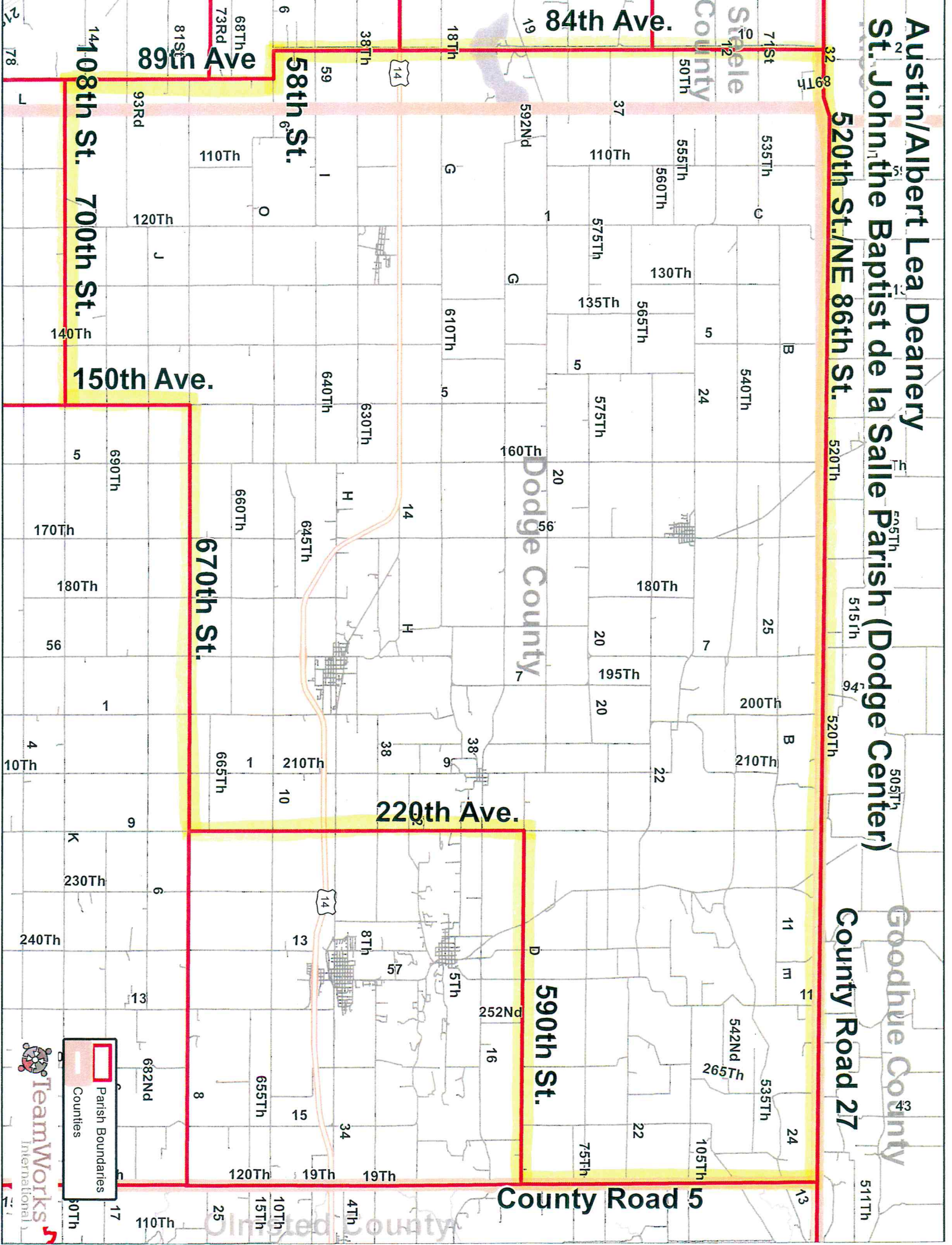
SEAL



Austin/Albert Lea Deanery St. John the Baptist de la Salle Parish (Dodge Center)

520th St./NE 86th St.

County Road 27

County Road 5



 Parish Boundaries
 Counties