



DECREE

The merger of
St. Mary Parish of Ellsworth, Minnesota,
with St. Catherine Parish of Luverne, Minnesota

St. Mary Parish of Ellsworth, Minnesota, was founded in 1885, serving the faithful of the area for 133 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 and St. Catherine 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 September 4, 2018, 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. Catherine 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. Catherine 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 ELLSWORTH, MINNESOTA
BE MERGED INTO
ST. CATHERINE PARISH OF LUVERNE, MINNESOTA.**

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

Starting in the northwest corner at the intersection of the Minnesota / South Dakota Border and 241st Street / Road 82. Head east on a continuous line that overlaps 241st Street / Road 82 which becomes County Highway 10 / 110th Street to Birkett Avenue. Head south on Birkett Avenue to Interstate 90. Head east on Interstate 90 to an intersection where a continuous line extends north from Bulick Avenue. Head south along a continuous line that overlaps Bulick Avenue to the Minnesota / Iowa Border (110th / 340th Street). Head west along the Minnesota / Iowa Border (110th / 340th Street) to the Minnesota / South Dakota Border. Head north 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. 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. Catherine Parish.

This decree becomes effective October 8, 2018. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the pastor of St. Mary Parish and St. Catherine Parish and its contents is to be communicated at all of the Masses of obligation on the weekend of Saturday, September 15, 2018, and Sunday, September 16, 2018. 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 sixth day of September in the year of Our Lord 2018.

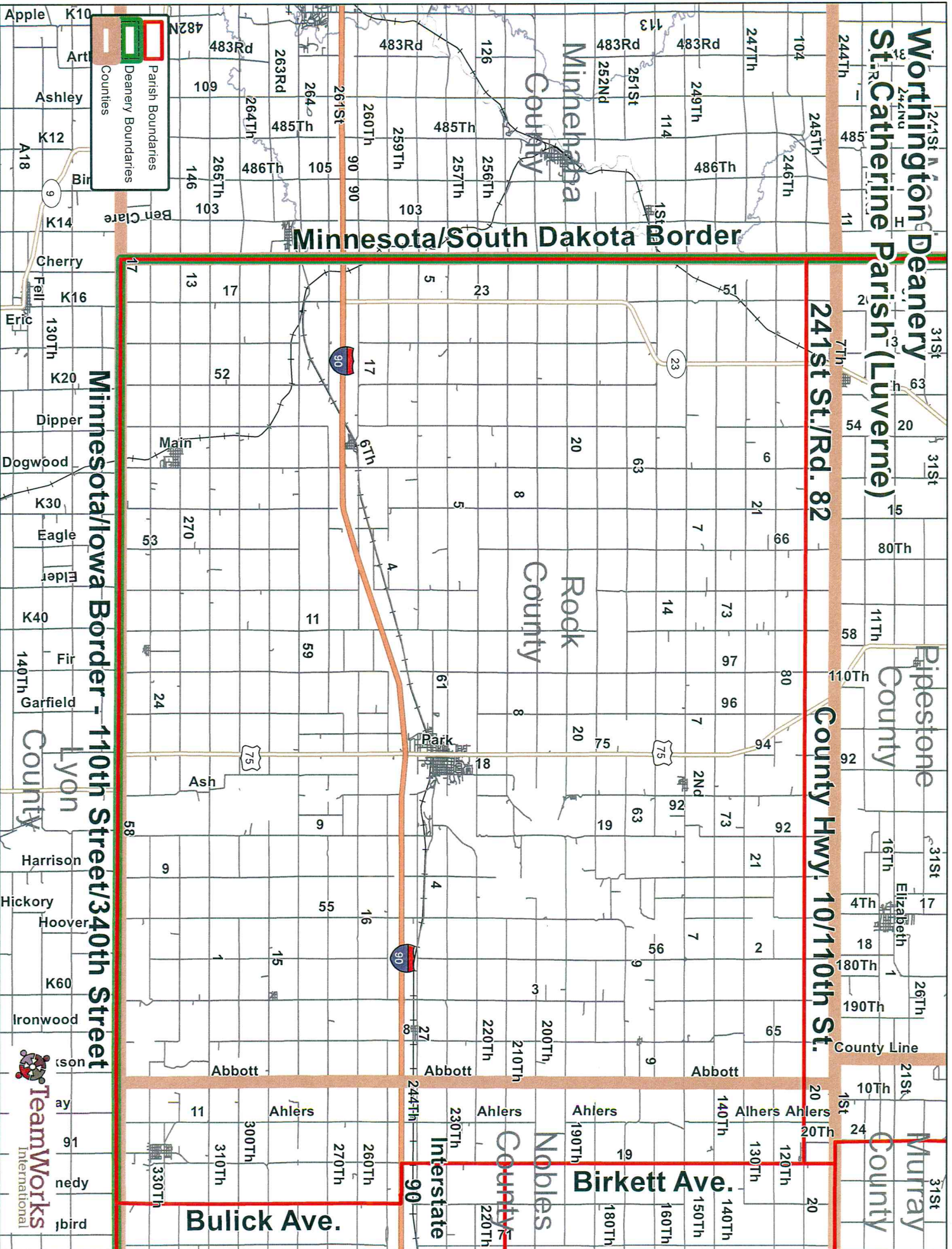
[Redacted Signature]

The Most Reverend John M. Quinn
Bishop of Winona-Rochester

[Redacted Signature]

The Very Reverend Glenn K. Frerichs
Chancellor

SEAL



Worthington Deanery
St. Catherine Parish (Luverne)

Minnesota/South Dakota Border

Minnesota/Iowa Border - 110th Street/340th Street

241st St./Rd. 82

County Hwy. 10/110th St.

Birkett Ave.

Bullick Ave.

Interstate 90

TeamWorks International