

## DECREE

### The merger of Holy Family Parish of East Chain, Minnesota, with St. John Vianney Parish of Fairmont, Minnesota

Holy Family Parish of East Chain, Minnesota, was founded in 1897, serving the faithful of the area for 125 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 Holy Family 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 Holy Family Parish be merged (*unio extinctiva*) into St. John Vianney 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 Holy Family Parish be merged into St. John Vianney 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  
HOLY FAMILY PARISH OF EAST CHAIN, MINNESOTA  
BE MERGED INTO  
ST. JOHN VIANNEY PARISH OF FAIRMONT, MINNESOTA.**

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

Starting in the southwest corner of the parish: at the intersection of the Minnesota/Iowa border and the Jackson/Martin County border (10th Avenue), head north on the Jackson/Martin County border to a point where a continuous line that overlaps 85th Street intersects the Jackson/Martin County border. Head east along a continuous line that overlaps 85th Street to 90th Avenue. Head north on a continuous line that overlaps 90th Avenue to 140th Street. Head west on 140th Street to the Jackson/Martin County border. Head north on the Jackson/Martin County border to 230th Street. Head east on 230th Street to 170th Avenue. Head south on a continuous line that overlaps 170th Avenue to 200th Street. Head east on a continuous line that overlaps 200th Street to 280th Avenue. Head South on a continuous line that overlaps 280th Avenue to 80th Street. Head east on 80th Street to the Martin/Faribault County border (310th Avenue). Head south on the Martin/Faribault County border to the Minnesota/Iowa Border. Head west along the Minnesota/Iowa Border to the starting point.

Upon the completion of the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of the Holy Family 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 Vianney Parish.

This decree becomes effective December 1, 2022. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the pastor of Holy Family Parish and St. John Vianney 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*

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The Most Reverend Robert Barron  
Bishop of Winona-Rochester







*Andrew D. Brannon*

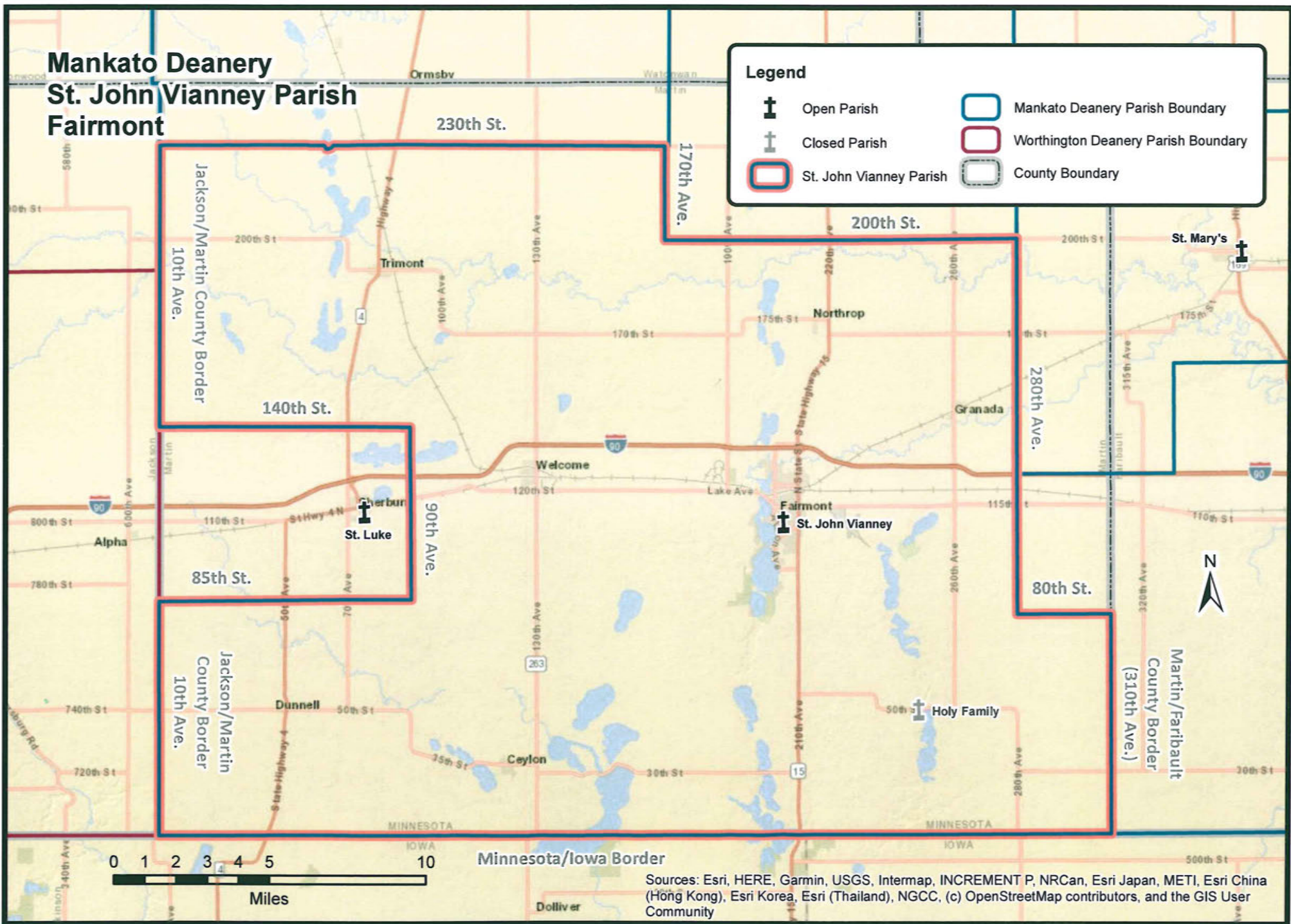
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Vice Chancellor



**Mankato Deanery**  
**St. John Vianney Parish**  
**Fairmont**

**Legend**

	Open Parish		Mankato Deanery Parish Boundary
	Closed Parish		Worthington Deanery Parish Boundary
	St. John Vianney Parish		County Boundary



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community