

DECREE

The merger of St. Paul Parish of Minnesota City, Minnesota, with St. Mary Parish of Winona, Minnesota

St. Paul Parish of Minnesota City, Minnesota, was founded in 1925, serving the faithful of the area for 98 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. Paul 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 December 13, 2022, the Presbyteral Council provided consultation, in accord with canon 515, §§2, 3, concerning the proposal that St. Paul Parish be merged (*unio extinctiva*) into St. Mary 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. Paul Parish be merged into St. Mary 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. PAUL PARISH OF MINNESOTA CITY, MINNESOTA
BE MERGED INTO
ST. MARY PARISH OF WINONA, MINNESOTA.**

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

Starting in the northeast corner of the parish: at a point where a line that extends north from Vila Street intersects the Minnesota / Wisconsin border, head south on the line that overlaps Vila Street to US Highway 61. Head northwest on US Highway 61 to Gilmore Avenue. Head west on Gilmore Avenue to US Highway 14. Head southwest on US Highway 14 to Gilmore Valley Road. Head in a south, southwest direction on Gilmore Valley Road to Gilmore Ridge Road. Head in a west, northwest direction on Gilmore Ridge Road to County Road 23. Head directly west from the point where Gilmore Ridge Road intersects County Road 23 to German Ridge Road. Head west on German Ridge Road to a point where the road turns to the south. At this point head north to Hidden Haven Road. Head north on Hidden Haven Road to County Road 110. Head northeast on County Road 110 to Grandview Ridge Road. Head northward on Grandview Ridge Road to the northern end of the road. Head north, northeast from the end of Grandview Ridge Road to the end of Stewart Valley Drive. Head northeast from the end of Stewart Valley Drive to the end of Denzer Road. Head directly east from the end of Denzer Road to US Highway 61. From the point where the line from Denzer Road intersects US Highway 61, head north to the Minnesota/Wisconsin border. Head southeastward on the Minnesota/Wisconsin border to the starting point.

Upon the completion of the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of the St. Paul 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. Mary Parish.

This decree becomes effective February 1, 2023. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the pastor of St. Paul Parish and St. Mary Parish and its contents is to be communicated at all of the Masses of obligation on the weekend of Saturday, January 7, 2023, and Sunday, January 8, 2023. 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 6th day of January in the year of Our Lord 2023.

+Robert Barron

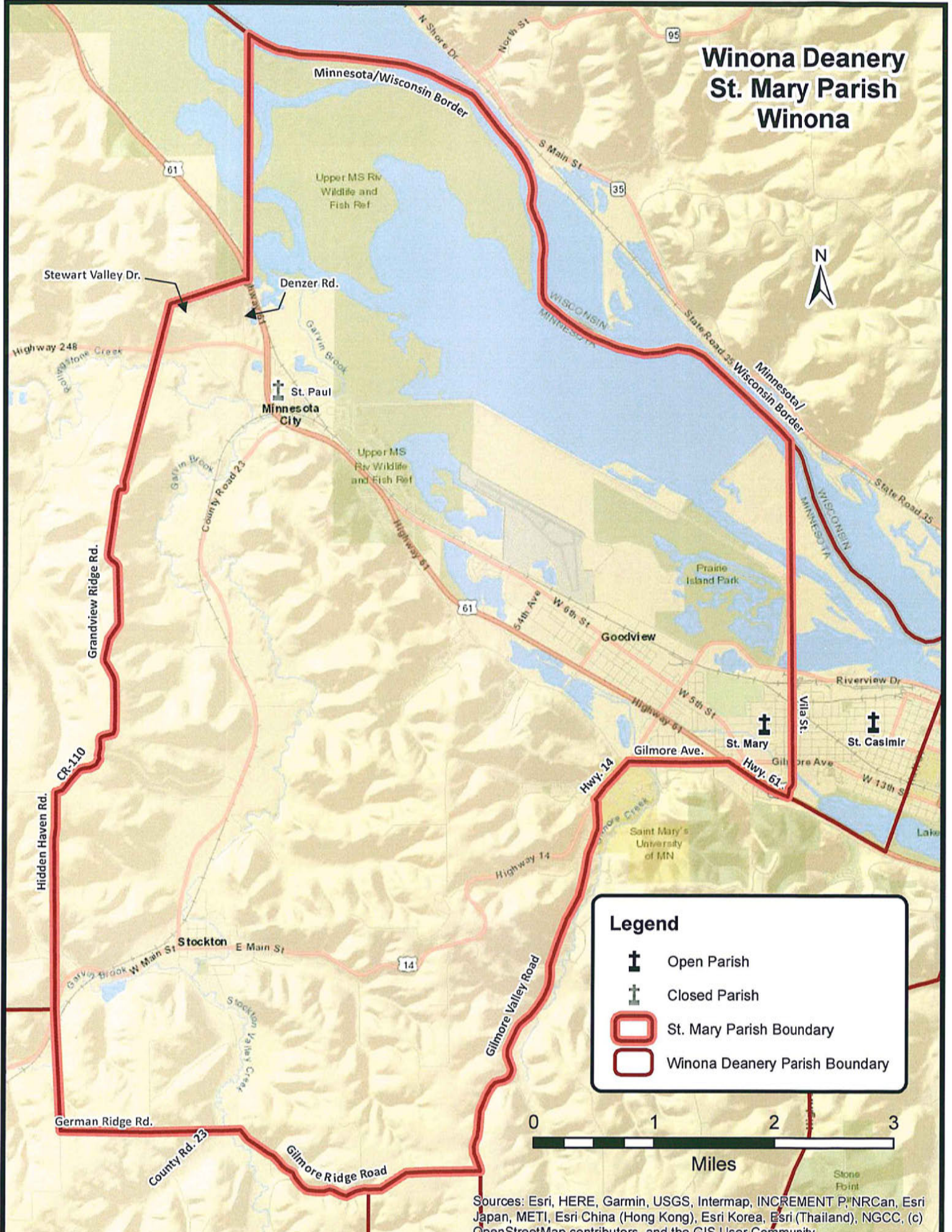
The Most Reverend Robert Barron
Bishop of Winona-Rochester



Andrew D. Brannon

Vice Chancellor

Winona Deanery St. Mary Parish Winona



Legend

- Open Parish
- Closed Parish
- St. Mary Parish Boundary
- Winona Deanery Parish 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