



DECREE

Holy Cross Parish of Dakota, Minnesota, was founded in 1890, serving the faithful of the area for 131 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. Upon the extensive collaboration of clergy and lay leaders throughout the Diocese, the recommended, and eventual merging (*unio extinctiva*), of Holy Cross Parish with Crucifixion Parish, La Crescent, Minnesota, became effective February 21, 2022.

In a letter presented to the Bishop and Presbyteral Council on October 25, 2022, the Pastor of Crucifixion Parish offered the following grave causes which suggest that the church building of the former parish of Holy Cross be relegated to profane but not sordid use:

1. The necessary human and fiscal resources to adequately maintain the structure are no longer available. Hence, maintaining the building as a place of worship would place an excessive burden upon Crucifixion Parish.
2. The people who once attended Holy Cross Parish are in close proximity to several other parishes, including Crucifixion Parish. Use of the church building for divine worship or any other activity will be infrequent or nonexistent.
3. Having made public the possibility of the sale or razing of the church building, no member has expressed a legitimate interest in maintaining the church building.
4. Funds raised from the sale of the church property will provide support for other dimensions of the Church's pastoral ministry and mission, particularly the perpetual care of neighboring cemeteries.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescription of canon 1222, §2 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, having consulted the Presbyteral Council on August 31, 2022, having judged that sufficient grave causes are present, having determined that the good of souls will suffer no detriment

and that the intentions of donors and any other acquired rights have been examined and given due consideration, I hereby decree that

**HOLY CROSS CHURCH OF DAKOTA, MINNESOTA
BE RELEGATED TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE.**

This decree becomes effective December 1, 2022. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the pastor of Crucifixion Parish and its contents are to be communicated at all 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

The Most Reverend Robert Barron
Bishop of Winona-Rochester

Andrew D. Brannon

Vice Chancellor

