



DECREE
Uniting the Parishes of St. Joseph and St. Mary
In Nomine Domini. Amen.

Whereas the parishes of St. Joseph in Williams, and St. Mary in Warroad, are subject to the Bishop of Crookston;

Whereas the diocesan bishop can alter parishes if he has heard the presbyteral council (c. 515 §2);

Whereas I have heard those whose rights could be injured, namely the pastor and people of the parishes of St. Joseph, St. Mary and Sacred Heart, Baudette at each parish following the weekend Masses on May 24 and May 25, 2025 (c.50);

Whereas I have provided the presbyteral council sufficient information to judge the appropriateness and legitimacy of uniting the parishes of St. Joseph and St Mary;

Whereas consultation regarding this matter occurred with the presbyteral council on June 25, 2025 according to the norms of canons 127, and 166.

Whereas just causes suggest that the Parish of St. Mary be united with the Parish of St. Joseph, namely,

The Church of St. Joseph is no longer habitable, and the Parish of St. Joseph lacks the finances or demographic resiliency to repair or replace the structure.

Whereas I have determined that the good of souls requires it;

Therefore, the requirements of law having been fulfilled, I decree that the Parish of St. Joseph in Williams with all its rights, obligations, and privileges is hereby united to and amalgamated with the Parish of St. Mary in Warroad.

On account of this extinctive-union and amalgamation, this newly amalgamated parish is to be known as the Parish of St. Mary. It comprises the territory of the former Parish of St. Joseph in addition to the current territory of the Parish of St. Mary. The Parish of St. Mary remains in the Northeast Deanery.

The temporal goods and patrimonial rights proper to St. Joseph's are allocated to the Parish of St. Mary, and the intentions of the founders and donors must be respected (cf. c. 121). All the parish and sacramental records of the extinct Parish of St. Joseph are to be properly preserved and

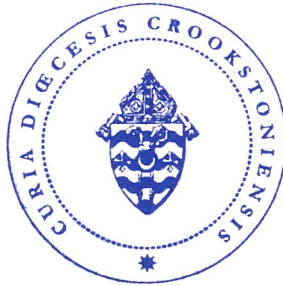
safeguarded by the Parish of St. Mary.

This decree is effective June 30, 2025, and is to be published by means of the diocesan website. It may be challenged within the peremptory time limit of ten days from the legitimate notification of the decree and in accordance with the norm of law (cf. c. 1734).

I take this opportunity to give thanks to God for the 116 years that St. Joseph's has witnessed to the truth of the gospel in faith, hope, and love, and the blessings that this community has received through the gift of God in the sacraments and Mass which have nourished them for the past century.



†Most Rev. Andrew Cozzens
Bishop of Crookston



Given at the Chancery
this 30th day of June, 2025.



Mrs. Janelle C. Gergen
Chancellor