



Merger of St. Katherine Parish in Truman, Minnesota, with St. Mary Parish in Madelia, Minnesota

JOHN QUINN

EPISCOPUS WINONENSIS

DECREE

Whereas the city of Truman was built along a new railroad line built in 1899 but the aforementioned railroad and many of Truman's businesses are now gone;

Whereas St. Katherine Church was built in 1955 to provide for the periphery of Catholics attending Mass in neighboring towns but the membership of St. Katherine Parish has decreased over the years, reducing the number of registered households to less than 70;

Whereas there has been a declining number of parishioners attending Mass at St. Katherine, with recent numbers of attendance being as low as 20-30 parishioners;

Whereas the pastor of St. Katherine Parish is also the pastor of St. Mary Parish and that the parish offices of both parishes have already been combined at St. Mary Parish;

In order to better care for the pastoral needs of the faithful of St. Katherine Parish, enhance evangelization efforts and vitality of parish life for the people of St. Katherine and St. Mary Parishes, and to provide for the best use of clergy and lay personnel, after having asked parishioners to make known their needs and desires, under the careful direction of the Office of Pastoral Planning, which reviewed the recommendations of the parishes involved, and having consulted the Presbyteral Council, and in accord with canons 120, §1; 121; and 515, §§2-3 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, I, the undersigned, in virtue of my authority as Bishop of Winona, hereby decree:

1. That St. Katherine Parish, Truman, be merged with St. Mary Parish, Madelia. The administration of the St. Katherine church building and shed will consequently be transferred to the pastor of St. Mary Parish, effective at midnight at the end of July 31, 2016.
2. That St. Mary Parish assumes the responsibility for making suitable provision for the faithful formerly of St. Katherine Parish, providing for their pastoral care and meeting their pastoral needs. The consolidated and unified parish shall include the membership of the present St. Mary Parish and the membership of the former St. Katherine Parish. The current St. Mary church edifice shall be the primary place of worship of the parish community. The new boundaries of St.

Mary Parish shall incorporate and annex any territory included in the former St. Katherine Parish.

4. That Father Timothy Hall, the pastor of St. Mary Parish, will be named as pastor of the consolidated parishes. He is to foster the pastoral care of the Catholic faithful entrusted to him, bearing in mind the provision of canon 519.


Before August 1, 2016, the parish registers of the former St. Katherine Parish containing the records of baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, marriage and deaths, along with parish records and historical documents, are to be forwarded to St. Mary Parish. They will be faithfully preserved and maintained in accord with canon 535, §§1-5. According to the norm of canon 121, all assets and liabilities, whether movable or immovable, of the former St. Katherine Parish, will become the assets and liabilities of the juridic person of St. Mary Parish. Furthermore, ownership of all ecclesiastical goods and all objects of artistic or historical value belonging to the former St. Katherine Parish will be transferred to St. Mary Parish and will be administered in accordance with the prescriptions of Church law, with due regard for the intention of donors.

The effect of the merger of St. Katherine Parish and St. Mary Parish is the termination and extinguishing of the juridic personality of the former St. Katherine Parish. Thus, it will no longer be a subject of obligations and rights in canon law corresponding to its nature as a juridic person, nor will it be capable of acquiring, retaining, administering, or alienating temporal goods in accord with the norm of law.

I direct that this decree be given to the pastoral leadership of St. Katherine Parish and St. Mary Parish, and that its contents, especially the dispositive part of this decree, be communicated to parishioners on the weekend of July 10, 2016. In accord with canon 1734 §2, legitimate parties retain the right to request reconsideration of this decree within ten (10) useful days. Furthermore, I direct that this decree be published on the website of the Diocese of Winona (www.dow.org). This publication will be presumed to be the official notification of this action.

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given in the Diocese of Winona on this the seventh day of July, in the year of our Lord, 2016.



Most Rev. John M. Quinn
Bishop of Winona



Rev. Msgr. Donald P. Schmitz
Chancellor