



DECREE

The suppression and relegation of St. John Nepomucene Parish of Winona, Minnesota,

St. John Nepomucene Parish of Winona, Minnesota, was founded in 1871, serving the Czech faithful of the area for 154 years. On June 19, 2025, the Presbyteral Council provided consultation, in accord with canon 515, §§2, 3, concerning the proposal that St. John Nepomucene Parish be suppressed and relegated to profane but not sordid use. Upon full discussion, at which time due consideration was given to reasons for and against the proposed suppression and relegation, and with opportunity to suggest alternate courses of action, members of the Presbyteral Council expressed unanimous agreement in favor of the proposed suppression and relegation.

The following just causes suggest that St. John Nepomucene Parish be suppressed and relegated:

- 1) The spiritual needs of Czech Catholics are adequately met by any parish in Winona;
- 2) The declining number of faithful attending Mass and the limited quantity of additional sacramental experiences;
- 3) To ensure the best utilization of priest personnel;
- 4) The recent and projected shifts in populations and the declining percentage of Catholics in Winona County;
- 5) A consolidation of human resources directed toward strengthening the quality of the liturgy and encouraging fuller active participation;
- 6) The church will be repurposed by the Diocese to serve the poor;
- 7) 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 A SUPPRESSION OF
ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE PARISH OF WINONA, MINNESOTA, AND THAT IT BE
SIMULTANEOUSLY RELEGATED TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE.**

Upon the completion of the transfer of such assets and liabilities to the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, the civil corporation of the St. John Nepomucene 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 the Basilica of St. Stanislaus Kostka.

This decree becomes effective August 1, 2025. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the pastor of St. John Nepomucene Parish and its contents are to be communicated at all of the Masses of obligation on Sunday, July 13, 2025. 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 July in the year of Our Lord 2025.

+ *Robert Barron*

The Most Reverend Robert Barron
Bishop of Winona-Rochester

Michelle K Gerlach

Chancellor

