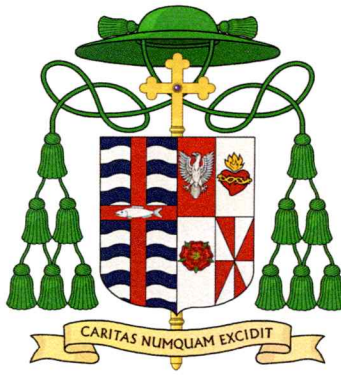




October 22, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

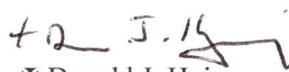
With this letter, I am attaching the decree that merges Divine Mercy Parish in Sauk City and Merrimac, Saint Norbert Parish in Roxbury, and the portion of Holy Cross Parish in Mazomanie into a brand-new parish, Mary, Mother of Mercy.

This moment comes for your new parish following years of consultation and preparation with our Into the Deep Strategic Plan begun back in the spring of 2022. The name of your new parish, Mary, Mother of Mercy, speaks to an important reality, namely, the need for mercy and freedom. This title of Our Lady is sometimes referred to as Our Lady of Ransom since she became the patroness of the Mercedarians, a religious order founded in the Middle Ages to free Christians who were captured or enslaved by Muslims in the Holy Land or in other parts of the Middle East and Northern Africa. While this particular mission may not be as relevant today, Mary's intercession for freedom from sin and error through the Paschal Mystery of Christ is desperately needed in our world today. Mary is a powerful intercessor for all of us who need to experience God's tender mercy. Once we have experienced the freedom and peace that comes through God's forgiveness, we are then called to share that Good News with others. This mission of spreading God's mercy will be able to draw many into the Church as they come to know Christ's redeeming love. Making Christ known and loved by all people is at the root of why we undertook Into the Deep in the first place – it was so we could more effectively “make disciples” of Jesus Christ. This has been one of the most important parts of my episcopal ministry here in the Diocese of Madison, and I pray that your new parish will truly serve as a center of holiness and missionary zeal leading people to Christ and His Church.

I am also happy to appoint Very Rev. Miguel Galvez, SJS, as your pastor and to confirm Revs. James Kotch, Pedro Escribano, and Cristian Valenzuela, all of the Society of Jesus Christ the Priest, as your parochial vicars. Dcn. Michael Pipitone has also been assigned as a parish deacon. I fully trust that the Lord will guide their ministry in the weeks, months, and years to come.

Please know of my prayers for all of you, and I will look forward to celebrating this milestone when I come to install Fr. Galvez as your pastor in December. May Mary, Mother of Mercy, intercede for all of us that we might know the love and freedom found in Christ and His Church!

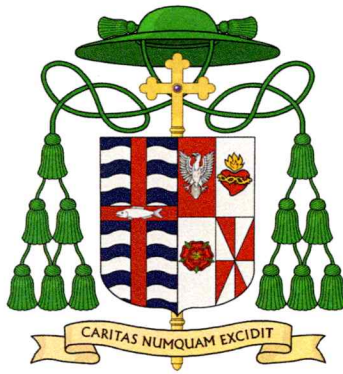
In Christ,


✠ Donald J. Hying
Bishop of Madison

Enclosure

O F F I C E O F T H E B I S H O P

Diocese of Madison • 702 S. High Point Road • Suite 225 • Madison, WI 53719
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Donaldus Iosephus
Miseratione Divina et Apostolicae Sedis Gratia
Episcopus Madisonensis

DECREE OF CANONICAL MERGER

**Uniting Divine Mercy Parish (Sauk City), Saint Norbert Parish,
and a portion of Holy Cross Parish (Mazomanie) into**

MARY, MOTHER OF MERCY PARISH

in Sauk and Dane Counties in the State of Wisconsin

Protocol No.: 261022-DB11

WHEREAS “the diocesan Bishop should be concerned to organize the arrangement of parishes in ways adapted to the care of souls, according to an inclusive and organic vision with wide pastoral outreach,” and “If the good of the faithful so requires, the Bishop should proceed, after consulting the diocesan presbyteral council, to alter territorial boundaries, to divide parishes that are too large, to merge small parishes, to establish new parishes or non-territorial centers for pastoral service in the community, or even to reorganize completely the arrangement of parishes within a particular city” (Directory *Apostolorum successores*, 214); and

WHEREAS “specific attention should be given to the following aspects, all of which form part of the model of parish life, thereby increasing pastoral effectiveness: Priestly collaboration...; Participation of the faithful (clerics, religious and laity)...; Parish associations...; [and] Centers of formation” (Ibid., 211); and

WHEREAS, however, the aforementioned aspects have suffered in the current general situation of the Diocese of Madison due to a shortage of clergy, difficulties in recruiting competent staff and volunteers to conduct necessary pastoral programming, and declining participation of the faithful in the sacramental and charitable activities of the Church for various reasons (e.g., increasing secularization, decreasing population in certain rural areas of the Diocese, the aftereffects of the Covid pandemic, etc.), prompting a comprehensive Diocesan strategic planning initiative undertaken in the spring of 2022, in consultation with a number of priests and competent lay faithful, to consider statistical data regarding demographics, Mass attendance, reception of the

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sacraments, numbers of youth in Catholic schools and faith formation programs, priest resources, and financial giving; and

WHEREAS the results of the strategic study were collated and shared first with priests, deacons, religious, and key lay people from August through October 2022 and then with the entire Diocese online and in a special edition of the *Catholic Herald*, the Diocesan newspaper, dated 10 November 2022, containing information in both English and Spanish; and

WHEREAS the print and online publications of the study included a proposed map restructuring the parishes of the Diocese and invited all interested parties to offer feedback, suggested changes, or questions during a period spanning from November 2022 through December 2022; and

WHEREAS the general factors prompting the strategic planning initiative were found to be operative in the specific circumstances of Divine Mercy Parish in Sauk City and Merrimac, located in Sauk County, Saint Norbert Parish in Roxbury, located in Dane County, and Holy Cross Parish in Mazomanie and Mill Creek, located in Dane and Iowa Counties, in a manner and degree suggesting that the pastoral care of the faithful within those parishes would be much more effectively and expediently achieved through the union of the respective parishes or parts thereof; and

WHEREAS the initial proposal suggested merging the three parish communities of Divine Mercy in Sauk City and Merrimac, Saint Norbert in Roxbury, and Holy Cross in Mazomanie and Mill Creek, the feedback obtained through the process of consultation suggested that, while the merger of Divine Mercy, Saint Norbert, and the part of Holy Cross Parish in Mazomanie could work well, the portion of Holy Cross Parish connected with Mill Creek should be grouped with the neighboring parishes of Saint Luke in Plain, Saint John the Evangelist in Spring Green, and the portion of Holy Angels Parish in Lime Ridge and Loreto due to geographical proximity, similar pastoral priorities, and historical ties; and

WHEREAS in March of 2023 the parishes of Divine Mercy, Saint Norbert, and the church of Holy Cross Parish located in Mazomanie were grouped together to become “Pastorate 8,” both to coordinate pastoral action in the short term and further to discern the prudence of an eventual merger, and on 1 July 2023 the Reverend Miguel Galvez, SJS, was named as the initial Parochial Administrator for the parishes of Divine Mercy, Saint Norbert, and Holy Cross with care for Saint Barnabas Church in Mazomanie while the pastoral care of Saint John the Baptist Church in Mill Creek was entrusted to Parochial Vicars from Plain, Spring Green, Lime Ridge, and Loreto; and

WHEREAS, in order to gather the necessary information and proofs concerning each proposed alteration of parish structures in the Into the Deep Strategic Plan in accord with canons 515 §2 and 50 *CIC*, the Reverend Tait Schroeder was mandated by the undersigned Bishop of Madison in a Decree dated 29 September 2023 (Prot. N. 127-2023) to collect and prepare information for the Presbyteral Council’s consultation; and

WHEREAS the Reverend Tait Schroeder met with the Parochial Administrator and some of the Parochial Vicars of Pastorate 8 on 21 November 2023 at Saint Aloysius Church in Sauk City to hear their opinions about the advisability of merging the parishes into a single parish; and

WHEREAS the Parochial Administrator and Parochial Vicars were generally in favor of merging the parishes into a new parish as proposed, especially since there was stability among the communities as the priests affiliated with the Society of Jesus Christ the Priest have been serving in all the parishes for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, on the same date at the same location, a meeting of key representatives from various bodies (pastoral councils, finance councils, civil trustees, staff, etc.) from the parishes and churches of Pastorate 8 was held to hear comments, concerns, and opinions pertaining to the potential merger of the parishes; and

WHEREAS the findings from these meetings were presented by the Reverend Tait Schroeder to the undersigned Bishop in consultation with the Presbyteral Council at a special session held on 14 December 2023; and

WHEREAS the Presbyteral Council recommended to the undersigned Bishop of Madison, in a unanimous consultative vote, that Divine Mercy Parish, Saint Norbert Parish, and the community of Mazomanie that comprises a portion of Holy Cross Parish should be merged as proposed; and

CONSIDERING the following specific reasons providing the required just cause for merging the two parishes of Divine Mercy and Saint Norbert into a new parish, noting the addition of Mazomanie from Holy Cross Parish to merge with the new parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy:

- 1) **Demographic changes and decline in attendance.** As with the majority of parishes in the Diocese, the aforementioned parishes have seen marked declines in the numbers of those participating in Sunday Masses and receiving the sacraments. Given that two of the parishes involved in this merger have already undergone a previous merger, namely, Saint Aloysius in Sauk City and Saint Mary, Health of the Sick in Merrimac to become Divine Mercy Parish, comparing combined numbers of parishioners and sacraments is relevant. Looking at Divine Mercy Parish, the largest parish being united in the merger, there were a total of 1226 registered households at Sauk City and Merrimac in 2003. By 2021, the number of registered households at Divine Mercy had declined by 56 percent to only 514 families. Fortunately, this decrease was less pronounced when evaluating weekend Mass attendance at the parish. In 2003, approximately 876 people attended Mass at the two parishes of Saint Aloysius and Saint Mary, Health of the Sick. By 2021, there was an average of 603 people at weekend Masses, a decrease of slightly more than thirty percent. Saint Norbert Parish suffered from similar serious declines in both areas, although the relative magnitude was reversed. The number of registered households fell by only twenty-six percent from 435 in 2003 to 321 in 2021. However, the average number of weekend Mass attendees in the October count fell by 62 percent from 852 attendees in 2003 to 321

in 2021. The greatest drop among all the churches occurred at Saint Barnabas in Mazomanie. In 2003, there were 350 registered households in the parish. However, by 2021, that number dropped by 92 percent to a mere 27 families. Mass attendance also fell during that period from 322 communicants on a weekend in 2003 to only 68 people on average attending weekend Masses in 2021. This decline occurred even though Saint Barnabas was merged with the small parish of Saint John the Baptist in Mill Creek to become Holy Cross Parish. While some of the decline in the 2021 statistics can be accounted for by the Covid pandemic at its height in 2020-2021 and changes in priests and Mass schedules, the trend shows a significant downturn in church participation in this area. The trend is also reflected in the number of baptisms and other sacraments celebrated in the parishes. The number of baptisms for all the churches in 2003 was 92, whereas baptisms in 2021 only numbered 26. First Communions declined by a lesser percentage from 76 in 2004 to 52 in 2021. Confirmations numbered 121 in 2003 but fell by around 39 percent to 74 in 2021 (although Confirmations were not held every year in every parish). Finally, weddings in 2003 numbered 24, but only 16 weddings were celebrated in the parishes in 2021. While the numbers of those participating in the life of the church decreased over the last twenty years, this area is expected to see a population increase over the next decade. The overall population in the area covered by these parishes is expected to increase by about 1500 from 21,467 people in 2022 to 22,927 inhabitants by 2032, an increase of almost seven percent. To counter these downward participation trends, the work of evangelization will need to grow and increase in this area. Thus, a merger of the parishes will allow for more focused efforts at evangelization with a single pastor and combined pastoral staff/volunteers and programs to reverse those trends in an area that will see an increase in population over the next decade;

- 2) **Insufficiency of less extreme forms of collaboration.** During a previous period of diocesan pastoral planning conducted in 2005, there were many recommendations for the parishes being combined in the current extinctive union. The former planning process suggested that the parishes of Saint Aloysius in Sauk City and Saint Mary, Health of the Sick in Merrimac should merge. The process also suggested linking Saint Norbert Parish with the newly created parish in Sauk City and Merrimac. Regarding Saint Barnabas, a collaborative relationship between all the parishes was suggested in which they would work together on religious education, common communication efforts, and mutual support of the Catholic school in Sauk City. Finally, there was already a desire and suggestion that the four parishes in Mazomanie, Merrimac, Roxbury, and Sauk City work towards a merger of all the parishes since they are relatively close geographically and they share clergy from the Society of Jesus Christ the Priest. Eventually, Saint Barnabas Parish was merged with Saint John the Baptist Parish in Mill Creek to become Holy Cross Parish, but that parish continued to work with Divine Mercy Parish (which was formed from Sauk City and Merrimac) and Saint Norbert Parish. Despite the completed mergers, there were still challenges and administrative burdens in operating the parishes with their various facilities. Additionally, the desired collaboration among the parishes that remained juridically separate was somewhat difficult to achieve given the separation of finances for each parish. Thus, while mergers, linkages, and other collaborative measures were either taken or

proposed, these efforts were not sufficient to alleviate the challenges to participation in the life of the Church without unified vision, leadership, and resources;

- 3) **Promotion and strengthening of the school and other administrative or consultative bodies.** While there is a parochial school at Sauk City, the other communities of the parish do not have their own Catholic schools. Thus, the merger of the parishes will allow for children from all the former parishes to have the opportunity to enroll in a Catholic school. Additionally, being able to draw upon a larger overall parish population could potentially increase attendance at the school. Increasing school enrollment and vitality is an important pastoral priority for the parish. Adding to enrollment is an important goal because there has been a slow decline in the parochial school in Sauk City over the past twenty-five years. In 2000, Saint Aloysius School had 147 students. As of the current academic year, the elementary school had an enrollment of approximately 101. While this is an overall decline in enrollment, the school is stable. Thus, the merged parish can sustain the school, and possible new students from the wider parish could allow for expansion of programs for the school. In addition to the strengthening of the parish school, the merger allows for other parish bodies to benefit from additional members and new perspectives. Such bodies as the Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils can be more robust and focus on the needs of all the people of the new parish, recognizing the gifts and challenges of all the communities that will make up the new parish;
- 4) **More effective ministry to Hispanics.** As mentioned above, the overall population of this area will increase by about seven percent by 2032. Of the expected increase of 1,500 inhabitants, about 500 of those new people will be Hispanic. Given that the clergy of the Society of Jesus Christ the Priest who have served these parishes for many years are fluent in Spanish, the merged parish will be in an excellent position to continue and expand outreach to Spanish speaking Catholics in the area. The merger allows for greater collaboration and unity among pastoral programming in the area covered by the parish;
- 5) **More effective distribution of clergy to achieve better pastoral care.** Merging the parishes allows for the pastor to have the parochial care of a single parish as described in canon 526 §1 *CIC*, since the Diocese of Madison is currently experiencing an insufficient number of priests fulfilling all of the requisites of canon 521 *CIC* required for being appointed as pastor. The parishes in question, while they cover a relatively large geographical territory, have affinities and complementarities in their culture, demographics, spiritual patrimony, and other areas, such that their pastoral care could be more effectively provided within a single parish by a single pastor, assisted by one or more parochial vicars, than separately by one or more pastors who are overburdened with the care of several parishes or who perhaps fall short of the qualities that characterize a suitable pastor. Additionally, merging the parishes in question will reduce the administrative burdens on clergy and staff members or volunteers that come with having several distinct parishes with multiple churches;
- 6) **More stable organizational structure in service of better evangelization.** Unifying these parishes will provide a stable organizational structure that will serve this area, ultimately fostering the good of souls by realigning resources for the sake of the essential

mission of the Church to “go make disciples,” a central theme and desire of the undersigned’s episcopal ministry in the Diocese of Madison; and

NOTING that Saints Joachim and Anne Parish is being created by an extinctive union of Saint Luke Parish in Plain, Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Spring Green, the portion of Holy Angels Parish that includes Lime Ridge and Loreto, and the portion of Holy Cross Parish (Mazomanie) that includes the area of Mill Creek effected by a separate decree issued today, Prot. N. 261022-DB01, whose effects as respects the juridic person of Holy Cross Parish, its territory, its rights and obligations, and its temporal goods, are cumulative and simultaneous with the present decree; and

OBSERVING the precepts of canons 515 §2 and 50 *CIC*, the undersigned Bishop of Madison hereby

DECREES

- 1) That Divine Mercy Parish in Sauk City and Merrimac, located in Sauk County, Saint Norbert Parish in Roxbury, located in Dane County, and the portion of Holy Cross Parish that includes Mazomanie, located in Dane County, are hereby joined by extinctive union to form Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish, a new parish having juridic personality in accord with canons 121 and 515 §3 *CIC*; and
- 2) That all of the goods and patrimonial rights of the aforementioned Divine Mercy Parish and Saint Norbert Parish, along with the obligations proper to each, are hereby transferred to Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish, respecting the intention of donors and acquired rights for specific funds transferred to the new parish in accord with canon 121 *CIC*, along with the provisions listed in the subsequent number of this decree (i.e., number 3) made for that portion of Holy Cross Parish in Mazomanie that will be united to the new parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy with the remaining goods, patrimonial rights, and obligations of Holy Cross Parish being transferred to the new parish of Saints Joachim and Anne in Lime Ridge, Loreto, Mill Creek, Plain, and Spring Green being created this same day (cf. Prot. N. 261022-DB01); and
- 3) That, due to the extinctive union of Holy Cross Parish uniting the territory connected with the church in Mazomanie with the new Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish and the territory connected with the church in Mill Creek with the new Saints Joachim and Anne Parish, the undersigned Bishop of Madison determines, in accord with canon 122 *CIC*, that, insofar as it is possible to determine and insofar as they exist, the common, divisible patrimonial goods that the former Saint John the Baptist Parish in Mill Creek brought to the parish of Holy Cross when that parish was created be transferred to Saints Joachim and Anne Parish, while the remaining common, divisible patrimonial goods of Holy Cross Parish be transferred to Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish in Sauk City. Concerning the common goods which are not divisible, especially real estate, the undersigned determines that the real property connected to Saint John the Baptist Church in Mill Creek (i.e., Tax Parcel 002-500 as indicated on the Iowa County GIS website and all of the non-real estate parochial assets located in the buildings or on the property associated with Saint John the Baptist

Church in Mill Creek) be transferred completely to Saints Joachim and Anne Parish while all of the other real property and non-real estate parochial assets belonging to Holy Cross Parish in Mazomanie be transferred completely to Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish in Sauk City; and

- 4) That the territorial boundaries of Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish shall be as follows (uniting the parish territories of Divine Mercy, Saint Norbert, and the part of Holy Cross connected to Mazomanie):

- a. On the North: Starting at the intersection of County Highway D and County Highway PF, then continuing east on County Highway PF to its intersection with Schara Road, then continuing east on Schara Road to its intersection with Orchard Road, then continuing northeast on Orchard Road to its intersection with Ruff Road, then continuing east on Ruff Road to its intersection with Denzer Road, then continuing southeast on Denzer Road to its intersection with Hilltop Road, then continuing east on Hilltop Road to its intersection with Freedom Road, then continuing southeast on Freedom Road to its intersection with County Highway C, then continuing east on County Highway C to its intersection with Huber Road, then continuing north on Huber Road to its intersection with Kings Corner Road, then continuing east on Kings Corner Road to its intersection with U.S. Highway 12, then continuing north on U.S. Highway 12 to the northern border of the land belonging to the Ho-Chunk Nation at the former site of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant, then continuing in a line due east from that northern border of the Ho-Chunk Nation land to the end of Halweg Road, then continuing northeast along Halweg Road to its intersection with State Highway 113, then continuing north along State Highway 113 to its intersection with County Highway DL, then continuing northeast along County Highway DL to its intersection with Bluff Road, then continuing north along Bluff Road to its intersection with O'Neil Road, then continuing northeast along O'Neil Road to its intersection with Durwards Glen Road, then continuing southeast along Durwards Glen Road to its intersection with State Highway 78, then crossing State Highway 78 and continuing south along Indian Farm Road to its intersection with Circle Bluff Road, then continuing southeast along Circle Bluff Road to its intersection with County Highway U, then continuing southwest along County Highway U to its intersection with Prentice Creek, then continuing southeast along Prentice Creek to its confluence with the northwestern shoreline of Lake Wisconsin;
- b. On the East: Starting at the confluence of Prentice Creek and the northwestern shoreline of Lake Wisconsin, then continuing southwest along the northwestern shoreline of Lake Wisconsin to the Lake Wisconsin Dam, then continuing south along the western shoreline of the Wisconsin River to its intersection with State Highway 60, then continuing east along State Highway 60 to its intersection with Barta Road, then continuing south along Barta Road to its intersection with Schoepp Road, then continuing east along Schoepp Road to its intersection with Mussen Road, then continuing southeast along Mussen Road to its intersection with Crystal Lake Road, then continuing east along Crystal Lake Road to its intersection

with County Highway Y, then continuing south along County Highway Y to its intersection with Lee Road, then continuing east along Lee Road to its intersection with Latham Road, then continuing south along Latham Road to its intersection with Lodi Springfield Road, then continuing southeast along Lodi Springfield Road to its intersection with County Highway V;

- c. On the South: Starting at the intersection of Lodi Springfield Road and County Highway V, then continuing west along County Highway V to its intersection with Breunig Road, then continuing southwest along Breunig Road to its intersection with County Highway KP, then continuing south along County Highway KP to its intersection with State Highway 19, then continuing west along State Highway 19 to its intersection with County Highway KP, then continuing south along County Highway KP to its intersection with Spring Valley Road, then continuing west along Spring Valley Road to its intersection with Turkey Road, then continuing southwest along Turkey Road to its intersection with County Highway F, then continuing south along County Highway F to its intersection with U.S. Highway 14, then continuing northwest along County Highway 14 to its intersection with State Highway 78, then continuing south along State Highway 78 to its intersection with County Highway JJ, then continuing southwest along County Highway JJ to its intersection with County Highway J, then continuing northwest along County Highway J to its intersection with County Highway F, then continuing northwest along County Highway F to its intersection with Zwettler Road, then continuing west along Zwettler Road to its intersection with the Dane/Iowa County border, then continuing north along the Dane/Iowa county border to its intersection with the Dane/Iowa/Sauk County border, then continuing west from the Dane/Iowa/Sauk County border along the northern bank of the Wisconsin River to a point due south of the intersection of State Highway 60 and Badger Road;
 - d. On the West: Starting at the northern bank of the Wisconsin River due south of the intersection of State Highway 60 and Badger Road, then continuing due north to the intersection of State Highway 60 and Badger Road, then continuing north along Badger Road to its intersection with County Highway B, then crossing County Highway B and continuing north on County Highway C to its intersection with County Highway PF, then continuing north on County Highway PF to its intersection with County Highway D; and
- 5) That the patronal feast of the parish is to be observed on the Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Mercy or Our Lady of Ransom, which falls on September 24, and should be celebrated in the churches of the parish with the rank of Feast in accord with number 52, c) of the *Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*, ranking at number 8, e) on the *Table of Liturgical Days*, fittingly using the prayers and readings from Mass number thirty-nine (39), “Mary, Queen and Mother of Mercy,” or Mass number forty-three (43), “Our Lady of Ransom,” from *The Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary*; and
 - 6) That Saint Aloysius Church in Sauk City is designated as the parochial church of Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish, while Saint Barnabas Church in Mazomanie, Saint Mary, Health

of the Sick Church in Merrimac, and Saint Norbert Church in Roxbury shall serve as subsidiary churches where divine worship may take place to serve the spiritual needs of the faithful, retaining, however, the baptismal font, the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament, and other such rights and uses as are proper to a parish church, insofar as the law allows and the pastor sees fit; and

- 7) That provision for the office of pastor, along with instructions about his taking possession of the new parish, as well as the assignment of other clergy to serve the parish, will be effected in separate decrees; and
- 8) That, in accord with canon 535 *CIC*, the sacramental registers of the former parishes of Divine Mercy, Holy Cross, and Saint Norbert shall be closed to any new entries. The registers shall remain in the care and custody of Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish to be properly preserved and safeguarded at the new main parish office. The historical registers for Saint Barnabas in Mazomanie predating its inclusion in Holy Cross Parish also shall be preserved and safeguarded at the parish office of Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish, while the historical registers for Saint John the Baptist in Mill Creek shall be kept at the main parish office of Saints Joachim and Anne Parish. All those whose work entails the use of the parish registers are to be instructed concerning the location of all registers pertaining to the former Holy Cross Parish. A new set of sacramental records is to be established for Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish, and sacraments taking place in any of the churches of the parish are to be recorded in the new sacramental registers of Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish in accord with universal and diocesan norms; and
- 9) That Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish is to obtain its own ecclesiastical seal in accord with canon 535 §3 *CIC*; and
- 10) That a pastoral council and finance council are to be established within the new parish in accord with universal and diocesan norms as soon as possible following the effective date of this decree; and
- 11) That the Chancellor is to ensure that this decree, along with other ecclesiastical documents, information, and minutes of the Presbyteral Council concerning this extinctive union and modification of parish boundaries, as well as relevant documents pertaining to the civil incorporation of the new parish with the State of Wisconsin are carefully preserved in the Diocesan archive in accord with the norm of canons 486 and 491 §1 *CIC*, without prejudice to the norm of canon 535 §4 *CIC*; and
- 12) That this decree takes effect 24 October 2026, the liturgical Optional Memorial of Saint Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop; and
- 13) That the decree is to be notified on 24 October 2026 by its publication on the Vicar General's page of the Diocesan website and by posting a print copy or copies in each of the churches of the new parish, with reference made to the decree by an announcement at Masses held at the respective churches, in the bulletins, or by other suitable means; and
- 14) That any eventual recourse against this decree can be taken in accord with the norms of canons 1734 *CIC* and following.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Madison on the twenty-second day of October in the Year of Our Lord 2026, the liturgical Optional Memorial of Saint John Paul II, Pope.

+ 2 J. 14

✠ Donald J. Hying
Bishop of Madison

Timothy J. Cavanaugh
Chancellor

