



ARCHDIOCESE
OF
SAINT PAUL &
MINNEAPOLIS

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

May 29, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with a deep sense of joy and gratitude that I confirm the civil and canonical merger of your two parishes, the Church of St. Stephen and the Church of Holy Rosary, into a single, unified parish: which will be known as the **Church of St. Stephen-Holy Rosary**. Following a two-year parish-wide discernment process, your pastor, Bishop Joseph Williams, presented to me a formal petition for the parishes to be combined. After consulting with the Presbyteral Council, as is required by canon law, and having considered the motivations for this request, I issued a decree of merger, to take effect on July 1, 2022. I encourage you to read the decree, which the parish can provide for you.

When the Dominican Friars made the difficult decision to conclude their ministry at Holy Rosary back in February 2020, the future was uncertain due to the serious financial situation of the parish and question of long-term viability. I am grateful for the prayer and thoughtful discernment that your pastor, Bishop Joseph Williams, and the leadership of both parishes devoted to the process of finding the best solution forward. Merging the financial and administrative functions of both churches into one parish corporation will allow the greater work of bringing people to Christ to be even more fruitful as Holy Rosary and the Church of St. Stephen share financial, formation, and evangelization resources. It is inspiring to see the desire of two parish communities willing to make sacrifices and adapt to needed changes in order to fulfill the mission of the Church in evangelizing and serving the faithful people of south Minneapolis.

I pray that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the newly formed parish family of the Church of St. Stephen-Holy Rosary as you plan for the future together. Please also join me in offering a prayer of thanksgiving for the faithful devotion of the Dominicans who served the people of Holy Rosary over the course of 14 decades and have supported the discernment process these past two years.

With every personal good wish and remembrance in prayer,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis