



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Walker

By the Grace of God and the Favor of the Apostolic See

Bishop of Sioux City

DECREE MERGING THE PARISHES OF OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL IN HOLSTEIN, IA AND OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN CHEROKEE, IA

Willingly encouraging everything in our powers to provide more suitably for the good of souls; and in an effort to evangelize more effectively the faithful in Ida and Cherokee Counties, as well to administrate the temporal goods of the faithful more efficiently, we have determined that the parishes of Our Lady of Good Counsel, located at 517 Mueller Street, Holstein, Iowa, and of Immaculate Conception, located at 709 W Cedar Street, Cherokee, Iowa, be merged canonically.

And having considered the law and the facts;

And having heard, in accordance with canon 50, all those whose rights might be injured by means of a meeting between leadership teams from both parishes and my representative, Deacon Mark Prosser, on September 18, 2020; and of publication in the October 8 edition of The Lumen;

And having ascertained from documents and deeds and consulted those concerned that there are no major donors or heirs to be heard;

And having heard the Presbyteral Council, in accordance with canon 515 §2 on March 4, 2021;

And having determined that the good of souls requires it;

DIocese of Sioux City

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I have deemed it necessary an extinctive union by which Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish of Holstein, Iowa be merged into Immaculate Conception Parish of Cherokee, Iowa.

The reasons motivating this decision are as follows:

- 1) The declining number of faithful attending Mass and the downward trend of additional sacramental experiences seen in the last 30 years;
- 2) The enhancement of collaborative ministry and to ensure the best utilization of priest personnel;
- 3) The recent and projected shifts in populations within northwest Iowa;
- 4) The already existing collaboration and sharing of pastor and resources between the parishes of Our Lady of Good Counsel and Immaculate Conception;
- 5) To better effect the preaching and spread of the Gospel.

I, the undersigned Bishop of Sioux City, exercising my ordinary power and virtue of canon 515 §2, do hereby decree that the Parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Holstein, with all the rights, obligations and privileges accorded it by law, be and is hereto merged into the Parish of Immaculate Conception, Cherokee by means of an extinctive union.

The Parish of Immaculate Conception shall now comprise the territory of the extinct Parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel as well as the current territory of the Parish of Immaculate Conception, namely:

1. The northern portion of Ida County
2. Cherokee County, with the exception of the territory of Holy Name Parish in Marcus.

The Parish of Immaculate Conception remains in the Northwest Deanery.

The intentions of the founders and donors regarding the temporal goods and patrimonial rights proper to the extinct Parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel must be respected. In addition, the patrimonial goods, rights, and obligations of the extinct Parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel must be defined and allocated in accordance with norm of law. (cc 121 and 122).

All the parish and sacramental records of the extinct Parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel are to be properly preserved and safeguarded by the Parish of Immaculate Conception, in accordance with the norm of law.

This decree is to be effective on 1 April 2021.

This decree is to be communicated to the pastor, who is the legal representative of the parishes and to all interested persons, according to the norm of law. (c. 532). This decree is to be read to parishioners of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Holstein and of Immaculate Conception Parish in Cherokee at Masses on April 10 & 11, 2021. This decree is also to be published in the April 15 edition of The Lumen. It may be challenged within the peremptory time limit of ten days from the legitimate notification of the decree and accordance with the norm of law. (c. 1734 §2).

Given in Sioux City on 1 April 2021.

R Walker Nickless

Most Reverend R. Walker Nickless
Bishop of Sioux City



Deacon David Lopez, Ph.D.
Chancellor

