



Diocese of Winona-Rochester

Office of the Bishop

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I greet you with a grateful heart as our Church celebrates the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ this Easter. In the midst of these sacred days, we have an additional reason for rejoicing. I am pleased to announce that the Holy See has approved the designation of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Rochester as the co-cathedral of the Diocese of Winona. Rochester has the largest population in the Diocese of Winona, and is the third largest city in Minnesota. Currently, three-quarters of our Catholic population resides in the corridor between Rochester and Mankato, and I am thrilled that a co-cathedral has been designated for this growing population.

The word cathedral comes from the Latin word *cathedra*, meaning chair. The chair is an ancient symbol of apostolic authority. It is my hope that as a co-cathedral, St. John the Evangelist Parish will give witness to my apostolic ministry, as I continue to sanctify, teach and shepherd the faithful.

In 2015, I sent an initial request to the Vatican's Congregation for Bishops, asking for the designation of a co-cathedral in Rochester. The Congregation for Bishops subsequently sent the diocese requirements for this process and directed the establishment of a diocesan planning committee. The work of this committee included determining which church should be elevated to the status of a co-cathedral. Also, I consulted with the College of Consultors, the Deans, the Presbyteral Council and parish leadership of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and St. John the Evangelist Parish in Rochester.

The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Winona will not change in status. It will continue to be the seat of the diocese and will host diocesan celebrations and Masses, such as ordinations.

Along with designating a co-cathedral, the Holy See has also changed the name of our diocese to the Diocese of Winona-Rochester. We plan to have completed the process of updating this language throughout all of our institutions by July 1, 2018.

I remain ever grateful for the deep and abiding faith and dynamic Catholic life within our diocese. With gratitude and deep joy, I entrust the Diocese of Winona-Rochester to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John M. Quinn

Bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester