

THE VERY REVEREND MATTHEW CRANE
VICAR FOR CANONICAL AFFAIRS

December 31, 2025

To My Brother Priests and the rest of the People of God in the Diocese of Saint Cloud

Very soon, I will promulgate via the All Things New Website the General Executory Decree *Nominando creaturas*. All general executory decrees, without contradicting current legislation, urge the observance of laws and define more precisely the application of current laws (c. 32).

Nominando creaturas defines more precisely the manner in which the Diocesan Bishop establishes new parishes by giving the new parishes particular names (c. 515 §2).

As binding rules go, this decree is pretty flexible and open-ended, but there are three points to which I would like to draw your attention. **First, please note that this entire decree considers ONLY the renaming of parishes, not the renaming of churches.** Churches, once dedicated with a particular title, may not be renamed without a special permission from Rome, and it is not the intention of diocesan leadership to seek such permission at this time. So, imagine an ACC in our made up of three parishes – St. Wilgefortis, Holy Shoulder Wound, and Our Lady of the Pines – each containing one church of the same name. If that ACC elects to merge into one parish with a new name like “St. Mungo,” the three churches would retain their original titles, being the Church of St. Wilgefortis, the Church of the Holy Shoulder Wound, and the Church of Our Lady of the Pines, all churches of the Parish of St. Matthew, with St. Wilgefortis being the primary church of the parish, being obviously the awesomest church name.

Second, due to long-standing custom in the Diocese of Saint Cloud, names for these newly merged parishes must be of a certain religious character. Article 2 §3 specifies a parish may only be named after “... the Most Holy Trinity; Our Lord Jesus Christ, invoked under a mystery of his life or under his name as already used in the Divine Liturgy; the Holy Spirit; the Blessed Virgin Mary under a given title already found in the Divine Liturgy; the holy Angels, or a Blessed or a Saint inscribed in the Roman Martyrology.”

Third, whatever procedure is used to produce a list of potential parish names, it is very strongly desired that the procedure produces a list of only three names (a *terna*) to be submitted to the bishop for his consideration.

Sincerely in Christ,



Matthew Crane