



# Annunciation Parish

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April 21, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Annunciation Parish,

In recent weeks and months, I have shared with you many of the rapidly changing realities for many of the surrounding parishes here in the Cathedral Deanery. You might recall that since February 1<sup>st</sup>, I have been serving as Temporary Administrator of the Saint Boniface Pastoral Region. That region includes Saint Boniface – Northside, Saint Bernard – Spring Grove Village, and Mother of Christ Mission – Winton Terrace.

On March 17<sup>th</sup> Fr. James Schutte, the current Pastor of St. Leo Parish, Fairmount, was named the next Pastor of Saint Boniface Parish. He will assume that responsibility no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>, but perhaps earlier. On whatever date he assumes that pastorate, my administrative duties at Saint Boniface end.

But there's more. The Saint Boniface Pastoral Region will be reconfigured to include only Saint Boniface and Saint Leo. Saint Bernard Parish and Mother of Christ Mission will be joined to Annunciation Parish as a new pastoral region; that should be promulgated later this Spring. What does that mean?

First of all, as Temporary Administrator of Saint Bernard and Mother of Christ, I have confidently relied upon the good and steady guidance of Sister Margie Niemer, an Oldenburg Franciscan, who currently serves as the Pastoral Administrator of those two communities. That will continue even as I become pastor in name. Further, Father Robert Thesing, SJ and members of the Jesuit Community will continue to provide all liturgical and sacramental ministry in those two communities.

Over the next two years, parishes within a given region, including our soon-to-be-created Pastoral Region, will be engaged in planning, for implementation the following three years. That is to say, there will be a five-year period before any of the day-to-day operations and experiences significantly change for any of us.

Beyond the five-year time-frame, for all of us in what will be known as the Annunciation Pastoral Region, it is ours – working collaboratively within and among all three communities - to determine. It seems to me that much is contingent upon the continued financial stewardship needed to sustain all three locations in providing the ministries that are uniquely ours, and to avoid any unnecessary duplication of efforts.

You know, the Annunciation was the message that Mary, to whom Saint Bernard had a deep and wonderful devotion, would become the Mother of Christ. I have often said that there are no coincidences, only connections waiting to be made. Let us continually turn to Blessed Mary for guidance as we move forward, building those connections among us that will truly serve the work of the Lord and His Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Todd O. Grogan,  
Pastor