

**Most Reverend David Laurin Ricken, DD, JCL**



By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See  
Bishop of Green Bay

## **DECREE**

In accord with Canons 121 and 515, §2, on July 1, 2005, the Parishes of Holy Innocents, Sacred Heart, St. Mary, St. Paul, St. Boniface, and St. Andrew, in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, were merged to form St. Francis of Assisi Parish. Consistent with that Decree, St. Boniface Church has not been used for regularly scheduled Masses since 2005 with the last mass celebrated Easter Sunday, March 31, 2013.

On May 1, 2015, in accord with Canon 1222, §2 of the Code of Canon Law, a decree was issued to reduce St. Boniface Church site to secular use. Within the 10-day period allowed for recourse, I received letters and e-mails from six individuals expressing that they were not satisfied and disagree with the decree. The decree was rescinded and reversed in order that additional time and strategic parish planning could take place. Following over 7 years of parish planning and discernment, and over the past year dialogue with a group of parishioners who wished to preserve the Church, the building remains empty.

Having received a letter from the parish dated August 11, 2021, requesting to relegate to profane but not sordid use with the recommendation of the pastor, the pastoral council, the finance council and the parish trustees of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, and having consulted with the Presbyteral Council on September 9, 2021, and acting upon their recommendation and in accord with canon 1222, §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*, in addition noting;

The site, having not been used regularly since 2005, is no longer necessary for the care of souls in the community.

It continues to be a fiscal burden with the building and artifacts in danger of decay and damage.

There is no demonstrated need for this Catholic Church site in order to satisfy the pastoral needs as they are well provided for at three other worship sites in close proximity.

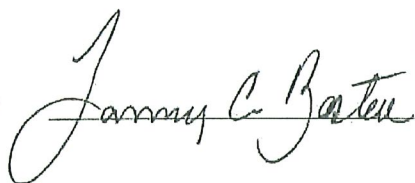
The community has declined in population and experienced a loss in industry, therefore,

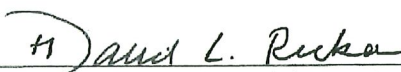
I hereby reduce the church building of St. Boniface, Manitowoc, to profane but not sordid use. This decree shall be effective at midnight, January 15, 2023.

In accord with Canons 1732-1739, any parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Parish has the right to recourse concerning this decision within the peremptory time period of ten (10) available days from the notice of this decree. To exercise this right, within ten available days (business days), one must write to the Bishop explaining exactly what change is being sought in the Bishop's decree. Clearly explaining the reasons for the requested change is very important so that the Bishop can make a well-informed decision that is sensitive to the peoples' needs. If the Bishop's response to this request is unsatisfactory, one then has the right to recourse to the Holy See. Further information can be obtained from the Chancery Office in Green Bay regarding the process of recourse.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Green Bay on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Chancellor



  
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