



January 14, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi Parish,

Happy New Year and blessings to you and your family as we enter 2023. By the Grace of God, our parish family has weathered many changes since our founding on July 1, 2005. With some change, there is great sadness of what ends and does not continue. In faith of the Resurrection, we carry hope that Jesus is already where we are going, as we leave something behind.

In past years, we have faced difficult conversations here at St. Francis of Assisi Parish regarding St. Boniface Church. You may recall that, in late 2021, our parish had submitted a Proxy Request for reducing the status of the St. Boniface Church to, "profane but not sordid use." I had written bulletin articles on August 29 and November 21 in 2021 regarding this topic. In late 2021 and during 2022, there was, for a time, hope that an agreement with a group of interested parishioners could be reached for them to restore and use the church. Sadly, there is no mutual agreement to restore or reopen the St. Boniface Church. Both parties entered into conversations in good faith but, in October 2022, major hurdles were encountered and discussions ended. St. Francis of Assisi Parish is committed to eliminating all future expenses at the St. Boniface site while caring for the needs of its people at the other parish worship sites.

In regards to St. Boniface Church and the St. Francis of Assisi Proxy request of August 2021, Bishop Ricken has now responded with a Decree effective January 15, 2023, which will be posted on that day, and remain posted for ten weekdays, at all parish worship sites and the parish office. This decree has now reduced St. Boniface Church to "profane but not sordid use." With this decree we now have a path forward as a parish. Any aggrieved responses to Bishop from parishioners need to be received by January 27, 2023.

Supporting documents and Parish Mission Planning documents from St. Francis of Assisi Parish can be found at sfamanitowoc.org/parish-mission-planning or requested in print at the parish office during normal business hours.

Please pray for a peaceful resolution with the intercessions of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Clare, St. Boniface, and our Holy Mother Mary.

Fr. Douglas LeCaptain
Pastor