



OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CATHOLIC CHURCH

October 6, 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write today to update you on a few important developments. This week, Archbishop Hebda appointed Fr. Biju Mathew as parochial administrator of St. Boniface Catholic Church, effective October 9, 2017. Fr. Mathew was raised in Kerala, India and is a member of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception. Recently, Fr. Mathew served for eight years as pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in St. Paul. I had the opportunity to sit down with Fr. Mathew this past week and found him to be a bright and faith-filled man who will no doubt shepherd well God's people at St. Boniface. I ask all of you to keep Fr. Mathew and the community of St. Boniface in your prayers as they seek to grow and become a stronger parish in the coming months and years. I am heartened that the Archbishop has allowed St. Boniface the opportunity to bridge to a more viable future.

I am thankful to Archbishop Hebda for finding an able leader who can focus more intently on the needs of the community of St. Boniface. Having served as parochial administrator of St. Boniface for more than two years, I found it more than challenging to serve well in the three assignments I had been given. It was simply an untenable reality and thus I am heartened that I will be able to soon return to my original split assignment of Our Lady of Lourdes and the St. Thomas School of Law. I would like to thank you for your patience during these past five years where my work first as delegate for safe environment and later as parochial administrator of St. Boniface took more time and energy away from my pastorate at Lourdes than I would have liked. I am also thankful for our competent and committed parish staff who very ably navigated the challenges that my multiple assignments posed.

Secondly, after prayer and consultation with parish leaders, staff, and the parish finance council, the parish will lease an apartment in the new Montage development, immediately adjacent to the Lourdes campus. I will move into the new apartment in early November and I am excited to move back to the neighborhood that surrounds our historic church. Upon the recommendation of the parish trustees and finance council and with the anticipated approval of the Archdiocese, the parish will sell the home it owns in Northeast Minneapolis. Given the current housing market – especially in Northeast - I expect that the parish will make a significant return on its investment from three years ago. The move to Montage makes sense for many reasons, but I do not believe it represents a long-term solution to the issue of clergy housing. Parish leadership will need to soon develop a sensible and affordable long-term plan for permanent clergy housing. I welcome your ideas. In the meantime, I look forward to returning to this historic neighborhood and to living closer to the parishioners and friends whom I have been called to serve.

Finally, as you can see, we are moving closer to the dual realities of our newly renovated church and our beautiful new courtyard and grotto area. I have been working hard with Jared Ash, Mary Asp and volunteer parishioners in marshaling the many facets of these renovations to a successful completion. I invite all parishioners and friends to join us for a special blessing of the new courtyard, Saturday, October 14th. There are more details in the parish bulletin and on the website. On the other side of this letter, I ask you to read our new parish parking policy which go into effect Sunday, October 15. I thank those whose generous support has made these Jubilee projects possible and I thank all of you for your patience during the construction.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Daniel Griffith