

My dear Saint Boniface Community,

This 2020, has made an impact on our lives. It has changed the way we do things, the way we worship, the way we communicate with each other. It has changed our lives completely. We have learned to manage our lives in different ways, we have learned to appreciate our families and it has brought all of us closer. Unfortunately, some families of our communities have lost a loved one due to this virus. Some of our members were exposed to the virus and we thank God, for their fast recovery.

My brothers and sisters, we are still at high risk. I ask you to continue to follow all guidelines given to us by our local authorities. Saint Boniface will keep you posted if there are any changes from our Diocesan office. Let us continue to be safe and protect those most vulnerable of our families. Let us continue to lift in prayer all those taking care of our brothers and sisters: doctors, nurses, and janitorial people. May our Blessed Mother Mary protect them and protect us with her mantle of love.

Despite what the world is facing, there is always hope, there is always light at the end of the tunnel. God will never abandon his children, for we have heard it throughout our salvation history, "*God hears the cry of the poor*" and comes to their aid. We have experienced his providential care here at Saint Boniface. God has not abandoned us, he is ever close to us and our community. I am grateful for your faith, your generosity, and your love for our community.

I am also grateful for your generous hearts and your support to our church community during this time. Thank you, for your time, talent, and treasure. I want to thank you for proclaiming the word of God that feeds your brothers and sisters during our Sunday liturgy. Singing and playing an instrument is an important part of the liturgy on Sunday's as well, thank you for sharing this beautiful talent that enriches our liturgy.

Thank you, for your treasure. God blesses a generous heart. Every dollar you give has helped to maintain our church and campus. It also helps to pay our staff, who work very hard to keep you updated about what is going on around our parish and diocese and who are always ready to answer all of your questions. Your generosity helped with the subsidy to all three catholic schools and pay all of our bills on time. Thank you for your generous support.

This year we had started small projects, that due to the virus we stopped because our collections are going down. But still with your generous support we were able to fix the ramp and sidewalk and started the conference room in the school. It is still in the process of being done. All of your contributions have been a great help. We also installed three lights that illumines the front of the school for *PRE* dismissal during the fall when the days are shorter. We were able to put two cameras inside the church, for security. As you see my brothers and sister, God does not abandon us. He is watching over us and gives to

us in due time: He gives what we need, not in abundance, just what we need. I thank Him every day for being a providential Father to all of us.

For this coming fiscal year 20-21, I ask you to please continue to support our parish. This coming year we will not have a Lawn Social and as we know this event brought us together as a community but it also help the church with extra funds. I believe that due to all of the uncertainties, I don't want to put you in danger our families and local community at risk; life is more important than an extra dollar. Both the English and Hispanic parish councils are finding ways to come up with ideas to make up for this loss and we will need all of your support. I ask all of you for your support when we have a fundraiser to raise money for our church.

This coming year we will be helping some of our families with tuitions for our children to attend one of the catholic schools in our area. Again due to this pandemic, some families are struggling financially and have reached out for our help. We have put a side a fund specifically for tuition assistance. Hopefully, this year the Saint Boniface Endowment will be able to help our families.

PRE, this year will be different. We will ask the families to help us teach the faith to our children, we are providing all the resources available for them. In the words of Saint John II, their houses and all families will become, the domestic church, once again. Confirmation will remain the same, they will meet every Wednesday and will follow all the guidelines to protect all of our children. There will be online teaching available.

Our PRE director, Diane Willis has worked to bring different opportunities to grow in our relationship with the Lord. She will continue to do so this year. Saint Jerome once said, "***Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.***" During this time of uncertainties we need to be close to Christ more than ever, remember that our hearts are *restless* until we all rest in Christ alone. Throughout the year there will be opportunities to grow in our understanding of our faith. Most of the meetings will be through Zoom, unless some of our restriction are lifted. I ask you to please sign up for our parish App to receive information. This will be very crucial during this time, since most of our information will be posted on our parish web-site and Facebook page. If you have any question on how to down load our App, please call the office or visit our website for instruction, we will post instruction also on Facebook. More information will be given to you by Diane Willis, our director of religious education, as it comes available.

At Saint Boniface, we will follow all guidelines from our Diocesan Office. Still there are no group meetings at Saint Boniface. Only those necessary will be meeting: *the finance*, and *parish councils*. The prayer chapel will remain closed until further notice, the main church is open for personal prayer. I hope all of you understand these are not ordinary times. We must protect those most vulnerable. Our Sunday obligation remains in dispensation but those of you physically present will be asked to continue following all

guidelines in place for our parish. The church pews will be sanitized after each mass and those areas people might have touched.

It has been a wonderful year despite of the pandemic. During all this time we have learned so much about ourselves, our families, and how strong is our faith. I believe most of our families have bonded differently and have learned to cherish every moment spent together. Since we have learned to cherish our immediate families, we also have to keep in mind our brothers and sisters. Due to this concern and part of their pastoral work Jaime Flores and Brad Brown, who are in the diaconate formation have come up with a wonderful idea: a food pantry. As a community we are going to put into practice Jesus' words in the gospel, when he says to his disciples, "*There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves.*" More information will come to you from Brad Brown and Jaime Flores. Let us be those Good Samaritans willing to help those left in the ditch to die.

In our bulletin for this week you will find a summary of the end of the fiscal year. If you have any questions please feel free to call our office or talk to one of the representative of our councils: Kenny Kealin for finance, John Smith for parish updates or Debbie our business manager. All of us will try our best to answer your questions. May God continue to bless all you abundantly! May he give you, your heart's desire, if it's not an obstacle for your relationship with Him. Be sure of my prayers for all of you and I ask for your prayers. Please continue to pray for our community. Once again thank you for your faithfulness and love for our parish.

United in prayer,

Fr. Mario Jacobo