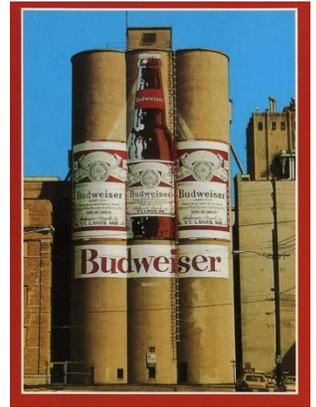


## Navigating Manitowoc

“Just look for the church steeples, hard core biker, and the silo”, was my answer when asked how I manage to navigate Manitowoc. Every town has its unique method of giving directions. Where I came from they were very good at giving directions by what “used” to be there. For example, if I were to ask where the DQ was, I happen to love ice cream, one would answer across from the old mall. Well, the old mall is now just a parking lot with weeds in it and unless you happen to have shopped there years ago, one would have no clue as to where it was. Up north directions are given by lakes and bars, so most people don’t know the road they live on, but they do know where to tell you to meet them.



So when I asked where the Marshall Street church was, I was told look for the double steeples on Polish Hill. Then to get from that church to the office, the directions I received were to turn by the silo (the one with the Budweiser sign) cross the river and look for the hard core biker (statue) and you are there.

“Two Miles”, that is how far I was told it was from the church to the parish office. Interesting to note, I heard, that all our churches are 2 miles from the office. Additionally, I found out that the hospital is “two miles” from church, that’s any given church”. If I ask how far the cemetery is from the church, I bet the answer will be 2 miles. That must be the common measurement for distance in Manitowoc.

In summary, putting all this together, given my vast experience of Manitowoc, on day 17, I conclude that at any given time we are only 2 miles from Jesus. To get there you get on your bike (or whatever your mode of transportation is for the day), go past the silo (worldly allurements) and look for the steeple (cross), and you will find Jesus. So when it comes to going to church on Sunday, we really do not have an excuse to miss mass, as at most it is 2 miles away and all you need to look for is a steeple(s).

So, I want us to apply this to all places we go in Manitowoc. For example, for our upcoming UNITY mass, on September 23/24 at the Ice Center at 5100 Vista Rd.(I wonder what used to be there), it is only 2 miles from your church and if you need a ride I’m sure a friend, parishioner, neighbor, has a space in their “mode of transportation” for you.

Thank you for your welcome to Manitowoc.

Fr. Doug

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