

DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

P.O. Box 23825 • Green Bay, WI 54305-3825 • 920-272-8194 • FAX 920-435-1330

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 30, 2021

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary Parish,

I was so happy to hear of the great turnout for your parish town hall meeting last month; God is good! Thank you for taking time to complete the recent survey that was sent to all of you. I am pleased to have received 200 responses from your parish community. Your participation in the survey was extremely helpful with my final discernment selecting your new priest administrator, Father Michael Lightner.

As your shepherd, I value the feedback you provided relative to your personal experience in worship and spirituality, and your hopes and dreams for mission. Your insight and preferences for parish life and the many other areas of parish service, as well as the operational configuration of the two linked parishes, is very important for me to know and understand.

After reviewing all of your feedback, I want you to know that I hear you. I have asked that the full results of your survey be made available for viewing on your website. Based on your responses, I am able to share specific parish directives and guidance with your incoming priest, Father Michael Lightner.

These recommendations will provide clear guidance, ensuring each parish is properly supported and maintained separately in matters of parish leadership and governance. Also, a majority indicated in the survey, that they would like to see the two linked parishes work together in many areas of ministry and operations; my guidance will reassure and maintain a culture of working together. Most importantly, it will encourage collaboration for outreach and service to the needs of the 18,500 people within your shared parish boundaries, by leading God's people to discover, follow, worship and serve Jesus!

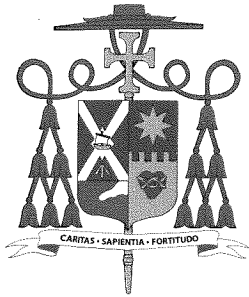
I have included, with this letter, the highlights of my directives and guidance being given to Father Lightner, the parish staff, and leadership. Barry Metzentine will continue to work closely with Father Paul Paider, Father Lightner, the parish staff, and leadership as they make their way through this transitional time; ensuring successful preparation and implementation to my directives and guidance.

My brothers and sisters, please know of my prayerful support for you and your families. Thank you for your love of faith and the Church. May Jesus bless you with hope-filled peace and joy that rests in Him, as I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL
Bishop of Green Bay

Enclosure



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April 30, 2021

Dear Parishioners of St. John the Baptist Parish,

I was so happy to hear of the great turnout for your parish town hall meeting last month; God is good! Thank you for taking time to complete the recent survey that was sent to all of you. I am pleased to have received 129 responses from your parish community. Your participation in the survey was extremely helpful with my final discernment selecting your new priest administrator, Father Michael Lightner.

As your shepherd, I value the feedback you provided relative to your personal experience in worship and spirituality, and your hopes and dreams for mission. Your insight and preferences for parish life and the many other areas of parish service, as well as the operational configuration of the two linked parishes, is very important for me to know and understand.

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