



April 28, 2022

Peace be with you! We hope this letter finds you well and growing in your love for the Lord!

This letter is jointly crafted by Fr. Joe and I and being sent to all parishioners at Our Lady of Good Hope, St. Bernadette, and St. Catherine of Alexandria to share a few updates about our upcoming planning and subsequent changes that will be taking place over the coming months.

As you know, for many years the Archdiocese has been encouraging parishes to work collaboratively for the sake of sacramental vitality, dynamic evangelization, and long-term financial sustainability.

As we look at the challenge today of bringing the Gospel to our neighborhoods amid declining mass attendance, dwindling sacramental numbers, and financial challenges, that call to collaborate has become even more urgent.

So we, along with parish leaders, have been in conversation with the Archdiocese about a collaboration plan for the parishes of Our Lady of Good Hope (OLGH), St. Bernadette (StB), and St Catherine of Alexandria (StCA). Our planning efforts are directed toward this central goal:

“Collaboration for Mission Vibrancy – Inside and Outside our parish walls in Northwest Milwaukee and the greater community.”

Toward the achievement of that very goal, a planning team, consisting of members from all three parishes, will be working with the Archdiocese to explore parish and neighborhood demographics, inventory parish ministries, complete a facilities analysis, and examine financial trends. We also need to assess the needs and possibilities for ethnic ministry in our parishes.

This new collaborative model will also result in a new model of collaborative leadership. As of the end of June 2023, the three parishes will be served by one Pastor. In addition, the three parishes will be served and supported by a common staff and a combined pastoral council.

We are sharing these facts with you because we know that change can be hard and may cause anxiety. Change can also cause rumors and distortion of facts. Ultimately, we need to trust the Lord! Our parishes belong to Him and His mission for Northwest Milwaukee and the greater community.

Please join us in praying for wisdom, hope, and strength from the Holy Spirit during this time of planning and transition. Please know that we will be communicating with you throughout this process to keep you informed and request your prayers.

God Bless You!

Fr. Greg Greiten
Parish Administrator, Our Lady of Good Hope and Pastor, St. Bernadette