



January 11, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter into the new year, it pleases me to announce that I have named Father James Liekhus as Pastor of St. Peter, effective July 1, 2021, in addition to his assignments as pastor of Assumption and St. Richard, and Canonical Administrator for Blessed Trinity Catholic School. At that time, Father Gerald Dvorak, who will have served with distinction at St. Peter for ten years, will be receiving a new assignment. The three parishes will also be served by a full-time bilingual Parochial Vicar. I am grateful to Father Liekhus, Father Dvorak, and Father Mario for their exceptional service to the Catholics of the Richfield area. I would ask you to continue to keep them in your prayers, especially in these months of transition.

With the appointment of a common pastor, and the possibility of long time leadership, it is my hope that there will be opportunities for even greater collaboration and synergies between the three communities. With that in mind, I will be asking each parish to involve you, their parishioners, in creating a plan focused on how best to serve both the mission of the Church and the needs of the Richfield area in a way that builds on your strong and faithful Catholic past and that points to a bright future grounded in Jesus Christ. I am trusting that you, as the Church in Richfield, will have a real opportunity to shape your future.

While I am grateful for the preliminary collaboration that has been undertaken with representatives from across the three parishes, as well as for the inter parish collaboration that has strengthened Blessed Trinity Catholic School, I know that broad participation in this envisioning process is both wanted and needed. I have asked Father Liekhus to lead this effort and I look forward to hearing your plans. I encourage you to watch for more information in the months to come about opportunities for participation. I am hoping that this will be a prayerful and graced time of creativity and discernment guided by the Holy Spirit.

While Christmas was a wonderful time for counting the blessings of the past, the new year gives us an opportunity to look ahead. Please know of my prayers for you as you prepare for the future, with the many opportunities it holds for sharing the light of Christ for all to see.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis