



May 9, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to you today about some upcoming changes to the parishes in Carver and Chaska. At the present moment, both St. Nicholas and Guardian Angels are both served by the same pastor, Father Bill Deziel. That will be changing effective July 1, 2020.

At Guardian Angels in Chaska, I am assigning Father Tony VanderLoop as Pastor. Father VanderLoop speaks both Spanish and English and has successfully served in a multicultural parish (St. Henry in Monticello). My hope is that Father VanderLoop can build on the good work of Father Deziel in bringing together the Spanish-speaking and English-speaking communities as a unified parish that looks to its future by developing a comprehensive pastoral plan that will address the question of Catholic education for the area. I have asked Father VanderLoop to work with parish leadership and present this plan to me by no later than March 1, 2021.

At St. Nicholas in Carver, I am assigning both a Parish Life Administrator (PLA), Deacon Jim Bauhs, and a Parochial Administrator, Father Rolf Tollefson (who will continue to serve as Pastor at St. Hubert in Chanhassen). In his role as PLA, Deacon Bauhs will oversee the day-to-day temporal and pastoral needs of the parish and will be responsible for making sure that the sacramental needs of the parish are met. Additionally, I have asked Deacon Bauhs to work with parish leadership to develop a plan for engaging parishioners in a discernment process concerning the parish's future, with the expectation that recommendations will be formulated by no later than January 1, 2021.

I hasten to express my appreciation to Fr. Deziel for his exemplary ministry in Chaska and Carver and my gratitude to Deacon Bauhs, Fr. Tollefson and Fr. VanderLoop for their willingness to embrace their new assignments.

Both St. Nicholas and Guardian Angels have histories dating back to early settlers of the Minnesota River Valley area. With recent growth and development in Carver County, this is a unique opportunity to build on a strong past towards a bright future of sharing the gift of God's love for generations to come. May the same Holy Spirit who filled the first disciples at Pentecost be your strength as you explore a new Pentecost for the Carver and Chaska area.

Sincerely in Christ,

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