

## PRELIMINARY DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN FAQ



1. What is the plan for St. Boniface?
  - a. The plan proposes that St. Boniface Parish partner with All Saints Parish in Waterford.
  
2. What does it mean to “partner” with another parish?
  - a. Partner parishes remain distinct parishes but share one pastor as well as other resources. While they have their own parishioners, parish church, and finances, they share the same pastor, staff, and parish offices, though the specific details of the arrangement would need to be worked out.
  
3. Who would the pastor of the two parishes be?
  - a. That has yet to be determined. The preliminary plan does not include pastoral assignments, which can only be determined once the plan is finalized.
  
4. Does this mean that St. Boniface church is closing?
  - a. No. St. Boniface church, meaning our beautiful church building, would remain open for prayer and worship, including Sunday Masses and other sacraments. In all likelihood, however, the Mass schedule would change.
  
5. What about parish council and finance council?
  - a. The parishes would form one parish council for both parishes, but each parish would retain its own, distinct finance council.
  
6. What about parish finances?
  - a. Each parish would maintain its own financial accounts independently of the other, with its own assets and liabilities, just as they currently do. This includes the Allgeier funds, which would remain the exclusive property of St. Boniface Parish.

7. Why are we doing this?
  - a. We need to respond to the changing needs of our diocese, especially the shift in parishioners and the decline in the number of priests to serve them. Over the past 10 years, Mass attendance in the diocese has declined by 45%. During that same time, the number of priests in active ministry in our diocese has dropped from 130 to 92, and it is projected that there will be only 60 priests in active ministry in our diocese within the next 10 years. The changes proposed by the preliminary plan are meant to reduce the number of parishes and churches to better utilize our valuable resources, including our priests, in the mission of the Church.
  
8. Why are we being partnered with All Saints Parish?
  - a. While there are undoubtedly many factors that contributed to the bishop's decision to partner us with All Saints, two big factors are proximity and parish culture. According to google maps, the distance between our churches is only 9 miles. Culturally, we are neighboring, rural parishes who already interact through many community events, like school sports and parish dinners, and share a common history - the parishes that merged to form All Saints (St. Cyprian and St. Matthew in the Woods) were both mission parishes of St. Boniface at one time and have already shared the same pastor with us.
  
9. What is the difference between partnered parishes and merged parishes?
  - a. Parishes that merge cease to exist as distinct parishes and come together to form a whole new, larger parish, which includes all the people, church buildings, and property of the previous parishes. Partnered parishes remain distinct parishes with their own people, church buildings, and property.
  
10. Is this plan set in stone?
  - a. No. This is a preliminary plan only. The bishop has asked parishioners to respond to the proposed plan with your input by September 29, after which he will examine it again with his advisors and issue the final plan sometime next spring. The final plan will take effect next summer.