

Dear fellow St. Boniface parishioners,

Over the past few months, Bishop Persico has published several letters, which he asked pastors to read at Masses, regarding the latest round of diocesan pastoral planning, especially as it affects Erie County. As he mentioned in his last letter, the preliminary results of that planning would be announced August 29. I am writing to share some basic information with you about the plan that was announced and what the next steps will be here at St. Boniface.

The preliminary diocesan plan has proposed that St. Boniface Parish partner with All Saints Parish in Waterford. This means that both parishes would remain independent parishes at this time but would share one pastor and engage in other shared ministries and activities as well. Both churches would remain open, and Sunday Masses as well as other sacraments would continue to be celebrated in both churches.

This is a preliminary plan, and Bishop Persico has asked pastors and parishioners to prayerfully and thoughtfully consider the plan and to respond by September 29. We will have many opportunities here at St. Boniface for all our parishioners to take part in that process, with more information on that to follow, but you can also respond individually by going to the diocesan website, where you can find other information too - <https://www.eriecd.org/planning.html>. Once parishes have responded to the preliminary plan, Bishop Persico will meet with his advisory groups to process that information and formulate a final plan, which should be announced next spring and implemented next summer. Changes in pastoral assignments are not part of the preliminary plan but will be determined once the final plan has been announced.

I have attached a copy of the preliminary plan for all of Erie County as well as the official press release to this email. I will also present more information about the plan and how we will solicit responses at St. Boniface at Masses this weekend. In the meantime, I invite us all to prayerfully open our hearts and minds to how the Spirit is working in our lives, in our diocese, and in Erie County through this process. Change is inevitable; how we respond to change is not. Let us work together to respond with the faith, courage, and hope to follow wherever the Spirit leads, and, if there is ever any way I can help in that process, please let me know.

Peace together in Christ,  
Fr. Marc