

A special message from Bishop Cozzens

Friends of St. Mary's Mission,

I pray you are well, and this Lenten season is a time of great grace for you.

I wanted to be sure to share with you that after a time of prayerful discernment, I have assigned Father John Christianson to a period of studies at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he will work toward licensure in counseling. I am deeply grateful for his contributions as pastor of St. Mary's Mission for three and a half years.

I have assigned Father Tom Niehaus as administrator of St. Mary's Mission Church. Father Tom is a priest of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, serving the Diocese of Crookston with fellow members of The Companions of Christ, a fraternity of priests and seminarians who live in community and follow an approved rule of life to support each other in holiness.

Father Tom is from Ivanhoe, Minnesota. He was ordained to priesthood in 2008. Father Tom has earned the following degrees: Bachelor of Science in Social Studies Education, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Baccalaureate in Theology, Master of Arts in Geography, and Licentiate in Canon Law. His past ministry experience includes missionary work with NET Ministries and Saint Paul's Outreach, as well as ministry for several parishes in southern Minnesota. He comes to the people of St. Mary's Mission and the Red Lake Nation with missionary zeal and energy for the important work of sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Please pray for him and others in ministry who make St. Mary's Mission a place of hope.

I am grateful for your prayers and support for the largest mission work we have in northwest Minnesota. Please know of my prayers for you.

Sincerely, yours in Christ,



+Most Rev. Andrew H. Cozzens, S.T.D., D.D.
Bishop of Crookston