



## DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

December 1, 2023

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Holy Apostles Parishioners:

As most of you are aware, the Ss. Peter & Paul School building, which housed the Holy Apostles Parish office, was recently closed temporarily for further assessment and evaluation of potential safety concerns. This decision was carefully made with the guidance of facility experts, legal professionals, and the Diocesan Administrative Services team. It has come to my attention that some of you may have received correspondence from a third party providing her opinion regarding the Ss. Peter & Paul School building. This person was not hired by the Pastor or the Diocese, did not evaluate the school building, and was not authorized to distribute her "findings" to the parish community.

The temporary closing of the school/office building is intended to allow time for professionals, hired by the Pastor, with approval from the Diocesan Director of Properties and Facilities, to properly assess and evaluate the current condition of the school building and its potential future use. In no way does the commencement of this safety plan include any discussions surrounding the closure of the parish or any church buildings associated with Holy Apostles Parish. It is my understanding that there has been conversation by some parishioners about closing the parish or merging parishes. For your information, the closure or merging of any parish must be approved after thorough dialogue has taken place with parishioners and parish leaders, the proper procedures to close or merge a parish required by the Diocese has been implemented, and the Diocesan Consultors have provided their input. The final decision for the closing of a parish is the ultimate decision of the Diocesan Bishop. No formal discussions regarding this have come to my attention.

Please know that your safety and spiritual concerns are of utmost importance to me. I thank you for your dedication to this strong faith community and want you to know that you remain in my prayers. Wishing you all much

Peace and joy in Christ,

*+ Robert D. Gruss*

Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss  
Bishop of Saginaw