



## DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

December 1, 2023

Dear Saint Isidore Parishioners:

As most of you are aware, the St. Mary School/Convent building, which housed the St. Isidore 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.

The temporary closing of the school/convent 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/convent 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 Saint Isidore 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 may be approved only after thorough dialogue has taken place with parishioners and parish leaders, the proper procedures to close or merge a parish required by the Diocese have been implemented, and the Diocesan Consultors have provided their input. The final decision for the closing of a parish ultimately belongs to the Diocesan Bishop. No formal discussions regarding this matter 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