

Letter to Presentation of Mary Parish and Saint Vincent de Paul Campus

November 12, 2023 | 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners of Presentation of Mary and Saint Vincent de Paul churches:

In January 2023, Archbishop Hebda approached Father Toulee Peter Ly at Presentation of Mary Church to share an idea he had been pondering: might the Hmong Catholic Community from Saint Vincent de Paul, in Saint Paul, join the community at Presentation of Mary Church in Maplewood, to become one united parish family? He noted there was no urgency, but rather a mutually beneficial opportunity to consider. Saint Vincent de Paul parishioners were seeking a permanent priest and more space to support their community. Fr. Peter is the only Hmong priest in the Archdiocese, he speaks the Hmong language, and serves at a large church and school that has the capacity to support a bigger community.

Over the course of this year, Fr. Peter and his leadership team met with me in my role as Vicar General who represents Archbishop Hebda, to discuss the opportunity. After confirming that Presentation of Mary was interested in the possibility, I then met with Fr. Matthew Northenscold, Deacon Nao Kao Yang, and the leadership team from Saint Vincent's to share the idea of joining Presentation of Mary.

Both leadership teams came together twice, taking the opportunity to learn about each other's community and culture. They shared heartfelt excitement as well as uncertainty about the response from fellow parishioners. After these meetings, Saint Vincent's confirmed that they wanted to take the next step and share this opportunity with their greater community, which in turn meant the same for Presentation of Mary.

This letter is a result of that desire to bring this possible union into greater dialog. It is being distributed to both communities over this weekend of November 12th. The hope is that each community will take the time to pray, discern, and talk about it, remembering that no decision has been made, but that the decision to move forward must be a joint one by both the Presentation of Mary and Saint Vincent de Paul communities.

Something still needing to be addressed is how to integrate the two parish cultures together as one, if the decision is made to move forward. This will involve decisions about a separate Hmong spoken Mass on Sunday(s) or Hmong responses and hymns at Masses, parish activities and events, evangelization efforts, parish communications, outward signs and art representing our parishioners, and ministries to engage and support our many ethnic members. These decisions will be made collaboratively, and Hmong members will be involved in parish leadership teams.

In closing, should this union occur, Archbishop Hebda and the Archdiocese indicated they would consider Fr. Peter's unique position in this community as they make future decisions about his assignment at Presentation of Mary. Likewise, it is understood that Deacon Nao Kao Yang would serve at Presentation of Mary to support Hmong ministry and other parish ministries, alongside Deacon Mike Powers, who currently serves at Presentation of Mary.

Saint Vincent de Paul and Mary our Mother, pray for us!

Father Michael Tix, Vicar General
Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis

Father Matthew Northenscold, Deacon Nao Kao Yang, Saw Vue, Jonathan Her, Robert Yang, Jim Yang, Chongsee Yang, Wamoua Yang, and Nengcheng Chang.
Saint Vincent de Paul Leadership Team

Father Toulee Peter Ly, Deacon Michael Powers, Sue Lovegreen, Caralyn Hansen, James Miettunen, Joseph Toussaint, and Patti Adams.
Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Leadership Team

Tsab Ntawv Sau Mus Rau Lub Tsev Teev Ntuj Presentation of Mary thiab Saint Vincent de Paul

Lub 11 Hlis Ntuj tim 12, 2023 | Hnub Chiv 32 hauv Nruab Xyoos

Nyob Zoo Txog Cov Ntseeg hauv lub tsev Teev Ntuj Presentation of Mary thiab Saint Vincent de Paul:

Nyob rau lub 1 Hlis Ntuj 2023, Tswv Qhia Hebda tau mus cuag Txiv Plig Toulee Peter Ly nyob ntawm lub Tsev Teev Ntuj Presentation of Mary thiab piav ib lub tswv yim uas nws tau xav los ntev lawm: seb cov Hmoob Kas Taus Liv hauv Saint Vincent de Paul, nyob hauv Saint Paul, puas mus koom nrog rau cov ntseeg nyob rau hauv lub Tsev Teev Ntuj Presentation of Mary nyob rau Maplewood, kom sib koom ua ke ua ib tsev neeg? Nws hais tias tsis yog ib qho yuav tsum tau ua kom sai, tab si yog ib qho zoo uas yuav tau muab coj los xav. Saint Vincent de Paul cov neeg yeej nrhiav ib tug txiv plig kom nrog lawv nyob mus ntev thiab kom muaj chaw rau lawv cov pej xeem siv. Txiv Plig Peter yog ib tug txiv plig Hmoob nyob rau hauv lub Archdiocese, nws hais lus Hmong, thiab nws ua hauj lwm rau ib lub tsev teev ntuj loj thiab ib lub tsev kawm ntawv uas yuav muaj rab peev xwm los txhawb tau ib cov neeg coob.

Txij thaum ntawv los, Txiv Plig Peter thiab nws pab thawj coj tau ntsib nrog kuv uas yog kuv lub luag hauj lwm tus Vicar General uas sawv cev rau Tswv Qhia Hebda, los sib tham txog lub cib fim. Tom qab Presentation of Mary qhia tias lawv kuj nyiam lub tswv yim ntawd, ces kuv kuj ntsib nrog Txiv Plig Matthew Northenscold, Tsob Hwb Nao Kao Yang, thiab cov thawj coj hauv Saint Vincent's hais txog lub tswv yim tias mus koom nrog rau Presentation of Mary.

Ob pab thawj coj tau tuaj ua ke 2 zaug, siv lub sij hawm los qhia txog nyias cov neeg thiab tej kab lig kev cai. Lawv tham txog tej kev zoo siab thiab tej yam tseem tsis paub tias cov ntseeg yuav teb zoo li cas. Tom qab cov rooj sib tham no lawm, Saint Vincent's hais tias lawv xav kom muaj sib tham ntxiv thiab xav qhia lub tswv yim no rau lawv cov neeg, qhov no los Presentation of Mary kuj yuav ua tib yam thiab.

Tsab ntawv no yog qhov tshwm sim los ntawm qhov xav kom muab txoj kev sib sau los ua ke no tham mus kom tob tshaj no. Tsab ntawv no yuav muab faib tawm rau 2 pawg ntseeg rau lub lim piam 11 Hlis Ntuj tim 12. Cia siab tias ib pawg ntseeg twg yuav siv lub sij hawm los thov ntuj, muab luj, thiab tham txog, nco qab ntsoov tias yeej tsis tau muaj kev txiav txim siab, tab sis qhov kev txiav txim siab uas yuav tham mus ntxiv yuav tsum yog ib qho kev koom tes los ntawm Presentation of Mary thiab Saint Vincent de Paul cov neeg.

Yog tias txiav txim siab los ua ib pab, tej yam uas tseem yuav tau muab coj los tham ntxiv yog yuav muab cov kab lig kev cai ntawm 2 lub tsev teev ntuj no los ua ib qho. Qhov no yuav tau txiav txim txog muaj ib lub caij Teev Ntuj ua lus Hmoob rau hnub Sunday los yog teb ua lus Hmoob rau cov nkauj paj nruag thaum Teev Ntuj, muaj tej yam yuav ua thiab kev sib sau nyob hauv tsev teev ntuj, kev tshaj ntuj lus, kev sib txuas lus/xa xov hauv tsev teev ntuj, cov paib nyob nraum zoov thiab tej txuj ci sawv cev rau peb cov ntseeg, thiab kev qhia kev cai thiab kev txhawb rau ntau haiv neeg hauv peb lub tsev teev ntuj. Tej kev txiav txim siab no yuav tau los sib koom tes txiav txim ua ke, thiab cov Hmoob yuav tau los koom nyob nrog rau hauv pab thawj coj hauv tsev teev ntuj.

Kawg no, yog tias txoj kev sib sau ua ke no tshwm sim tiag, Tswv Qhia Hebda thiab lub Archdiocese yuav pom tau tias Txiv Plig Peter txoj hauj lwm tsis zoo li lwm tus txoj yog tias lawv yuav muaj kev txiav txim rau nws txoj hauj lwm nyob hauv Presentation of Mary mus rau yav tom ntej. Ib yam li ntawd thiab, yeej to tau tias Tsob Hwb Nao Kao Yang yuav ua hauj lwm pab rau Presentation of Mary los txhawb rau cov Hmoob thiab lwm pab neeg, nrog rau Tsob Hwb Mike Powers, uas tam sim no nws ua hauj lwm hauv Presentation of Mary.

Saint Vincent de Paul thiab Mary our Mother, thov ntuj rau peb!

Txiv Plig Michael Tix, Vicar General
Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis

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