

February 29, 2024

Dear Father John Ubel:

As you are aware, the leadership team of the Hmong Community at Saint Vincent de Paul, in Saint Paul, has been meeting with leaders of Presentation of Mary Parish to explore the possibility of the Hmong Catholic ministry that has been part of the Cathedral parish for several years and housed at Saint Vincent de Paul campus of the Cathedral be moved to Presentation of Mary Parish in Maplewood.

We are pleased to report that after months of getting to know one another, through meetings, a shared Mass, and social on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the committees unanimously recommend that such a move occur, and we (Fr. Matthew and Fr. Peter) concur with this recommendation.

We see a series of compelling opportunities to further the mission of the gospel that this arrangement would present:

1. The Hmong community can be served at Presentation of Mary by a priest who speaks their native language.
2. A long-term viable model for Hmong parish ministry would be established, one which:
 - a. would focus more fully on Hmong Catholics and not divert a smaller percentage of operational resources from the Cathedral;
 - b. does not depend upon volunteer priests from the seminary or the Tribunal who change every couple of years;
 - c. does not have the mounting deferred maintenance costs of the Saint Vincent de Paul campus looming over it;
 - d. would offer heightened opportunities such as adult faith formation and music ministries;
 - e. provide a Catholic school on site-where Hmong families would be welcomed and encouraged to attend.
3. Presentation of Mary would gain an influx of needed members and would be much better able to serve the large number of Hmong families in its boundaries who have yet to be evangelized.
4. It was assumed in the discussions that Deacon Nao Kao Yang would be assigned to Presentation of Mary as part of the move, and that the Archbishop would give strong consideration to the unique ability of Fr. Peter to serve the combined community as he considers future pastor assignments.

We humbly present this recommendation for your consideration, Fr. Ubel, as Rector of the Cathedral, and ask that if you concur, you request Archbishop Hebda to adopt this recommendation.

Saint Vincent de Paul and Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us!



Father Toulee Peter Ly
Pastor, Presentation of Mary



Father Matthew Northenscold
Chaplain, Hmong community of Saint Vincent de Paul