



St. Bonaventure Parish

803 State Road, P. O. Box 996, Manomet, MA 02345-0996

Tel ~ 508-224-3636, Ext. 113 Fax ~ 508-224-5889

Email ~ stbonpastor@verizon.net

Like living stones, let us be built into a spiritual house.

January 18, 2024

Dear Pilgrim on the Road to Christ,

I regret to inform you...

Since the end of 2020, the Archdiocese of Boston has repeatedly included St. Bonaventure Parish on a list for new pastoral leadership and they have done so again this year. Although I have not asked for another assignment, it now seems a certainty that I will be transferred to another parish sometime within the next five months. All change is unsettling, but this impending move is extraordinarily painful for me. It is not simply that I have been at the parish for over two decades, or that we built a new church together, or that I have grown accustomed to living in a great community so near the ocean. No, the suffering of the impending move is because I will be separated from the people that I love. It doesn't help that as of this writing I do not know where I will be going or who will be coming to take my place. I will be forever grateful for your support and friendship. Together, we have accomplished a lot. May God now bring our good work to fruition.

Be kind to the new guy.

My adjustment to a new parish is going to be very difficult but the same is also true for the priest who will be the new pastor at St. Bonaventure. I trust that you will be as kind and generous to the new guy as you were to me. He will certainly have his work cut out for him. The parish is completing its tenth year in the new church and a wide range of maintenance projects will now come to the fore. The tower still leaks. The exterior of the church will need to be re-stained, the floors refinished, the interior and exterior light bulbs replaced (they ain't cheap!), the whole church cleaned from top to bottom and the security system updated to name a few. The parish councils and other ministries will need to be re-invigorated as well as new efforts to recover membership lost from the pandemic shutdown. The new guy may even need to raise new funds but at least on that front I have some good news. The parish has prudently saved some \$800,000 over the last ten years in anticipation of the maintenance repairs. My goal was always to affect the repairs of the church through budgeting foresight rather than a new capital campaign. In other good news, you stand a better than average chance of getting shorter homilies with the new guy!

Enclosed Statement of Contributions for 2023

Enclosed with this letter is a statement of contributions made to St. Bonaventure Parish through the weekly offertory envelope system or through the on-line Parish Giving system. Your statement reflects the best data the parish was able to collect. We have the capacity to track the

giving of registered parishioners using the aforementioned systems. If you occasionally donated cash or checks to the parish apart from one of these systems, then the enclosed statement will not reflect the totality of your giving. Loose cash and loose checks are gratefully received but we don't have the means to track those donations individually.

Thank You.

Your faithful participation in the life of the parish and your constant generosity made St. Bonaventure an enjoyable place to be. My gratitude for your kindness toward me cannot be put into words. Nevertheless, thank you! And praise be to Jesus Christ because he has given us these years together on our journey along the path to salvation. To quote St. Paul, I think I can honestly say "I have competed well, I have finished the race; I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Overbeck", written in a cursive style.

Fr. Kenneth Overbeck
Pastor