

“For I know well the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope” (Jeremiah 29:11).

The prophet Jeremiah wrote these words to the People of God in their darkest hour. They had been conquered by the Babylonian Empire. Those who weren't massacred when the invaders stormed the gates of the holy city of Jerusalem were taken captive into exile. God's promises to Abraham and his descendants seemed broken, and all hope lost. Yet, in spite of every appearance to the contrary, God's plan for his people continued to unfold.

That mysterious plan reached its climax in Christ. Much like the people of Jeremiah's day, the apostles must have despaired of God's promises when Jesus was crucified. He was the Messiah, the Son of God, who would restore the glory of Israel, but he ended his life nailed to a cross. Yet God's plan for his people continued to unfold on Calvary too. Three days later, in quiet yet spectacular fashion, the darkness of the cross gave way to the light of the Resurrection, renewing the apostles' hope and sending them on a mission to share this new life, not only with the lost sheep of the house of Israel, but with all the world.

This Easter weekend, we celebrate again the hope of Christ's Resurrection. It is God's promise that those who are united to Christ in knowing God's will and acting on it, even unto death, will share in the same newness of life. The promise of the Resurrection gave the apostles the hope to act on God's will for them, starting a new religion that would cost them their lives but would change the world forever. The promise of the Resurrection gave our patron, St. Boniface, the hope to act on God's will for him, leaving the comfort of his monastery behind in order to go on a mission to

a harsh, pagan land that would lead to his martyrdom, but also to the conversion of half a continent to Christ. The promise of the Resurrection gives us the same hope to discern God's will and to act on it, wherever it leads and whatever it costs, today.

As a parish, we have been prayerfully discerning God's will for us for the better part of a year. You hold in your hands the fruit of that discernment: our inaugural parish pastoral plan. Through months of meetings, the planning community has assisted our parish leadership in processing data and the input from parishioners to draft this document. It will serve as our guide over the next two to three years as we seek to serve our parish's mission. This document also serves as an invitation, and even a challenge, to each of us as parishioners to prayerfully discern the part of the plan that we are being called by God to serve by asking: What are my gifts of time, talent, and treasure, and how can I use them to most effectively promote our parish plan? Please contact the chair persons for more information about key steps to which you might feel called, and please say yes if you are called to serve on one or more of the task forces which will be formed to address the key steps.

God's plan for the Israelites took centuries to be fully revealed in Christ's Resurrection, and its fulfillment is still being worked out today. He has plans just as significant for us at St. Boniface and just as full of hope. May we as a parish and as individual parishioners patiently and eagerly embrace our place in his plan and answer his call in service of our mission today.