



## THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

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Dear Parishioner,

22 June 2017

*Memorial of St. Thomas More, martyr*

Greetings in Christ Jesus!

I am humbled to be called upon by Archbishop Hebda to serve as your pastor at this exciting and decisive moment for our parish. Fr. Byron Hagan, our new Parochial Vicar, and I are truly blessed as we begin our priestly mission in NE Minneapolis, building on the profound commitment of Fr. Glen, Fr. Stanley, Fr. Don, Fr. Earl and other priests who have served over the years. In our initial visits to our various campuses and neighborhood, we have had the chance to meet a number of you and we are eager to begin to get to know the rest. It has not taken long for me to realize that the *Church of the Holy Cross* is a wonderful community—rich in history, beauty, tradition and culture and made up of parishioners full of love for Christ and for each other—situated in a truly unique neighborhood.

As you are aware, when I was appointed to my new role, our parish was concluding a planning study. The purpose for the study was to get a feel for how we are progressing as a community and how we can be poised to meet the challenges and opportunities that stand before us. I wish to thank the nearly 300 parish households who took time to share their opinions on how to strengthen our parish for the future. The information gained is valuable and will assist us in setting a course to achieve the shorter term goals and longer range hopes for the parish.

While reflecting upon the immediate plans for our parish, I will soon begin working with our lay leaders to implement some of the recommendations and next steps proposed by our consulting firm, the *Steier Group*. The enclosed flyer shares the study results and includes the Steier Group's recommendations. Please take some time to review it. For a more in-depth look please visit our website at [www.ourholycross.org](http://www.ourholycross.org) and click on the link marked "Planning Study."

I encourage you to attend a farewell reception to honor Fr. Glen this coming Sunday, June 25 from 1-3 pm in Kolbe Hall for an opportunity to greet Fr. Glen as he moves to his new assignment at St. Patrick's in Edina. I am thankful for his graciousness in offering insight and sound advice since my arrival to assist in creating a smooth transition. He is a priest who has shown tireless dedication in this neighborhood for well over a decade and I am honored to follow in his wake as a spiritual father here. I ask for your prayers and patience as I take up his mantle.

In the coming months, I will continue to provide updates on planning and the next steps recommended to unify our three campuses. Working together, with passion and dedication, will ensure the future growth and strengthening of our parish in holiness and vibrancy, especially as we seek to impact our broader community through relationship building, public witness, outreach and evangelization.

Again, thank you for your input and for your ongoing support of the Church of the Holy Cross. I implore the intercession of Our Lady who stood beneath the Holy Cross, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Clement and St. Hedwig.

*Grace and peace,*

*Rev. Spencer J. Howe*  
Fr. Spencer J. Howe