



Diocese of
Green Bay

May 14, 2020

Reverend Joel Sember
Holy Trinity Parish
716 Madison St.
Oconto, WI 54153-1668
Email: frjoel@holy3.org

Dear Father Sember and the Parishioners of Holy Trinity Parish, Oconto, St. Anthony Parish, Oconto Falls, and St. Patrick Parish, Stiles,

God's blessings to you and to your parishioners!

As you are aware, Father Joel is being reassigned as Pastor of St. John Parish, Antigo, SS. Mary & Hyacinth Parish, Antigo, and St. Wenceslaus Parish, Neva. It is Bishop David Ricken's intention to appoint a priest to replace Father Sember. We are currently working on finalizing our plans.

One of the factors the Bishop is considering before assigning a new priest is to review the links between the parishes in the surrounding area of Stiles, Oconto Falls, Oconto and Sobieski. Each parish will continue, but it may be easier for two priests to each have two parishes. The three parishes of St. Patrick, St. Anthony and Holy Trinity are a lot for one priest to cover. And St. Maximillian Kolbe in Sobieski could be linked with one of the other three parishes. Barry Metzentine from the Diocesan offices has recently met with parish leaders to consider various factors. Any new proposal will be drawn up taking into account parish leaders input and parishioner's feedback. We hope to have this process finished by the end of June and new priests assigned for August 3. As soon as the plans for the assignment to your parishes are finalized, we will be sure to share it with the parishioners of Holy Trinity Parish, Oconto, St. Anthony Parish, Oconto Falls, and St. Patrick Parish, Stiles.

May the Holy Spirit bless and guide you and your families with His very best,

Sincerely in Christ,

Reverend Donald Everts
Chair, Priest Personnel Board

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