



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter and City of Green Bay meet to discuss issues.

Green Bay, Wis. (December 21, 2012): The following is a statement from Deacon Tim Reilly, General Director of the Diocesan Curia.

"We are grateful for the recent discussions of Shelter staff and staff of the City of Green Bay. We have been following our operational plan in good faith since July. There are complex issues ahead of us as we, as a community, face this growing issue of homelessness. We will use this time to work diligently to work out the issues.

As I reflect on my comments of December 18, I would like to publicly apologize to Mayor Jim Schmitt. I believe that I was unfair and incorrect in attacking the Mayor personally. Mayor Schmitt and I have had differences in the past regarding the proper approach to meeting the needs of the poor served at St. John's. However, we agree on many core concerns. I could have and should have found a better way to respond. Perhaps I was overzealous in defending the homeless, but that should not have led to a personal attack. It is my hope that the Mayor and I can continue our collaborative efforts as we move forward together."

The shelter is currently in operation. As stated in the joint release, the parties are aware of the possibility of enforcement action. We feel that all parties' interests are best served by refraining from further comment.

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Who we are: The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay works to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ by helping people in need and by providing academic, leadership and spiritual formation opportunities to parish and school leaders. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 345,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

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