


DIOCESE OF PUEBLO
C O L O R A D O

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
January 2, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have recently been made aware of the need for major repairs and the poor physical condition of the aging Holy Name of Mary Church and rectory. The advice of experts has been taken into account in which they found concerns that cast doubt on the safety of the buildings. These findings present a potentially significant risk to the safety and well-being of the parishioners and others who worship at the Holy Name of Mary Church. These issues include crumbling adobe in the rectory, and roof damage, concerns about the integrity of the floor, and electric hazards resulting from cloth wiring in the Church.

After much prayer and further consultation with my staff, it has been determined the current state of the parish is unsafe for worship. I have made the difficult decision to temporarily close Holy Name of Mary in Del Norte effective January 9, 2023. We will then carefully evaluate the options for the Holy Name of Mary parish; balancing the costs of restoring the buildings with the parish and community resources and needs.

Please know this was not an easy decision, but after hearing of the safety issues present in the church and rectory, such I cannot in good faith, allow anyone in the church or rectory areas for the time being. Again, please know that my team and I are looking into every available option going forward.

St. Joseph in Monte Vista and Holy Family in South Fork are ready to welcome you with open and loving arms to continue to hear the word of the Lord and receive the Holy Eucharist. And Father Albert will continue to be available to minister to the needs of the Holy Name of Mary community.

I ask for your continued prayers as we navigate through this tough time and rest assured you remain in mine.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Stephen J. Berg
Bishop of the Diocese of Pueblo