



THE CHURCH OF *St. Therese of Deephaven*

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January 15, 2026

Mayor Jacob Frey  
Office of the Mayor  
350 South Fifth Street, Room 330  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Greetings Mayor Frey,

It is striking that while we are roughly the same age, our beliefs and approaches to leadership differ in many ways. I am grateful, however, that we share a concern for immigrants, viewing their situation through the lens of human dignity and recognizing the right to migrate for a better life.

We also share a similar belief in providing legal, humanitarian, and pastoral support for immigrants and refugees. As a Catholic priest, I view this work as a ministry and a Gospel mandate to welcome Jesus Christ to those who come to us in need. At the same time, I believe this mission must be held in balance with a nation's responsibility to safeguard its borders and enact laws that serve the common good of all its citizens.

Additionally, we differ radically in our understanding of the critical importance of the sanctity of human life, especially the precious lives of children in the womb who depend entirely on our protection, seeking to migrate from the womb to a more autonomous life. For me, the defense of innocent human life is a foundational moral responsibility, and any harm to these little ones is a profound tragedy that cries out to heaven.

Another area where our perspectives diverge is in the language we use as leaders. You seem quite comfortable using foul language in public speech, which I find to be reprehensible. As public leaders with influence, we are called to model words that uplift and inspire. In my vocation, I strive to speak in ways that reflect the dignity of every person and to set an example for the young people and families entrusted to my care.

Furthermore, we differ in leadership in terms of ensuring accountability. There are widespread reports of stolen taxpayer money that could have been prevented with proper oversight. As leaders, we have a responsibility to ensure that proper oversight is in place for the resources entrusted to our care. Lack of oversight and misuse of funding erode trust and result in justified anger. It has been very disheartening to witness the decline of our local community's reputation around the country.

Finally, we differ on the place of God in our lives. During COVID, you asked people of faith to remain home to "be safe" even after many churches and other institutions had clearly established careful protocols to worship God safely. For Catholics, remaining away from the Eucharist for an extended period was spiritually unthinkable, as the Eucharist is the very heart of our life with Jesus Christ. Thankfully, the bishops of Minnesota allowed parishes to reopen after they had long been ignored by the civil leaders of our state.

Our different approaches to leadership naturally arise from our very divergent beliefs. As a Catholic priest, I look to Jesus Christ as the model for how I speak, act, and relate to others, trusting that He will hold all leaders—civil and religious—accountable for the responsibilities entrusted to them.

As a Catholic pastor, I entrust myself daily to the mercy of Christ, seeking forgiveness and deeper conversion to His magnificent will. I pray that all leaders, myself included, may continually grow in wisdom, humility, and openness to God's grace.

May God, who knows every human heart, grant you and all civil leaders a deeper sense of respect for and love of His will as you reflect on your responsibility of leading others with justice, love, and peace. You can be assured of my prayers for God's grace and mercy for you and our local community during this most trying time.

Blessings,



Fr. Leonard Andrie, Pastor  
St. Therese Catholic Church