



Diocese of Pittsburgh  
2900 Noblestown Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205-4227  
Phone: 412-456-3010 • Fax: 412-456-3185  
E-mail: dzubik@diopitt.org • Website: www.diopitt.org

Office of the Bishop

November 28, 2020

Dear Priests, Deacons and Faithful of the Diocese of Pittsburgh:

On April 12, 2015, we initiated *On Mission for The Church Alive!* with the goal of offering our faithful and those in the wider community a deeper relationship with Jesus and the Catholic Church.

Today, I am announcing the groupings that will merge into new parishes on January 4, 2021. These fourteen parish groupings have worked diligently since October 2018 to foster relationships and have shared with me their desire and readiness to form a new parish community. After receiving approval of the diocesan Priest Council and Vicars General, the new parishes, effective January 4, 2021, are:

- **Mary, Queen of Peace (Mount Washington/South Side)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Mary of the Mount (Mount Washington) and Prince of Peace (South Side) to be served by Father Michael Stumpf (Pastor), Father Daniel Straughn (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Bernard Harcarik (In Residence) and Deacon Frank Szemanski;
- **Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Coraopolis/Crescent/Moon)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Catherine of Siena (Crescent), Saint Joseph (Coraopolis) and Saint Margaret Mary (Moon Township) to be served by Father Francis Kurimsky (Pastor), Father Robert Seeman (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Mingwei Li (Parochial Vicar), Father Drew Morgan (Part-Time Parochial Vicar) and Deacon Robert Jancart;
- **Our Lady of Hope (Bethel Park/South Park/Whitehall)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin (Whitehall), Saint Germaine (Bethel Park), Nativity (South Park) and Saint Valentine (Bethel Park) to be served by Father John Skirtich (Pastor), Father Michael Suslowicz (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father John Hissrich (Parish Chaplain), Father Charles Speicher (In Residence), Father Richard Tusky (In Residence), Deacon Thomas Mills and Deacon Robert Stein;
- **Our Lady of the Valley (Beaver/Freedom/New Brighton/Rochester)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Cecilia (Rochester), Saint Felix (Freedom), Holy Family (New Brighton) and Saints Peter and Paul (Beaver) to be served by Father Robert J. Miller (Pastor), Father Paul Kuppe, OFM Cap. (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Mark Carter, OFM Cap. (Parochial Vicar) and Father Michael Greb, OFM Cap. (Institutional Chaplain);
- **Resurrection (Bethel Park/Upper Saint Clair)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint John Capistran (Upper Saint Clair) and Saint Thomas More (Bethel Park) to be served by Father Mark Eckman (Pastor), Father James Chepponis (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father James Bedillion (Parish Chaplain), Deacon William Batz, Deacon Joseph Kralik and Deacon Lawrence Sutton;

- **Saint Catherine Laboure (South Park/Upper Saint Clair)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Joan of Arc (South Park) and Saint Louise de Marillac (Upper Saint Clair) to be served by Father Daniel Maurer (Pastor), Father Jon Brzek (Parochial Vicar), Father Joseph Sioli (In Residence) and Deacon William Strathmann;
- **Saint Clare of Assisi (Carbon Center/Chicora/North Oakland)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Joseph (North Oakland), Mater Dolorosa (Chicora) and Saint Wendelin (Carbon Center) to be served by Father Matthew McClain (Pastor), Father Louis Pascazi (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Ward Stakem, OFM Cap. (Senior Parochial Vicar) and Father James Kurtz, OFM Cap. (Senior Parochial Vicar);
- **Saint Faustina (Northern Butler County)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Alphonsus (Boyers/Murrinsville/West Sunbury), Saint Christopher (Prospect) and Saint Peter (Slippery Rock) to be served by Father Adam Verona (Pastor), Father Sean Francis (Parochial Vicar) and Deacon Edwin Christmann;
- **Saint Francis of Assisi (Cabot/Coyleville/Herman)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint John (Coyleville), Saint Joseph (Cabot) and Saint Mary of the Assumption (Herman) to be served by Father Matthew McClain (Pastor), Father Louis Pascazi (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Ward Stakem, OFM Cap. (Senior Parochial Vicar) and Father James Kurtz, OFM Cap. (Senior Parochial Vicar);
- **Saints Joachim and Anne (Elizabeth/Glassport/South Allegheny Area)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Mark (Liberty Borough/Port Vue), Saint Michael (Elizabeth) and Queen of the Rosary (Glassport) to be served by Father Thomas Wagner (Pastor), Father Miroslaus Wojcicki (Senior Parochial Vicar), Deacon Jeffrey Formica, Deacon Stephen Pikula and Deacon John Ragan;
- **Saint Jude (Morningside/Shadyside/Stanton Heights)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Raphael (Morningside/Stanton Heights/Upper Lawrenceville) and Sacred Heart (Shadyside) to be served by Father Joseph Mele (Pastor), Father John Sweeney (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Steven Palsa (Parish Chaplain), Deacon William Hahn and Deacon John Vaskov;
- **Saints Martha and Mary (Hampton/Richland)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Catherine of Sweden (Hampton Township) and Saint Richard (Richland Township) to be served by Father Robert Vular (Pastor), Father Christopher Mannerino (Parochial Vicar), Deacon Clifford Homer and Deacon Gary Molitor;
- **Saint Matthew (Etna/Glenshaw/Millvale/Reserve)**, which brings together the parishes of All Saints (Etna), Saint Aloysius (Reserve Township), Saint Bonaventure (Glenshaw) and Holy Spirit (Millvale) to be served by Father James Gretz (Pastor), Father James Mazurek (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Miroslaw Stelmaszczyk (Senior Parochial Vicar), Deacon Stephen Byers, Deacon Stephen Kisak and Deacon Charles Rhoads;
- **Saint Raphael the Archangel (Carnegie/Green Tree/Scott)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (Carnegie), Saint Margaret of Scotland (Green Tree) and Saints Simon and Jude (Scott Township) to be served by Father Robert Grecco (Pastor), Father Aleksandr Schrenk (Parochial Vicar), Father Michael Yaksick (Parish Chaplain), Father Robin Evanish (In Residence), Father James McDonough (In Residence), Deacon Kevin Lander, Deacon Paul Lim and Deacon James Mackin.

November 28, 2020

Page 3

I offer my deepest thanks to the administrators, clergy teams and lay leaders of these fourteen parish groupings who have helped make the vision of *On Mission for The Church Alive!* a living reality. Their examples of collaboration, courage and compassion have inspired me. Their collective efforts have gone beyond the practical matters related to merging parishes. They have encouraged their parishioners to deepen their relationship with Jesus and with each other, and this is the most important reason for *On Mission*. A vibrant parish with effective ministries is now on the horizon for these parishes as they realize the goal of an evangelizing Church, alive with the love of Christ and the love of neighbor.

As *On Mission* continues to unfold, may we unceasingly rely on the will and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate who gives us life as we come together for vibrant worship, responsive pastoral care and powerful evangelization. It is my daily prayer that every member of the Church of Pittsburgh is inspired by the powerful gifts of the Holy Spirit. I beg your prayers that those same gifts may always be at work in me.

Grateful for our continued efforts together in being *On Mission for The Church Alive!*, and for our belief that "Nothing is Impossible with God," I am

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ David A. Zubik". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend David A. Zubik  
Bishop of Pittsburgh

DAZ:lar