



Diocese of Pittsburgh

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Office of the Bishop

May 27, 2020

Dear 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 July 1, 2020. These fifteen 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 July 1, 2020, are:

- **Blessed Trinity (Brentwood/Hays/South Pittsburgh)**, which brings together the parishes of Holy Angels (Hays), Holy Apostles (South Pittsburgh) and Saint Sylvester (Brentwood) to be served by Father Steven Kresak (Pastor), Father Robert Ahlin (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Kenneth Sparks (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Levi Hartle (Parochial Vicar), Deacon Michael Babcock, Deacon James Grab, Deacon Daniel Nizan, Deacon Andrew White and Deacon Timothy Zenchak;
- **Guardian Angels (Upper Allegheny Valley)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Alphonsus (Springdale), Holy Family (Creighton), Holy Martyrs (Tarentum), Saint Joseph (Natrona), Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament (Natrona Heights) and Our Lady of Victory (Harwick) to be served by Father John Lendvai (Pastor), Father Andrew Fischer (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Aaron Kriss (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father John Brennan (Parish Chaplain) and Deacon Patrick Wood;
- **Holy Family (Oakmont/Plum/Verona)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Irenaeus (Oakmont), Saint Januarius (Plum), Saint John the Baptist (Plum), Saint Joseph (Verona) and Our Lady of Joy (Holiday Park) to be served by Father Kevin Poeking (Pastor), Father George Dalton (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father David DeWitt (Senior Parochial Vicar), Deacon Timothy Noca and Deacon Joseph Vannucci;
- **Our Lady of the Lakes (Bairdford/Russellton)**, which brings together the parishes of Transfiguration (Russellton) and Saint Victor (Bairdford) to be served by Father James Holland (Pastor);
- **Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Observatory Hill/Perrysville/Ross/West View)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Athanasius (West View), Incarnation of the Lord (Observatory Hill/Perry North), Saint Sebastian (Ross Township) and Saint Teresa of Avila (Perrysville) to be served by Father John Rushofsky (Pastor), Father Michael Maranowski (Parochial Vicar), Father Michael Zavage (Parochial Vicar), Father Vincent Kolo (Parish Chaplain), Father Leroy DiPietro (In Residence), Father William Dorner (In Residence), Deacon Richard Cessar, Deacon Gary Comer, Deacon Robert Koslosky, Deacon William Palamara and Deacon David Witter;
- **Saint Aiden (Wexford)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Alexis (Wexford) and Saint Alphonsus (Wexford) to be served by Father David Bonnar (Pastor), Father William Wuenschel (Senior Parochial Vicar), Deacon Albert Heiles and Deacon Jeffrey Ludwikowski;

- **Saint Isidore the Farmer (Avella/Burgettstown/Fort Cherry Area/West Allegheny Area)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Alphonsus (McDonald), Saint Ann (Bulger), Saint Columbkille (Imperial), Saint Michael (Avella), Our Lady of Lourdes (Burgettstown) and Saint Patrick (North Fayette Township) to be served by Father Harry Bielewicz (Pastor), Father Zachary Galiyas (Parochial Vicar), and Father Benedetto Vaghetto (In Residence);
- **Saint James (Western Washington County)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Hilary (Washington) and Immaculate Conception (Washington) to be served by Father Michael John Lynam (Pastor), Father Michael Peck (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Thomas Lewandowski (Part-Time Senior Parochial Vicar), Father George Chortos (In Residence), Deacon Jeffrey Hirst and Deacon Barry Krofcheck;
- **Saint John XXIII (Finleyville/Jefferson Hills/Peters)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Benedict the Abbot (Peters Township), Saint Francis of Assisi (Finleyville) and Saint Isaac Jogues (Jefferson Hills) to be served by Father Robert M. Miller (Pastor), Father Pierre Falkenhan (Senior Parochial Vicar) and Deacon Victor Satter;
- **Saint Joseph the Worker (Braddock/Churchill/Forest Hills/Swissvale/Turtle Creek/Wilmerding)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Colman (Turtle Creek), Good Shepherd (Braddock/Braddock Hills/East Pittsburgh), Saint John Fisher (Churchill), Saint Jude the Apostle (Wilmerding), Madonna del Castello (Swissvale), Saint Maurice (Forest Hills) and Word of God (Rankin/Swissvale) to be served by Father Frank Almade (Pastor), Father Martin Barkin (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Jeremy Mohler (Parochial Vicar), Father Albert Semler (Parochial Vicar), Deacon Joseph Dougherty, Deacon Keith Kondrich and Deacon Herbert Riley;
- **Saint Michael the Archangel (Dormont/Mount Lebanon/Scott)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Bernard (Mount Lebanon) and Our Lady of Grace (Scott Township) to be served by Father Brian Welding (Pastor), Father Benjamin Barr (Parochial Vicar), Father Thomas Gramc (Parochial Vicar), Father Gilbert Puznakoski (Parish Chaplain), Father Michael Yaksick (Parish Chaplain) and Deacon Frederick Eckhardt;
- **Saint Oscar Romero (Canonsburg/Meadow Lands/Muse)**, which brings together the parishes of Holy Rosary (Muse), Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (Meadow Lands) and Saint Patrick (Canonsburg) to be served by Father Carmen D'Amico (Pastor), Father George DeVille (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Thomas Gillespie (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Thomas Galvin (Parish Chaplain), Deacon Joseph Cerenzia, Deacon Philip Martorano and Deacon Anton Mobley;
- **Saint Paul Cathedral (Greenfield/Hazelwood/Oakland)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Paul Cathedral (Oakland), Saint Regis (Oakland), Saint Rosalia (Greenfield) and Saint Stephen (Hazelwood) to be served by Father Kris Stubna (Pastor and Rector), Father Adam Potter (Parochial Vicar), Father Daniel Walsh, CSSp. (Parochial Vicar), Father John Odeymi (Parochial Vicar), Father Steven Palsa (Parish Chaplain), Father Michael Ackerman (In Residence) and Deacon Thomas Berna;
- **Saint Thomas the Apostle (Duquesne/Homestead/Munhall/West Mifflin/Whitaker)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Agnes (West Mifflin), Christ the Light of the World (Duquesne), Holy Trinity (West Mifflin), Saint Joseph (Duquesne), Saint Maximilian Kolbe (Homestead/Munhall), Resurrection (West Mifflin), Saint Rita (Munhall Gardens/Whitaker) and Saint Therese of Lisieux (Munhall) to be served by Father E. Daniel Sweeney (Pastor), Father Michael Conway (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Mark Glasgow (In Residence), Father Stan Gregorek (In Residence), Father Nicholas Mastrangelo (In Residence) and Deacon Ronald Demblowski;

- **Triumph of the Holy Cross (Clairton/Jefferson Hills/Pleasant Hills/West Mifflin)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Clare of Assisi (Clairton), Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (Pleasant Hills), Holy Spirit (West Mifflin) and Saint Thomas á Becket (Jefferson Hills) to be served by Father Paul Zywan (Pastor), Father Kenneth Kezmarsky (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father William Terza (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Jason Charron (Parish Chaplain) and Deacon Gerard Como.

The merging of these parishes will bring the number of parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh from 152 to 106.

I offer my deepest thanks to the administrators, clergy teams and lay leaders of these fifteen 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.

In addition to the new parish announcements, I have also announced effective July 1, 2020 the reorganization of our four Regional Vicariates into two Regional Vicariates: a North Vicariate and South Vicariate. The vicariate structure has been in place since 2009, and the diocese is grateful to the regional Vicars who have served Vicariates I-IV during that time. Now, with the *On Mission for The Church Alive!* realignment of parishes, the new North and South Vicariates will assist the parishes and groupings moving forward. Father John B. Gizler III has been appointed Regional Vicar for the 29 parishes/groupings of the North Vicariate. The North Vicariate office will be located at Saint Peter Parish in Butler. Father Joseph E. Sioli will be Regional Vicar for the 27 parishes/groupings of the South Vicariate. The South Vicariate office will be located at Saint Germaine Parish in Bethel Park. More information on the location of parishes and groupings within each vicariate is available on the diocesan website www.diopitt.org.

Lastly, 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,

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Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

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