



Diocese of Pittsburgh

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Office of the Bishop

June 27, 2020

My dear Sisters and Brothers of Saint Benedict the Moor Parish:

On June 19, 2020, I announced the forming of a personal parish for the black Catholic community in the Diocese of Pittsburgh under the title of Saint Benedict the Moor Parish. The establishment of this parish is effective Monday, July 13, 2020.

Today, I wish to announce the clergy assignments for Saint Benedict the Moor Parish:

- Father Thomas Burke, Pastor
- Father David Taylor, Senior Parochial Vicar
- Father Matthew Hawkins, Parochial Vicar

It is important to note that today I ordained three new priests, among them Father Matthew Hawkins. It is always special for me to give a new priest his first assignment. It is also special for a parish to receive a newly ordained priest. It is my hope that Saint Benedict the Moor Parish rejoices in receiving one of our newest priests.

These clergy assignments become effective on Monday, July 13, 2020. Additionally, Father Burke will continue to serve as Pastor with Father Taylor as Senior Parochial Vicar and Father Hawkins as Parochial Vicar of Saint Mary Magdalene Parish, East End/Homewood/Point Breeze/Wilkinsburg.

All three of these priests are gifted, faith-filled men who strive to offer a deeper relationship with Jesus and His Church to those actively engaged in the Church; those who have lost touch with Jesus or who have left the Church; and those who have never belonged to the Church but are seeking deeper meaning in their lives.

I am committed to the needs of black Catholics in our community. Black Catholics Do Matter! I am grateful for the continued opportunity to work together to make sure that black Catholics know that they do matter. I truly believe that at this moment, the Holy Spirit is bringing about new life in the Church of Pittsburgh and particularly with and through you.

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,

Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

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