

FROM THE DIOCESE

Pastors are appointed by the bishop to lead local parish communities and to provide for their pastoral care. They share in the bishop's ministry of teaching, sanctifying, and governing. With the bishop's mandate, and in cooperation with other priests and deacons in the parish as well as with the assistance of the laity, the pastor has full responsibility for the pastoral care of a local parish community.

To facilitate the appointment of a new pastor/administrator for Our Lady of Mount Virgin, Middlesex, Bishop Checchio has initiated a consultation process to elicit input from all parish leadership including clergy, staff, and all parishioners, to determine what Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish needs in their new pastor. This consultation process includes two meetings; the first being with the parish clergy, parish staff, and other parish employees, and a second general meeting with interested parishioners.

The meetings with parishioners will be held: on Sunday, April 7, at 3:00 PM (in Spanish); on Sunday, April 7, at 5:00 PM; and on Monday, April 8, at 10:00 AM, in the church. These general meetings will be facilitated by priests from the Diocese of Metuchen, and invitations will be extended to members of our pastoral council and financial council, our trustees, ministry leaders, and other parish leaders. All parishioners are invited to attend.

Through a guided listening session facilitated by these priests, information will be gathered from parishioners that will assist the bishop in determining the parish needs. It must be clearly understood that this is a listening session only, and that the information on the needs of the parish gathered from parishioners is one factor among many which the bishop will consider in determining the next pastor of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish. This meeting is not to solicit the names individual priests and this will not be discussed. The Priest Personnel Board has the task of surfacing names of potential pastors to the Bishop.

All parishioners are asked to join in prayer for this process and any interested parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend the general meeting to help and share the needs of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish.