



DIOCESE  
*of*  
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

**July 8, 2020**

On July 1, 2020, Bishop Doherty asked Father Theodore Rothrock to step aside from public ministry because of the division and damage that was instantly felt within the parish, the diocese and the larger community following Father Rothrock's controversial bulletin article. Father Rothrock has expressed regret and he understands and appreciates God's gift of the human family, and therefore the value of every human life which is made in the image and likeness of God.

This time for pastoral discernment is for the good of the diocese, for St. Elizabeth Seton and for the good of Father Rothrock. As a part of the Uniting in Heart 2030 Pastoral Plan, various possibilities for Father Rothrock's public continuation in priestly ministry are still being considered. The Bishop continues to express pastoral concern for the affected communities, and we ask for your prayers during this time.