



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

NEWS

Office of Communications

215 N. Westnedge Avenue

Kalamazoo, MI 49007

269-903-0163

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Vicki Cessna, vcessna@diokzoo.org; 269-903-0163

MAY 23, 2016 (KALAMAZOO, MICH.): The Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley has announced the following priest assignments for the Diocese of Kalamazoo which become effective July 1, 2016. [Please see “Diocesan Pastoral Plan: A Future Full of Hope” for additional information on the Diocese of Kalamazoo new pastoral plan which creates 28 Parish Collaboratives. Please note that Pastors are appointed for a term of six years.]

1. **Rev. James Adams**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Ann Parish, Augusta, Canonical Pastor, St. Ambrose Parish, Delton and Our Lady of Great Oak Mission, Lacey, and Chaplain, Hackett Catholic Prep, Kalamazoo, has been appointed **Chaplain/Spiritual Moderator for Hackett Catholic Prep and part-time Parochial Vicar for St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo.**
2. **Rev. Richard Altine**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Anthony Parish, Buchanan, has been appointed **Pastor , Holy Maternity Parish, Dowagiac, Holy Family Parish, Decatur and Sacred Heart Parish, Silver Creek, Parish Collaborative.**
3. **Rev. John Peter Ambrose, MSFS**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Watervliet, has been re-appointed **Pastor , St. Joseph Parish, Watervliet and Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartford Parish Collaborative.**
4. **Rev. Christopher Ankley**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Martin of Tours Parish, Vicksburg, has been appointed **Pastor , St. Philip Parish, St. Joseph Parish and St. Jerome Parish, Battle Creek Parish Collaborative.**

5. **Rev. Leonel Cartagena** has been appointed **Parochial Vicar, St. Anthony, Buchanan, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Bridgman and St. Gabriel Parish, Berrien Springs Parish Collaborative with special care for the Hispanic/Latino community.**
6. **Rev. Simon Chummar-Manjooran**, currently serving as Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek, has been appointed **Spiritual Moderator for the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools and Parochial Vicar, St. Philip Parish, St. Joseph Parish and St. Jerome Parish Battle Creek Parish Collaborative.**
7. **Rev. Kevin Covert**, currently serving as Pastor, Holy Maternity Parish, Dowagiac and Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Dowagiac, **has been appointed Chaplain to the Kalamazoo-area Hospitals and health care institutions and will provide part-time assistance to St. Ambrose Parish, Parchment.**
8. **Rev. Patrick Craig**, currently serving as Pastor, Holy Family Parish, Decatur, has been appointed **Pastor, St. Mary of the Lake Parish, New Buffalo, St. Mary of the Assumption, Three Oaks and St. Agnes, Sawyer Parish Collaborative.**
9. **Very Rev. Robert Creagan**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage, has been appointed **Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph Parish Collaborative.**
10. **Rev. Christopher Derda**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek and Canonical Pastor, St. Jerome Parish, Battle Creek, has been appointed **Administrator, St. Mary's Visitation Parish, Byron Center; St. Stanislaus, Dorr; and Sacred Heart Parish, Watson Parish Collaborative.**
11. **Rev. Daniel Doctor**, currently serving as Parochial Vicar, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage, has been appointed **Parochial Vicar, St. Mary of the Lake Parish, New Buffalo, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Three Oaks and St. Agnes Parish, Sawyer.**
12. **Rev. Larry Farrell** has been **re- appointed Pastor, St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo and Canonical Administrator, Hackett Catholic Prep.**

13. **Rev. John Fleckenstein**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Philip Parish, Battle Creek , Canonical Administrator of Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools, and diocesan Vicar for Education has been appointed **Pastor , St. Ann Parish, Augusta, St. Ambrose Parish, Delton and Our Lady of Great Oak Parish, Lacey Parish Collaborative.**
14. **Rev Robert Flickinger**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Basil Parish, South Haven, has been appointed **Senior Parochial Vicar, St. Basil Parish, South Haven, Sacred Heart, Bangor and St. Jude Parish, Gobles, Parish Collaborative.**
15. **Rev. Richard Fritz**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Bronson and St. Barbara Mission, Colon, continues as Pastor, St. Mary of the Assumption until his expected retirement in 2018.
16. **Rev. Fabio Garzon**, currently serving as Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartford and San Felipe de Jesus Parish, Fennville, has been appointed as **Pastor, St. Peter Parish, Douglas and San Felipe de Jesus Parish, Fennville Parish Collaborative.**
17. **Rev. Raul Gomez**, currently serving as Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek, has been appointed **Parochial Vicar, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Coldwater and Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Union City with special care for the Hispanic/Latino community in Bronson.**
18. **Rev. Joseph Gray**, currently serving as Pastor, St. John Parish, Albion, **will retire** and attain Senior Priest Status and be in-residence at St. John Parish, Albion.
19. **Rev. Jose Haro**, who was ordained to the priesthood on May 21, has been appointed as **Parochial Vicar, St. Philip Parish, St. Joseph Parish and St. Jerome Parish, Battle Creek Parish Collaborative.**
20. **Msgr. Michael Hazard**, Vicar General, has been **re-appointed Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo.**

21. **Rev. Arthur Howard**, currently serving as Pastor, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Bridgman, has been appointed **Pastor, St. Anthony Parish, Buchanan; Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Bridgman; and St. Gabriel Parish, Berrien Springs, Parish Collaborative.**
22. **Rev. Benjamin Huynh**, currently serving as Parochial Vicar, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage, has been appointed **Pastor, St. Margaret Parish, Otsego and Blessed Sacrament Parish, Allegan, Parish Collaborative.**
23. **Rev. Daniel Hyman**, currently serving as **Pastor, St. Mary of the Lake Parish, New Buffalo**, has been appointed **Pastor, St. Thomas More Student Parish Parish Collaborative.**
24. **Rev. Mathew Illikattil**, currently serving as **Pastor, St. John Bosco Parish, Mattawan and St. Margaret Mary Mission, Marcellus**, will retire and attain **Senior Priest status.**
25. **Rev. William Jacobs, Jr.**, currently serving as Senior Parochial Vicar, St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo, has been appointed **Senior Parochial Vicar, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage, Parish Collaborative.**
26. **Rev. Robert Johansen**, currently serving as Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Bangor, has been appointed **Chaplain for the Battle Creek-area hospitals and health care institutions and Parochial Vicar, St. Ann Parish, Augusta; St. Ambrose Parish, Delton and Our Lady of Great Oak Parish, Lacey Parish Collaborative.**
27. **Rev. Christian Johnston**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Therese Parish and SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Wayland and Canonical Pastor, St. Margaret Parish, Otsego, has been appointed **Pastor, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Niles** with phased-in appointment to include St. Mark Parish, Niles upon the expected retirement in 2018 of Rev. Thomas King, CSC.

28. **Rev. Alan Jorgensen**, currently serving as Pastor, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Allegan, has been appointed **Pastor *in solidum*** to **St. Mary Parish, Paw Paw, St. John Bosco Parish, Mattawan and St. Mary Margaret Parish, Marcellus, Parish Collaborative.**
29. **Rev. Thomas King**, CSC, continues as **Pastor, St. Mark Parish, Niles.**
30. **Rev. James Vinh Le**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Edward Parish, Mendon, has been appointed as **Senior Parochial Vicar, St. Augustine Cathedral Parish Collaborative and has been named Director, Vietnamese Apostolate.**
31. **Rev. Wieslaw Lipka**, currently serving as Parochial Vicar, St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo, has been appointed **Parochial Vicar, Holy Maternity of Mary Parish, Dowagiac, Holy Family Parish, Decatur and Sacred Heart Parish, Silver Creek, Parish Collaborative with residence at Holy Family Parish, Decatur.**
32. **Very Rev. Craig Lusk**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Marshall, has been appointed Pastor , St. Mary Parish, Marshall and St. John Parish, Albion Parish Collaborative.
33. **Rev. Mathew Manalel**, currently serving as Parochial Vicar, St. Augustine Cathedral, will retire and return to his native Diocese in India.
34. **Rev. Francis Marotti**, currently completing studies at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, **has been appointed Vice Rector, St. Augustine Cathedral, Parish Collaborative.**
35. **Msgr. Thomas Martin, J.V., J.S.D.**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo, has been appointed **Pastor, St. Martin of Tours, Vicksburg and St. Edward Parish, Mendon, Parish Collaborative.**
36. **Rev. Joseph McCormick, OSA**, has been re-appointed **Pastor, Our Lady of the Lake, Edwardsburg and St. Ann Parish, Cassopolis, Parish Collaborative.**

37. **Rev. Thomas McNally**, has been re-appointed as **Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph and Chaplain, Lake Michigan Catholic High School, St. Joseph, with the additional appointment as Spiritual Moderator, Lake Michigan Catholic Schools.**
38. **Rev. James Morris**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph, has been appointed **Pastor, St. Basil Parish, South Haven, Sacred Heart Parish, Bangor and St. Jude Parish, Gobles, Parish Collaborative.**
39. **Rev. James O’Leary** continues as **Pastor, St. Ambrose Parish, Parchment.**
40. **Rev. Bruno Okoli**, who was ordained to the priesthood on May 21, has been appointed **Parochial Vicar to St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage, Parish Collaborative.**
41. **Msgr. Michael Osborn**, Vicar General, General Secretary and Director of Vocations for the Diocese **has been named Rector, St. Augustine Cathedral Parish Collaborative.**
42. **Rev. German Perez-Diaz**, currently serving as Pastor, SS. John & Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor, has been appointed **in-residence at Immaculate Conception, Hartford Parish Collaborative and has been appointed Director of the Hispanic/Latino Apostolate for the Diocese of Kalamazoo.**
43. **Rev. Stephan Philip, MSFS**, has been re-appointed as **Pastor, St. Rose of Lima Parish, Hastings and St. Cyril Parish, Nashville, Parish Collaborative.**
44. **Rev. Harold Potter**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Stanislaus Parish, Dorr and Sacred Heart Mission, Allegan, has been appointed **Chaplain to the Lakeshore healthcare systems and institutions and will be in-residence at St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph.**
45. **Rev. Andrew Raczkowski**, who was ordained to the priesthood on May 21, has been appointed **Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo, Parish Collaborative.**

46. **Rev. Antony Rajesh, MSFS**, has been re-appointed Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Three Rivers and St. Clare Parish, Centreville, with the additional responsibilities of St. Barbara Parish, Colon.
47. **Rev. Evelio Ramirez**, has been re-appointed as Pastor, Holy Angels Parish, Sturgis and St. Joseph Mission, White Pigeon, Parish Collaborative.
48. **Rev. Paul Redmond**, who was ordained to the priesthood on May 21, has been appointed **Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph, St. Joseph Parish Collaborative**.
49. **Rev. Michael Rejent**, OSFS, has been re-appointed the Parochial Vicar, SS. John & Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor Parish Collaborative.
50. **Rev. James Richardson**, has been re-appointed Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Kalamazoo, and continues as Superior for the St. Philip Neri Oratory in formation.
51. **Rev. Stephen Rodrigo**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Mary Visitation Parish, Byron Center, has been appointed Senior Parochial Vicar to two of the Parish Collaboratives in Northern Allegan County St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, Wayland and Sts. Cyril&Methodius Parish, Wayland (Gun Lake) and St. Mary Visitation, Byron Center, St. Stanislaus, Dorr and Sacred Heart Watson Parish Collaborative. He will also serve as Canonical Pastor for the St. Mary Visitation, Byron Center, St. Stanislaus, Dorr and Sacred Heart, Watson Collaborative.
52. **Rev. Alphonse Savarimuthu, MSFS**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Niles & St. Gabriel Parish, Berrien Springs, has been appointed **Pastor, St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, Wayland and Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Gun Lake, Parish Collaborative**.
53. **Rev. Kenneth Schmidt**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Thomas More Parish, Kalamazoo, has been appointed **Pastor, St. Catherine of Siena Parish Collaborative**.

- 54. Rev. Brian Stanley**, currently serving as Administrator, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Three Oaks & St. Agnes Mission, Sawyer, has been appointed **Pastor, Sts. John/Bernard Parish Collaborative**.
- 55. Rev. Mark Vyverman**, has been re-appointed **Pastor, St. Charles of Borromeo Parish, Coldwater and Our Lady of Fatima Mission, Union City**.
- 56. Rev. Stanley Witek**, currently serving as Administrator, St. Peter Parish, Douglas, has been appointed **Parochial Vicar, St. Catherine of Siena Parish Collaborative**.
- 57. Rev. Joseph Xavier, MSFS**, currently serving as Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Paw Paw and Canonical Pastor, St. Jude Parish, Gobles, has been appointed **Pastor *in solidum* of the Parish Collaborative: St. Mary Parish, Paw Paw, St. Jude Parish, Gobles and St. Mary Margaret Parish, Marcellus**.

Diocese of Kalamazoo moves forward with Diocesan Pastoral Plan with priest assignments to 28 Parish Collaboratives

MAY 23, 2016 (KALAMAZOO, MICH.): The Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley announced full implementation of the “Diocesan Pastoral Plan: A Future Full of Hope” on July 1, 2016 which includes new priestly assignments. Phase one of the plan began in January 2016 with the creation of 28 Parish Collaboratives in the nine counties of the Diocese.

Following is a list of the 28 Parish Collaboratives (listed alphabetically by county) and the priests appointed to each one. See “Diocesan Pastoral Plan: A Future Full of Hope” At a Glance Backgrounder for additional information.

PRIESTLY ASSIGNMENTS LISTED BY PARISH COLLABORATIVE

ALLEGAN COUNTY – 4 Parish Collaboratives

- 1. St. Peter Parish, Douglas; San Felipe de Jesus , Pearl (Fennville)**
 - Pastor: Rev. Fabio Garzon

- 2. St. Mary’s Visitation Parish, New Salem; St. Stanislaus Parish, Dorr; Sacred Heart Mission, Watson**
 - Administrator: Rev. Christopher Derda
 - Canonical Pastor/Senior Parochial Vicar: Rev. Stephen Rodrigo

- 3. St. Therese Parish, Wayland; SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Wayland**
 - Pastor: Rev. Alphonse Savarimuthu, MSFS
 - Senior Parochial Vicar: Rev. Stephen Rodrigo

- 4. Blessed Sacrament Parish, Allegan; St. Margaret Parish, Otsego**

- Pastor: Rev. Benjamin Huynh
- Retired In Residence: Rev. Gordon Greene & Rev. Donald Klingler

BARRY COUNTY – 2 Parish Collaboratives

- 1. St. Rose of Lima Parish, Hastings; St. Cyril Mission, Nashville**
 - Pastor: Rev. Stephen Philip, MSFS
- 2. St. Ann Parish, Gull Lake (Kalamazoo County); St. Ambrose Mission, Delton; Our Lady of Great Oak Mission, Lacey**
 - Pastor: Rev. John Fleckenstein
 - Parochial Vicar: Rev. Robert Johansen

BERRIEN COUNTY – 5 Parish Collaboratives

- 1. St. Anthony Parish, Buchanan; St. Gabriel Parish, Berrien Springs; Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Bridgman**
 - Pastor: Rev. Arthur Howard
 - Parochial Vicar: Rev. Leonel Cartagena (with special care for the Hispanic/Latino community of St. Gabriel, Berrien Springs)
- 2. St. Mary of the Lake Parish, New Buffalo; St. Mary's Assumption Parish, Three Oaks; St. Agnes Parish, Sawyer**
 - Pastor: Rev. Patrick Craig
 - Parochial Vicar: Rev. Daniel Doctor
- 3. Sts. John/Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor**
 - Pastor: Rev. Brian Stanley
 - Parochial Vicar: Rev. Michael Rejent,
- 4. St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph; Lake Michigan Catholic Schools**
 - Pastor: Very Rev. Robert Creagan
 - Parochial Vicar & Chaplain/Spiritual Moderator for Lake Michigan Catholic Schools: Rev. Thomas McNally

- Parochial Vicar: Rev. Paul Redmond
- Chaplain for Healthcare Ministry: Rev. Harold Potter

5. St. Mary Parish, Niles; St. Mark Parish, Niles* [to be phased in as Parish Collaborative after the retirement of Rev. Thomas King, CSC in 2018]

- St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception:
 - Pastor: Rev. Christian Johnston
- St. Mark:
 - Pastor: Rev. Thomas King, CSC

BRANCH COUNTY – 1 Parish Collaborative

1. St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Coldwater; Our Lady of Fatima Mission, Union City; St. Mary's Assumption Parish, Bronson* [to be phased in after the retirement of Rev. Richard Fritz in 2018]

St. Charles Borromeo Parish and Our Lady of Fatima Parish:

- Pastor: Rev. Mark Vyverman
- Parochial Vicar: Rev. Raul Gomez (with special care for the Hispanic/Latino community of St. Mary of the Assumption, Bronson)

St. Mary of the Assumption, Bronson

- Pastor: Rev. Richard Fritz

CALHOUN COUNTY – 2 Parish Collaboratives

1. St. Mary Parish, Marshall; St. John Parish, Albion

- Pastor: Rev. Craig Lusk
- Retired in residence at St. John, Albion: Rev. Joseph Gray

2. St. Philip Parish, St. Joseph Parish, St. Jerome Parish, Battle Creek; St. Philip Catholic Central

- Pastor: Rev. Christopher Ankley

- Chaplain/Spiritual Moderator: Rev. Simon Chummar Manjooran, SDB
- Parochial Vicar: Rev. Jose Haro
- Chaplain Hospital/Part-time Parochial Vicar: Rev. Rob Johansen

CASS COUNTY – 2 Parish Collaboratives

1. Holy Maternity of Mary Parish, Dowagiac; Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Silver Creek; Holy Family Parish, Decatur

- Pastor: Rev. Richard Altine
- Parochial Vicar (in residence at Holy Family Parish, Decatur): Rev. Wieslaw Lipka

2. Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edwardsburg; St. Ann Parish, Cassopolis

- Pastor: Rev. Joseph McCormick, OSA
- Retired in residence at St. Ann Parish, Cassopolis: Rev. Donald Potts

KALAMAZOO COUNTY – 6 Parish Collaboratives

1. St. Augustine Cathedral

- Pastor: Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley, Bishop, Diocese of Kalamazoo
- Rector: Msgr. Michael Osborn
- Vice Rector: Rev. Francis Marotti
- Parochial Vicar/Director Vietnamese Apostolate: Rev. James Vinh Le

2. St. Thomas More Parish, Kalamazoo

- Pastor: Rev. Daniel Hyman

3. St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo

- Pastor: Msgr. Michael Hazard
- Parochial Vicar: Rev. Andrew Raczkowski

4. St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo

- Pastor: Rev. Lawrence Farrell; Canonical Pastor of Hackett Catholic Prep
- Chaplain/Spiritual Moderator of Hackett Catholic Prep and Parochial Vicar: Rev. James Adams
- Retired in residence: Fr. Robert Consani
- Parochial Vicar: Rev. Vanathaiyan Savarimuthu, MSFS to be assigned upon arrival in mid-June

5. St. Mary Parish, Kalamazoo; St. Ambrose Parish, Parchment [to be phased in upon retirement of Rev. James O'Leary]

- **St. Ambrose Parish**
 - Pastor: Rev. James O'Leary
 - Chaplain for Kalamazoo Hospital and healthcare systems: Rev. Kevin Covert
- **St. Mary Parish**
 - Pastor: Rev. James Richardson, Superior, St. Philip Neri Oratory in formation

6. St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage

- Pastor: Rev. Kenneth Schmidt
- Senior Parochial Vicar: Rev. William Jacobs
- Parochial Vicar: Rev. Stanley Witek
- Parochial Vicar: Rev. Bruno Okoli

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY – 3 Parish Collaboratives

1. Holy Angels Parish, Sturgis; St. Joseph Parish, White Pigeon

- Pastor: Rev. Evelio Ramirez

2. Immaculate Conception Parish, Three Rivers; St. Clare Parish, Centreville; St. Barbara Parish, Colon

- Pastor: Rev. Antony Rajesh, MSFS

3. St. Martin of Tours Parish, Vicksburg; St. Edward Parish, Mendon

- Pastor: Msgr. Thomas Martin; also Judicial Vicar, Diocese of Kalamazoo

VAN BUREN COUNTY – 3 Parish Collaboratives

1. St. Joseph Parish, Watervliet (Berrien County); Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartford

- Pastor: Rev. John Peter Ambrose, MSFS
- Director of Hispanic/Latino Apostolate; In-residence at Immaculate Conception, Hartford: Rev. German Perez-Diaz

2. St. Mary Parish, Paw Paw; St. Margaret Mary Parish, Marcellus; St. John Bosco Parish, Mattawan

- Pastor *in solidum*: Rev. Joseph Xavier, MSFS
- Pastor *in solidum*: Rev. Alan Jorgensen

3. St. Basil Parish, South Haven; Sacred Heart Parish, Bangor; St. Jude Parish, Gobles

- Pastor: Rev. James Morris
- Senior Parochial Vicar: Rev. Robert Flickinger (in residence at Sacred Heart, Bangor)

The Diocesan Pastoral Plan: A Future Full of Hope AT A GLANCE

Who:

- The Diocese of Kalamazoo, founded in 1971, with more than 110,000 Catholics in Southwest Michigan is embarking on a historic Diocesan Pastoral Plan – the first of its kind in its almost 45-year-history.
- The 58* priests in the Diocese of Kalamazoo will begin (or continue) assignments to be effective July 1, 2016.
- Twenty-eight will be appointed Pastors and 30 will be assigned as Parochial Vicars and/or Chaplains and other special assignments as noted.

What:

- The 59 parishes of the Diocese are creating 28 Parish Collaboratives. These Collaboratives range from one to three Parishes.
- The Parishes retain individual identities, are lead by one Pastor and additional pastoral staff as assigned. The Parish Collaborative decides on a local level the best opportunities for combining resources and strengthening the faith communities.

When:

- The Parish Collaboratives were announced by Bishop Bradley in January 2016 and will be fully operational on **July 1st, 2016** when the priests assume (or continue) their assignments.

Where:

- The Diocese of Kalamazoo in Southwest Michigan consists of nine counties. The seat of the Diocese is Kalamazoo and St. Augustine Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Diocese.

Why:

- Bishop Bradley wanted a plan that provides the best pastoral care for the people and allowing for all Parishes to remain open.
- The number of priests retiring or about to retire was outpacing the number of priests being ordained.

- The plan is a proactive approach and vocations-hopeful as the Diocese positions itself for growth and the expectation it will need all 59 parishes to best serve the people.

How:

- Beginning in mid-2015 Bishop Bradley began a series of consultations with the priests and lay faithful of the Diocese to create a Diocesan Pastoral Plan to proactively address the priest to parishioner ratio and plan for the best pastoral care of the people.
- Priests were convened and consulted for input and feedback during a series of meetings for six months prior to the January 2016 announcement of the 28 Parish Collaboratives.
- Priests, parish staffs, diocesan personnel and lay volunteers have participated in a number of leadership workshops to best equip them for dealing with the transition and envisioning the new model within the age of the new evangelization.

Next Steps:

- Parish Transition Teams consisting of parishioners from the Parish Collaboratives will help the Pastor guide the transition. Additionally Parish Support Teams consisting of staff of the Diocesan Pastoral Center have been assigned to assist Parish Collaboratives as needed during the transition.

*57 priest's appointments announced on May 23, 2016. One priest, Rev. Vanathaiyan Savarimuthu, MSFS, from the St. Francis de Sales order will arrive in the Diocese in June for official appointment.