



Diocese of Youngstown

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

March 10, 2024

Dear Holy Spirit Parishioners,

As you know, the diocese continues to deal with the shortage of priests, while also desiring to support our parishes as they live missionary discipleship in new ways. Throughout the diocese, priests are serving multiple parishes. This regional model for ministry not only helps us navigate the priest shortage, it also allows for a more vibrant experience for parish life as we share our strengths across parishes.

I write today to announce a change in pastoral leadership of your parish. After consultation with the Priest Personnel Board and as part of the continuing implementation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for parishes and clergy personnel, and with a deep intentionality to build a culture of collaboration and shared resources, I am appointing Reverend John Keehner as pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Ashtabula, Saint Andrew Parish, Sheffield, and Corpus Christi Parish, Conneaut, and as Dean of the Ashtabula County Deanery effective May 1, 2024 and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Geneva effective July 1, 2024; The immediacy of this change respects Father Keehner's previous request for a (3) three month sabbatical from August 7, 2024 – November 7, 2024.

I am grateful to Father Keehner for his service, leadership, and pastoral guidance provided to the parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish. I am sure you will join me in thanking him for his priestly ministry.

I am also happy to announce the appointment of Reverend Matthew Zwilling as pastor of Holy Spirit Parish and Saint Paul Parish in North Canton effective May 1, 2024.

I remain grateful to Father Keehner and Father Zwilling for their willingness to assume these important pastoral assignments and I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to Father Keehner for his care provided to you over these past years.

I thank you for your understanding and continued faith and commitment to your parish. Please know of my prayers for you, and I ask for your prayers for me, as we continue to testify to the light, *That All May Be One*.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Bonnar
Bishop of Youngstown