



DIocese of YOUNGSTOWN

April 23, 2022

Holy Spirit Parish
2952 Edison St. NW
Uniontown, OH 44685

Dear Holy Spirit Parishioners,

Our Diocese is in the midst of a regional plan centered on living the mission of the Church. Since I arrived in 2021, I have affirmed this plan and encouraged our pastors and parishes to be bold in embracing what Pope Francis calls a “missionary option.”

Holy Spirit Parish has embraced this vision through efforts of collaboration and innovation, allowing you to adapt to changing circumstances and spread the Joy of the Gospel. One of the imminent realities we are facing is fewer priests to support and strengthen us. This year, we have only one priest being ordained, with nine priests retiring. Among these retirements is your pastor, who has served the people of Holy Spirit and of the Diocese for many years. I thank Father Zapp for his years of faithful service as a pastor and a priest.

In light of these realities, I recently met with all diocesan priests to discuss the best way to use our priests and work together for the good of the Church. This weekend, I am announcing assignments throughout the Diocese that will allow us to best use our priests, deacons, and lay ecclesial ministers.

I am pleased to announce that, effective July 1st, Father John Keehner, pastor of St. Paul in North Canton, will also become the Pastor for Holy Spirit Parish. Your parish will also be served sacramentally and pastorally by Father Simon Mino, who I am pleased to appoint as Parochial Vicar for both parishes. Father Mino will reside on the campus of St. Paul Parish in North Canton.

I am also pleased to appoint Mrs. Anne Weeks as your Pastoral Associate, with responsibility to work with Father Keehner in guiding your parish’s administrative and ministry efforts. Anne has served your parish faithfully for many years, and I am grateful to her for taking on these additional responsibilities. Having fewer priests also means adjusting the current number of scheduled Masses. In the coming weeks, this will be addressed and put in place by July 1st.

Please continue to pray for our priests, deacons, and lay ecclesial ministers; for an increase in vocations; and for me. As the regional plan continues to unfold, I ask for your openness to live the mission of the Church. Above of all, let us trust in the Spirit, who leads us into deeper mission, “That All May Be One”.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Bonnar
Bishop of Youngstown

DJB/sdmp