



## THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

*Renew Faith • Build Communion • Inspire Hope*

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

### **LETTER TO THE FAITHFUL OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH, ST. JOSEPH; SS. JOHN & BERNARD PARISH, BENTON HARBOR; AND ST. JOSEPH PARISH, WATERVLIET**

May 25/26, 2019  
Sixth Sunday of Easter

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord,

As you know, it was my hope three years ago when we formed the new Parish Collaboratives, that annual transfers of priests would be much less frequent, and this, in turn, would provide a needed stability for our parishes throughout the Diocese. Due to losses of priests and a number of other difficulties, changes continue to be needed each year, and some parishes have experienced greater turnover than others. Unfortunately, the three Parishes in your Collaborative have not been exempted in this respect as I respond to the needs of all the parishes.

It has been with this in mind that I have spent many hours in prayer considering how the pastoral needs of all the faithful in the Diocese can best be met, and have come to the inevitable conclusion that a good number of new transfers and assignments must be made. While I had hoped to be able to leave things as they are in St. Joseph, Benton Harbor, and Watervliet, I write to you today to share with you that several of your priests, who currently care for you, must be reassigned for ministry elsewhere in the Diocese. At the same time, I am confident that the new priests, who are being assigned to you will be warmly received and will care for you with hearts like that of the Good Shepherd.

I know that Fr. Bob Creagan has made a good and positive impact in the parishes during his relatively short time there. While he certainly would have preferred to stay among you, Fr. Bob has accepted my appointment as the new Rector of St. Augustine Cathedral in Kalamazoo; his assignment with you along the lakeshore will conclude on July 1<sup>st</sup>. At the same time, Fr. Ben Huynh, who has been working hard in the parishes as well, will also be taking on a new assignment on July 1<sup>st</sup>, as Parochial Vicar at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Portage, and I know that both he and Fr. Bob will be grateful for your prayers as they assume their new responsibilities.

At the same time, I am pleased to announce that Fr. Thomas McNally, currently the Vice Rector of St. Augustine Cathedral in Kalamazoo and Director of Vocations, has agreed to accept my appointment as the new Pastor and Moderator of the Collaborative, effective July 15, 2019. He will be joined by Fr. James Adams, who will be co-Pastor of the Collaborative with him, although his arrival will be delayed until August 1<sup>st</sup>. It is my sincere hope that both of your new parish priests, with the continued help of Fr. Patrick Craig and Fr. Arul Lazar, will, under Fr. McNally's capable leadership, usher in the next chapter of renewal in holiness and spiritual excellence in the life of these three wonderful Parishes.



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A note of gratitude is also in order to Fr. Alberto Bondy, who, after a year with us, will be returning to the Archdiocese of Detroit, where he served with distinction for many years. I wish to publicly thank him for all of the good priestly service and work that he has shared with us, and wish him every blessing as he returns home.

As always, please be assured of my continued prayers for each one of you and your families, and I ask that you support your new priests with your prayers and with the warm hospitality and goodness for which you are so well known.

Asking for your prayers for me and for our Diocese as we continue to *wait in joyful hope* for all the ways our Risen Lord makes Himself known to us, I remain,

Faithfully yours in Christ,

*+ Paul J. Bradley*

Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley  
Bishop of Kalamazoo