



Fr. Brian Johnson

Dear St. Pius X and St. Anthony Church Family,

Thank you so much for the warm welcome. I wanted to simply introduce myself and let you know how excited I am to begin serving with you. I am so grateful for the introductory email-welcomes that several of you sent to me before even arriving here last Tuesday. Thank you for that advance kindness. About Tuesday, I want to apologize about missing my first Lunch Bunch Gathering, as a funeral held me a few hours longer from leaving on time. But thank you so much for saving me a plate! I love knowing the Church is gathering to celebrate each other's company and sharing in good food with one another! That is a sign of lively parish community! I know I had heard from two earlier pastors of yours, Fr. Richard Powers and Msgr. George Hancock, about the ministry blessings and wonderful graces they received in their experiences serving as a priest with you. And most recently, from Fr. Anthoni. I thank him for allowing me to shadow him back in May as I came down one Wednesday to ride along with him and to concelebrate masses at both St. Pius and St. Anthony. It meant so much to first pray and have a daily Mass together with him in your sanctuaries. He blessed me with kind hospitality and some first road directions! Transition periods between pastors (like any change!) are a difficult time for everyone, and I will work hard to slip right in as seamlessly (and gracefully?) as possible.

I love to learn! I loved school (not saying I did good), so I look forward to learning the parishes' histories and all of our traditions here! Please don't assume that I am changing something, just because I do or don't do something we are used to; most likely, I don't know! So help me learn! I look forward to all of our first events and me personally meeting you and your families. Let's pray for each other!

A brief introduction: My mother and father are Steve and Patty Johnson. I have two brothers and their families: 1) Jeff & Kim, and children Samuel, Cambron and Kendall 2) Chris & Ann, and children Gage and Gene all living in Owensboro. I went through Catholic Schools in Owensboro, even doing college there at our only Catholic university in the Diocese, Brescia, before going into the seminary for the priesthood. I have been so blessed to be able serve as a priest for 21 years all across our Diocese at different times from east to west (literally, having helped priest-substitute at masses from our western-most parish of St Edward's Fulton to our eastern-most of Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington). Being a small Diocese, we are so blessed to have such a strong sense of local parish identity, and great family involvement and commitment to working together! I am so glad to be with you and pray for God to bless our ministry and service

One last note: I love God's Word! Today's gospel about seeds and the mysterious growth of the Kingdom of God brought this thought to my heart. If I pastor, this word of St Paul's says it all: "So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, **but only God, who makes things grow**" (1 Corinthians 3:7).

Peace and Prayers,

Fr. Brian Johnson