



Diocese of Pittsburgh

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Office of the Bishop

May 29, 2009

My dear sisters and brothers of the Church of Pittsburgh:

On April 22, 2009, in meetings with our priests, deacons and members of diocesan staff, and then in the April 24, 2009 issue of the *Pittsburgh Catholic*, I informed you of changes in how the Diocese and our parishes are being organized pastorally and practically so that we can be a better servant Church in support of *The Church Alive!*

In addition to changes that are being implemented in Pastoral Administration, I am establishing four regional vicariates that will replace the 16 deaneries we now have. These four regional vicariates will cover all six counties of the Diocese. While the exact boundaries of the four vicariates must be finalized this summer after consultation, I will make mention of what general areas each of the four vicars will serve.

In April, I announced that Father Robert F. Guay, pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Conway, will serve as one of those Regional Vicars. Father Guay will serve in the Vicariate which is proposed to comprise the northern and the central portion of Allegheny County, inclusive of the city of Pittsburgh and a portion of Butler County. Father Guay will also become a Vicar General of the Diocese along with Father Joseph M. Mele, Director of Spiritual Formation at Saint Paul Seminary and Director of Post-Ordination Formation.

The full-time assignment to serve as Regional Vicars in these four new vicariates is a challenging responsibility. Yet, as if any additional proof were needed of the quality of the presbyterate of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, I was given many names of wonderful priests who would make excellent Regional Vicars.

After having narrowed the numerous recommendations down to eight, after having given serious consideration to each, and following deliberative prayer, I am delighted to announce to you the other three priests who will serve along with Father Guay as our four regional vicars. They are:

- **Father Frederick L. Cain**, pastor of Holy Child Parish, Bridgeville. Ordained on May 16, 1970 by Bishop Leonard, Father Cain is presently the Dean of the Southwest Deanery. Among his many assignments in the Diocese, Father Cain served as Spiritual Director at Saint Paul Seminary and has served on the diocesan Worship Commission since 1977 and the Priests' Benefit Plan Board since 2002. The region Father Cain will serve as Regional Vicar is proposed to include southern and southeastern portions of Allegheny County.

- **Father Philip N. Farrell**, pastor of Saint Camillus Parish, Neshannock Township. Ordained on June 26, 1993 by Bishop Wuerl, Father Farrell is Dean of the Lawrence County Deanery and has been pastor of Saint Camillus since September 2002. Father Farrell also served as the CCD Deanery Director in the South Hills Deanery. The region Father Farrell will serve as Regional Vicar is proposed to include Lawrence County, the majority of Butler County and a portion of the Allegheny Valley region of Allegheny County.
- **Monsignor William M. Ogradowski**, pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Beaver. Ordained on June 29, 1975 by Pope Paul VI at Saint Peter Basilica in Rome, Monsignor Ogradowski served as Vice Rector and Rector of Saint Paul Seminary and later as Vice Rector of the North American College in Rome. Monsignor Ogradowski served as Dean of Beaver County (*pro tem*) several years ago. The region Monsignor Ogradowski will serve as Regional Vicar is proposed to include Beaver, Washington and Greene Counties.

I am so very grateful to these fine priests and pastors for their willingness to take on the new and exciting challenge of being our first Regional Vicars. These new appointments will necessitate their transfer from their current pastorates. My plan remains to have our Regional Vicariates inaugurated on October 1, 2009.

One of the unique facets of Catholic life is that we are **not** just a loose federation of individual parishes only marginally connected to each other and to the Church as a whole. As we acknowledge every time we proclaim the Creed at Mass, we are members of the Body of Christ that is one, holy, catholic and apostolic.

Our four new Regional Vicars will be catalysts to help our parishes work together, share resources together, and support each other together. Each Vicar with the authority of his office will represent me to the parishes within his Vicariate—and in turn each Vicar will represent the parishes in his Vicariate to me.

Through the Regional Vicars, we will have better communications, a greater ability to help overburdened pastors do their jobs, the promise of greater Church unity and greater collaboration among parishes, especially as we envision ministry and grow the Church under the careful and caring guidance of the Holy Spirit.

These are wonderful and exciting days for the Church of Pittsburgh, a time where we are experiencing *The Church Alive!*

Thank you for your ongoing support and for your continued prayers.

Grateful for our belief that “Nothing is Impossible with God,” I am

Your brother in Christ,

Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh