



Diocese of Pittsburgh
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Office of the Bishop

May 28, 2022

Dear Priests, Deacons and Faithful of the Diocese of Pittsburgh:

On April 12, 2015, we initiated *On Mission for The Church Alive!* with the goal of offering our faithful and those in the wider community a deeper relationship with Jesus and the Catholic Church.

Today, I am announcing the groupings that will merge into new parishes on July 1, 2022. These three parish groupings have worked diligently since October 2018 to foster relationships and have shared with me their desire and readiness to form a new parish community. After consulting with the diocesan Priest Council and Vicars General, the new parishes, effective July 1, 2022, are:

- **Divine Grace (Cranberry/Ellwood City/Zelienople)**, which brings together the parishes of Saint Ferdinand (Cranberry Township), Saint Gregory (Evans City/Zelienople) and Holy Redeemer (Ellwood City/Koppel/Wampum) to be served by Father James A. Wehner (Pastor), Father Mark L. Thomas (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father David J. Egan (Parochial Vicar), Father John P. Gallagher (Senior Priest), Deacon Jeffrey J. Ludwikowski and Deacon Donald C. Pepe;
- **Regina Coeli (Bellevue/Emsworth/Franklin Park)**, which brings together the parishes of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Bellevue), Saint John Neumann (Franklin Park) and Sacred Heart (Emsworth) to be served by Father Timothy X. Deely (Pastor), Father Jeffrey M. Craig (Parochial Vicar), Deacon Richard J. Caruso and Deacon William R. Palamara;
- **Saint Luke the Evangelist (Ambridge/Baden/Conway/Franklin Park)**, which brings together the parishes of Good Samaritan (Ambridge), Saint John the Baptist (Baden), Saints John the Paul (Franklin Park/Marshall Township) and Our Lady of Peace (Conway) to be served by Father John F. Donahue (Pastor), Father John J. Batykefer (Senior Parochial Vicar), Father Michael J. Roche (Parochial Vicar), Father Joseph A. Carr (Parish Chaplain), Deacon Thomas E. Boucek, Deacon Anthony J. Giordano and Deacon James R. Olson.

I offer my deepest thanks to the administrators, clergy teams and lay leaders of these three parish groupings who have helped make the vision of *On Mission for The Church Alive!* a living reality. Their examples of collaboration, courage and compassion have inspired me. Their collective

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efforts have gone beyond the practical matters related to merging parishes. They have encouraged their parishioners to deepen their relationship with Jesus and with each other, and this is the most important reason for *On Mission*. A vibrant parish with effective ministries is now on the horizon for these parishes as they realize the goal of an evangelizing Church, alive with the love of Christ and the love of neighbor.

As *On Mission* continues to unfold, may we unceasingly rely on the will and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, who gives us life as we come together for vibrant worship, responsive pastoral care and powerful evangelization. It is my daily prayer that every member of the Church of Pittsburgh is inspired by the powerful gifts of the Holy Spirit. I beg your prayers that those same gifts may always be at work in me.

In addition, I wish to share with you two other important notices.

Effective July 1, 2022, I have granted Father John B. Gizler, currently Regional Vicar of the North Vicariate, his request to begin a six-month leave of absence for reasons of health. I know that you join with me in expressing our gratitude to Father Gizler for the manner in which he has served in that capacity for the last two years. Our prayers go with him in this important new chapter in his life.

Also effective July 1, 2022, I have appointed Father Philip N. Farrell as the new Regional Vicar of the North Vicariate. You will remember that Father Farrell served as the Regional Vicar of the former Regional Vicariate IV before assuming his responsibilities as the Administrator of Saint Ferdinand Parish, Cranberry; Saint Gregory Parish, Zelienople; and Holy Redeemer Parish, Ellwood City. As I express my gratitude to Father Farrell for taking on these new responsibilities with which he is very familiar, we join in our prayers for him as he will provide valuable assistance to the parishes and faith communities in the North Regional Vicariate.

Grateful for our continued efforts together in being *On Mission for The Church Alive!*, and for our belief that “Nothing is Impossible with God,” I am

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Zubik". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

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