

A Note to the Parishioners of Most Holy Trinity and St. Mary Parishes

By Father Eric

During mid-May this past year, the Bishop asked me to consider being the Pastor at Most Holy Trinity in addition to continuing on at St. Mary's. As the vacancy at MHT occurred in late May, the Bishop was in a tough spot. The process for deciding which priests to move and where to move them usually takes place around January and extends through March. This allows the transfers to occur at the end of June each year. With the opening at MHT happening so late in the process and with important decisions needing to occur at the parish, there were not many options as to whom could be named the Pastor.

This year provides a fresh opportunity. Soon, the Bishop will post the position/role of Pastor at Most Holy Trinity to the priests of the Diocese. This will occur along with the postings for other parishes in need of a Pastor throughout the Diocese. I am confident that there will be interest in this position as MHT (and St. Mary's) are known as beautiful, vibrant, and intergenerational parishes with committed and faithful parishioners.

When the Bishop posts open parishes, priests usually have two weeks or so to submit an application. After the application period, the Bishop consults with the Priest Assignment Board (made up of priest representatives from throughout the Diocese). The Bishop listens to the Board but has the final say on any assignments. If the process goes as planned, a new Pastor for MHT likely would be announced in late February or March. The actual transition would take place at the end of June; at that time, I would step aside as Pastor of MHT and would continue as Pastor at St. Mary's.

It has been a tremendous honor and blessing to come back to my home parish and to try to play a role in its upbuilding. In the time ahead, I look forward to sharing with you some of the ways that the assignment as a whole and you specifically have graced me. So, there will be sadness in no longer being the Pastor at MHT. However, I am at peace and have a clear sense that this is the right thing to do. I believe that it is best for both parishes to have their own Pastors. So much good could happen at both parishes if their priests could be more present to them.

That the Bishop is likely to give MHT its own Pastor during a time of priest shortages is EXTREMELY good news for which we thank God. Our good God knows who would be best as the next Pastor. Our task is to pray that the right fit be found. We ask that the Holy Spirit guide that priest, the Bishop, and the Assignment Board in the upcoming weeks. Jesus has provided spiritually in some amazing ways for the people of this area for nearly 200 years, and He will continue to do so. We believe with all our hearts in Jesus' great love for us and we entrust this process to Him.