



Diocese of Pittsburgh

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Office of the Bishop

May 18, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Saint Camillus, Christ the King, Saint James the Apostle, Saint Joseph the Worker, Mary, Mother of Hope, Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Vitus Parishes:

Easter blessings as together we rejoice in the triumphant glory of the Risen Lord and his victory over death. May God fill your home with peace, hope and love.

Five years ago we initiated *On Mission for The Church Alive!* with the goal of offering a deeper relationship with Jesus and the Catholic Church. Over that time you have considered, prayed and planned about how best to serve God and his people through vibrant parishes and effective ministries.

Recently, after consultation with all parishioners regarding a plan for the merger of your parishes, the members of your Pastoral and Finance Councils signed a petition to move forward with that plan. In turn, your grouping administrator, Reverend Joseph R. McCaffrey, petitioned me to merge the parishes. On March 26, 2019, the diocesan Priest Council and Vicars General gave unanimous consent to the proposal, and I have decided to enact these recommendations.

Effective July 1, 2019, your current parishes will cease to exist, and the new parish of Holy Spirit will take their place. No church buildings will close at this time while your parish considers what buildings will best serve the needs of the faithful and the community. At a minimum, Mass is to be celebrated in each of them on the anniversary of their dedication and on the solemnity of their patron saint. At this time the name of the school associated with the parish, Saint Vitus School, will not change.

Every member of your current parishes is entitled to join Holy Spirit Parish, whether or not they live within its boundaries. Holy Spirit Parish will also inherit all of the assets, responsibilities and liabilities of the current parishes.

Holy Spirit Parish will be served by the following clergy team:

- Rev. Joseph R. McCaffrey, Pastor
- Rev. William P. Siple, Senior Parochial Vicar
- Rev. Anthony R. Sciarappa, Parochial Vicar
- Rev. Victor J. Molka, Jr., Parish Chaplain
- Deacon John J. Carran
- Deacon S. Daniel Kielar

I am deeply grateful to your priests and deacons for their care and leadership throughout this process. Their service as good shepherds will continue to lead you closer to Jesus as this new parish community grows.

Your inspiring example of collaboration, courage and compassion is a model for the entire Diocese of Pittsburgh and is greatly appreciated. As *On Mission for The Church Alive!* continues to unfold, your experience will benefit others as they seek to mobilize their resources for vibrant worship, responsive pastoral care and powerful evangelization.

This has not been a simple task. Jesus never promised that it would be easy to carry his message of love and mercy to others. He was clear that sacrifice would be necessary. However, you are positioning your new parish for more effective ministry by addressing serious financial problems, sharing resources and allowing your clergy to focus on the spiritual work for which they were ordained.

With your faith in Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit, I invite you to warmly welcome and serve each other as you become one parish family. May you discover the mission that God has planned for you to share.

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,

+ *David A. Zubik*

Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh