



DIocese OF BRIDGEPORT

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

June 13, 2020

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish and Saint Patrick:

I am writing to you today with some significant news regarding your parishes.

As you know, Father David Leopold will be retiring as Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish on August 31st of this year. I am very grateful to Father Leopold for his dedicated service at Sacred Heart for the last twelve years, and I am also thankful that he will continue to serve as Spiritual Director of Saint John Fisher Seminary going forward.

With the retirement of Father Leopold, and after consulting with the Diocesan Presbyteral Council and the parish leadership of Sacred Heart and Saint Patrick, I have decided to begin a merger planning process for the two parishes. The process will be led by a Collaborative Committee made up of the lay leadership of both Sacred Heart and Saint Patrick. I will work closely with the Committee and hopefully meet with them personally in the fall. As the work of the Committee progresses, parishioners of both parishes will be regularly updated through electronic communications, and information will be provided on the parish websites. Before the merger is completed, probably in the spring or summer of next year, Sacred Heart and Saint Patrick will remain two distinct parishes with separate budgets, personnel, parish and finance councils and religious education programs.

In order to facilitate the merger process, I am appointing Father Peter Lenox, currently Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Norwalk, as Parochial Administrator of Sacred Heart Parish, effective August 31, 2020. Father Lenox will work with Father Joe Cervero, Pastor of Saint Patrick, and the Collaborative Committee in bringing the merger to completion. Upon completion of the merger, Father Cervero will become the Pastor of the newly-merged parish.

During the interim period before the merger, Father Lenox and Father Cervero will also work with a team of several other priests who will regularly celebrate Masses at both parishes. Please be aware that given the new pastoral arrangement, it may be that the Mass schedule at both parishes will need to be modified.

Beginning August 31, 2020, Father John Inserra, who has been serving at Sacred Heart since 2014, will be taking a three-month sabbatical, which is available to all priests who are ordained 15 years or more. After that period of spiritual renewal, I will assign Father Inserra to another ministry in the Diocese. Please join me in thanking him for his ministry at Sacred Heart and praying for him during his sabbatical period.

Thanking you for your cooperation and patience through this process, I assure you of my prayers for you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+frank j. caggiano

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport