



Diocese of Fall River
Office of the Bishop
Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.

July 1, 2020

Dear Parishioners of St. John of God, St. Dominic's and St. Francis of Assisi,

It has been almost a year since you became one of the many collaboratives to emerge within the Diocese. I am so grateful to all of you for your openness to the process and willingness to come together as a community while maintaining your individual parish identities.

This process of strategic planning is one that needs constant evaluation and adaptation so that we can support and encourage what is working, as well as make adjustments when things are not working as well as we had hoped.

Through my regular conversations with Fr. Philip Hamel and meetings with my planning leadership team and personal board, as well as input from lay leaders across the three parishes, it became increasingly clear to me that this might be a good time to adjust the initial structure of the collaborative.

In particular, St. John of God Parish, for many reasons did not seem to be the right fit for partnering with St. Dominic's and St. Francis of Assisi. Therefore, St. John of God will be moving to an independent parish for the time being. Gratefully, we had a priest available for this assignment.

Effective earlier this week, June 30, 2020, Fr. Jason Brillhante returned as Administrator at St. John of God. We are thankful that Fr. Brillhante is familiar with the parish and will be looking for opportunities for St. John of God to work collaboratively with neighboring parishes in Somerset. We recognize that independent parishes in this region may not be sustainable in the future so are appreciative that Fr. Brillhante and the people of St. John of God remain open to working with others.

To parishioners at St. Dominic's and St. Francis of Assisi, thank you for your patience during this process. I pray that moving forward your partnership grows even stronger.

Thank you to Fr. Philip Hamel for his hard work over the last year and to Fr. Jason Brillhante for his enthusiasm in taking on this assignment. I am also grateful to each of you, the devoted members of these parishes, for your patience and prayer. I believe that this re-adjustment will be good for each of the parishes involved and know I will be counting on your continued prayerful support as we work together to strengthen the Diocese of Fall River.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.
Bishop of Fall River