



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 27, 2018

Dear Faithful of St. Joseph Parish,

Allow me to express my greetings and ongoing pastoral care and concern for St. Joseph Parish. As Bishop, it is necessary for me to share some news about your Pastor, Fr. Thomas Zalewski.

The Diocese of Venice recently had an unanticipated pastoral vacancy. After careful reflection and broad consultation with the Priest Personnel Board, Fr. Zalewski was appointed to be the new Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Naples which has been without a Pastor for a few months. With confidence, I know that Fr. Thomas is the right Priest to meet the spiritual needs of the parishioners in his new assignment.

Understandably, the faithful of St. Joseph Parish will be deeply disappointed to lose this hard-working and talented Priest. Father Zalewski's new assignment, will be effective as of October 8, 2018. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Fr. Zalewski for his service, especially his dedication to St. Joseph School. Please express your gratitude to Fr. Thomas for his ministry at St. Joseph Parish and assure him of your ongoing prayers as he assumes his new responsibilities.

With the upcoming departure of Fr. Zalewski, I am in the process of consulting the Priest Personnel Board and will carefully consider the appointment of a new Administrator/Pastor for pastoral care of the faith community at St. Joseph Parish. It is my intention to do this in a prompt and expeditious manner. Seeing that Fr. Shawn Roser is newly ordained, I am appointing Fr. Sebastian Szczawinski to oversee and assist with pastoral care in the interim. Please pray that this process will be guided by God's providence. In addition, offer prayers for the priest who will be named to shepherd the Parish.

This occasion is taken to express my gratitude to the Catholic Faithful of St. Joseph Parish for your understanding and faithfulness. Please be assured of my ongoing pastoral concern as well as remembrance in prayer. May God bless you and your family as well as the Parish of St. Joseph.

Sincerely Yours in Christ

+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida

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