

## ANNOUNCEMENT

**B**efore I begin my homily today, I need to share with you the news that, on August 31<sup>st</sup>, I will be leaving St. Francis of Assisi Parish to begin a new assignment. At the recommendation of the Commission for the Clergy, Bishop Rozanski will be appointing me as the new pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in West Springfield, upon the retirement of its current pastor, Fr. Kenneth Tatro.

I want to be very forthright and let you know that when I learned that Fr. Tatro was retiring, I felt the inclination to consider applying to be his successor. After much prayer and reflection, and after consulting some close priest friends, I decided that I would apply for the parish and left it in the hands of the Bishop's Commission for the Clergy, guided by the Holy Spirit.

At this point in time, a new pastor for St. Francis of Assisi Parish has not been named. In the next few weeks, the Bishop's Commission for the Clergy will be meeting in the hope of recommending a new pastor to Bishop Rozanski. Once that process is complete, I will make an official announcement here at Mass. Please note that if you hear of anyone being appointed between now and my official announcement, that would be pure speculation and rumor.

We still have a little over three months together and much to do. I will have more to share with you as I come closer to the end of my time with you. Please pray for me in these coming weeks as I pray for you each day, and also for Fr. Tatro and the people of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish as they move through this same process of transition. Please pray, too, for the Clergy Commission and Bishop Rozanski in their work of assigning a new pastor here. *js*