



Immaculate Heart Church

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3/2/24

Dear Friends, parish members:

Since July of 2022 Immaculate Heart Church and St. Emily have been under my care as your pastor. There have been many blessings and challenges. I have personally discovered and others have observed a change in my ability to pastor effectively. I have been affected by circumstances revolving around my mental, emotional and physical health.

Bishop Daniel Felton and I have discussed (for some time) what can be done to make things better for me. His view has always been as that of a father to me. He is very concerned with the healing, hope and joy of his priests. He desires to facilitate the physical, spiritual, mental and emotional health of his priests so that we can serve the people of God in a healthy and holy way. I am included in his plan for me.

Our plan includes a Sabbatical starting for me after the Easter Weekend March 31st, 2024. A Sabbatical is a period of three months away from the parish, for me to work on the areas of growth in very pointed ways. I am grateful for this gift. I am looking forward with anticipation the healing hope and joy that awaits me with this Sabbatical.

In consulting with the bishop, it has also been decided that I will be reassigned to another parish or parishes in the Diocese of Duluth. I will return to Immaculate Heart and St. Emily for a brief time in the middle of June and early July and then say goodbye and journey to where God wills.

I will carry you in my daily prayer and beg of you the same. The love that God has for me and your love has been clear, thank you for your kindness, your care and your trust. I am humbled by the ways you have been there for me.

Regarding the sacramental coverage and pastoral care during the months I am on Sabbatical, the Bishop will provide through his priests.

In conclusion I would like to share my favorite scripture passage. It is John 12:46:

"I, the Light, have come into the World, so that whoever believes in me, need not stay in the dark anymore"

Jesus is our light.

In Christ;


Fr. David