



June 1, 2018

TO: Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

May the peace of the Risen Lord be with all of you!

I hope this letter finds you all well, enjoying the beauties of summer in New Orleans. This is a time to relax and renew one's spirits. This is also a time when many transitions take place. I write to you to explain some changes that will take place at Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish over the next year. Archbishop Aymond has approved my proposals.

First, Fr. Eddie Gros has served you very well as Pastor in these last five years. He has thrown himself into parish ministry with the mixture of zeal and love that always characterizes him. He has ministered to all of you in a very personal way, always living out the message of the Lord that he preaches so eloquently. He has shown a special love and care for the parish school and it has flourished under his watch. He has also done great work in overseeing the resources of the parish. You have all responded positively to his ministry, something I have heard every time I have visited. Yet, now comes a time for transition. On July 1, Fr. Gros will begin a well-deserved six-month sabbatical. This will give him time to prepare for his next ministry. I am grateful – as are you – for the many ways in which he has served you all.

On July 1, Fr. Ronald Boudreaux will assume the role of Parish Administrator. Fr. Boudreaux, a fellow Louisianan, served as Administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and helped get the parish back on its feet. He has extensive pastoral and administrative experience, most recently as Director of our retreat house in Lake Dallas, Texas. He is a fine preacher who is very devoted to providing people with the loving care of the Lord. He will serve you well.

You may well ask why he will be an Administrator. Part of Fr. Boudreaux's responsibility will be to help mentor the man who will become your Pastor on September 1, 2019, Fr. Mark Thibodeaux. (I hope you will refrain from the temptation of Boudreaux – Thibodeaux jokes.) Fr. Mark is currently our Novice Director in Grand Coteau; he will complete 10 years of service there on August 12. He is a noted author, spiritual director, and speaker. He has great pastoral experience and will serve you well. He will be on sabbatical from August 12 to December 31. From January through August, he will learn the ropes of being a Pastor under the guidance of Fr. Boudreaux. I

am very grateful to Archbishop Aymond for approving these changes and for the constant care he has shown to the parish and to the Society of Jesus. I know both Fr. Ron and Fr. Mark will serve you as well as has Fr. Eddie. Jesuits have long served at Most Holy Name of Jesus and you have all been most gracious in helping them shepherd your parish.

Again, I want to thank Fr. Eddie for all he has done; he is truly a shepherd in the image of Pope Francis. My thanks too to Fr. Ron and Fr. Mark for their willingness to accept this call. Finally, and most importantly, my thanks to all of you for your constant support of my brother Jesuits. May God richly bless all of you and all the works of Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

Your brother in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald A. Mercier, S.J." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Ronald A. Mercier, S.J.
Provincial