

Frequently asked Questions

1. *What is happening and Why?*

Father Ramon Owera, Administrator, St. Elizabeth Church, will be leaving the parish on a date yet to be determined. Father has served in various parishes over the past twenty-seven years as a member of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception Order (CFIC). After careful reflection, Fr. Ramon has requested and received approval from his Superior General in Rome and Bishop Campbell to leave his religious Order and, through the process of incardination, to become a priest of the Diocese of Columbus.

2. *What does it mean to incardinate into the diocese?*

Incardination is the act of canonically adopting a cleric from another order or diocese. All priests and deacons are under the jurisdiction of a particular bishop or religious superior and there are specific laws governing how a transfer from one diocese or religious order to another takes place. The cleric must request to move under a specific bishop and be accepted. He must also request to be let go or "excardinated" from his current bishop, or the Superior of the Order, and be released. The purpose of incardination is to ensure that no cleric, whether deacon or priest, is "freelance," or without a clear ecclesiastical (church) superior to whom he is responsible.

3. *If Fr. Ramon is now a priest in the diocese of Columbus – why is he leaving St. Elizabeth?*

St. Elizabeth parish is administered by the CFIC per agreement between the Diocese and the Order. Since Fr. Ramon is no longer a member of CFIC he cannot serve at St. Elizabeth. However, until his successor arrives, Bishop Campbell has asked Fr. Ramon to remain in his present position with us. Fr. Ramon will be given a new assignment within the diocese by Bishop Campbell. The CFIC will assign a new administrator with Bishop Campbell's approval.

4. *Has the CFIC identified and Bishop Campbell approved, a new Administrator for St. Elizabeth?*

The CFIC is working diligently to facilitate the transition of a new Administrator to St. Elizabeth.

5. *What will happen to Father Jesse and Fr. Sudhakar?*

Fr. Jesse Chick, CFIC and Fr. Sudhakar Reddy, CFIC will continue their ministries in the parish and diocese. Both will remain "in residence" at St. Elizabeth.

6. *Do we know where Fr. Ramon will be assigned?*

Not at this time. That will be decided by Bishop Campbell based on the needs of the Diocese.

7. *Will the Filipino Mass on First Saturdays continue?*

Fr. Ramon will continue to celebrate First Saturday evening masses in Tagalog at St. Elizabeth.

8. *What will become of our celebration of Simbang Gabi?*

Fr. Ramon will also celebrate Simbang Gabi at St. Elizabeth, December 15 – 23, 2018.

9. *How and when will we have the opportunity to say good-bye to Fr. Ramon?*

An appropriate event will be arranged in the future to allow the parish to say goodbye to Fr. Ramon, to thank him, and to wish him well in his future work in the Diocese of Columbus.