



## St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church

25 115<sup>th</sup> street  
Troy, New York 12182

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(518) 235-33861

March 31, 2024

*Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord*

*My dear friends,*

*I write to you today with what is a very hope-filled update on the status of St. Augustine's transition as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. Recently, I, along with the Associate Pastors, parish trustees, staff and school board members, met with Fr. Bob Longobucco, Vicar General, Tom Cronin, Director of Evangelization, and Bonnie Shippee, Chief Operating Officer of the Diocese to discuss the considerations involved with the Augustinians' departure.*

*I'm happy to say that Fr. Bob provided assurances that clergy will be available to meet the needs of both St. Augustine's and St. Mary's parishes, both for the celebration of mass and the Eucharist as well as other Sacraments. Understand that St. Augustine's will likely be assigned a lay administrator or "Pastoral Associate", someone who will oversee the daily operation of the parish. Clergymen of a particular Vicariate (group of collaborating parishes) will be here for masses. I'm sure it comes as no surprise that there is a shortage of priests in this diocese. There are approximately 50 priests to attend to the needs of 126 parishes. So, it's likely there will be several priests that share the responsibility of celebrating the sacraments.*

*The staff at both parishes will be meeting with Tom Cronin again to ensure that daily operations continue seamlessly.*

*One final note; Fr. Rob Hagan, the Provincial of our Order, has granted me permission to stay in Waterford for the foreseeable future as I continue to receive treatment for my ongoing health concerns. I am extremely grateful to him for this consideration.*

*As Pope Francis wrote in his Easter message last year, "Christòs anesti! – "Christ is risen; he is truly risen!" In this traditional proclamation of the Churches of the East, the word "truly" reminds us that our hope is not an illusion, but the truth!"*

*I truly believe we have much to be hopeful about and I look forward to being with you as this transition unfolds. I encourage you to reach out to any fellow parishioners who may have left St. Augustine's Parish in the midst of this uncertainty and stress to them that St. Augustine's is here to stay and needs and wants them back. May God bless you and your family with His choicest blessings, peace, love and joy.*

*Sincerely yours in Christ,*

*Fr. David Kelley, OSA  
Pastor*

*Ms. Cathy Conroy  
Parish Trustee*

*Mr. Gerry Mc Garvey  
Parish Trustee*