



Dear Parishioners,

The second Tuesday of July has come and gone, which means the new assignments of priests have taken effect. **Our new Parochial Vicar, Fr. William Ferguson, has arrived and taken up his post.** Because we are still being cautious about attending Mass, it may be a while before many of you meet him in person, but you will in due time. I am grateful to have Fr. Ferguson's assistance with the care of souls of St. Andrew Parish!

Several of our neighboring parishes also have new priests assigned to them. St. Timothy's new pastor is Fr. David Poliafico; St. Agatha's new pastor is Fr. Mark Summers; St. Peter's new pastor is Fr. Chris Tuttle; and Fr. Frank Brown is the new Parochial Vicar at St. Brendan's. There are many other new assignments around the Diocese that are also taking effect at this time. And while you still have the same old pastor here at St. Andrew (and I am very happy to be continuing as such), I do want to mention some changes that will affect me more directly (and lighten my workload somewhat). First of all, with the appointment of Fr. Hilary Ike to St. Mary Parish in Groveport, I no longer have a responsibility as Priest-Moderator for that parish. Also, you may have seen the recent announcement that the Diocese of Columbus has hired Laura Lewis to serve as the new Victim's Assistance Coordinator. She is replacing me in this role, one that I have fulfilled for the last 17 years and has consumed much of my time and energy. I am very relieved to be handing over these duties and responsibilities!

Finally, Fr. Michael Hartge has been appointed as Vice-Chancellor of the Diocese. He will be working with me, Deacon Tom Berg Jr. (Chancellor) and Bishop Brennan in the Chancery Office. Although my work as Vicar General will continue and I will still be working many hours at the Chancery each week, having Fr. Hartge on the team will be a great help to me. All of these assignments are good news. I feel very fortunate and blessed. Knowing that there is a severe shortage of priests, I am particularly grateful that Bishop Brennan assigned Fr. Ferguson to St. Andrew with me to serve you and minister to the needs of our parish.

On another note, **I am sure that many of you, like me, are experiencing "Coronavirus Fatigue."** We are tired of it all. We wonder if the restrictions will ever end, and each day our hope is diminished as the return to normalcy becomes ever more distant. As the number of cases rises our fear of becoming ill ourselves increases. This starts to affect our outlook and we become frustrated and edgy. Some people appear to lose their minds completely and throw caution to the wind, reject social distancing, and refuse to wear masks! How important it is for us to seek the virtues of prudence and patience! Clearly, we are in this for the long haul. **We must pace ourselves, and taking Christ as our model, remain faithful, docile, obedient, and hopeful as we persevere through every difficulty.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God--it is right and just!

Your Pastor,
Msgr. Stephan Moloney