

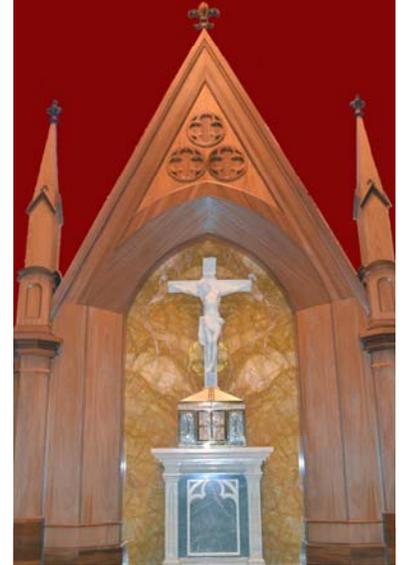
“Of this and that”

For priests and pastoral administrators and all of God’s faithful

From Bishop Hurley

Holy Week and Easter

I would like in this Holy Week to extend blessings to all God’s people and all those I have been called to serve. This week we celebrate the death and resurrection of the Lord which is the source of our salvation for if Christ is not risen then our faith is in vain. I would hope that many will make the special effort to participate in the Holy week services whether at the Cathedral or the parishes of the diocese. Some will be able to celebrate the Chrism Mass on Tuesday. Hopefully many will make a very special effort to attend the evening Masses in our parishes on Holy Thursday, the Good Friday liturgy and the Easter celebrations, whether the Vigil or the Mass on Easter Sunday. I have often heard these described as the “High Holydays” for Christians. Each of these services will be live streamed from the Cathedral and available on our website for those unable to attend the services.



Inside this issue

Holy Week & Easter	1
Some Good News.....	2
Priests Assignment.....	2
Out and About	3



Some Good News

I recently met with the three transitional deacons, Stephen Blaxton, Matthew Federico and Marc Hopps, to inform them that I have officially called them to ordination to the priesthood. The ordination ceremony will take place at the Cathedral on Friday, May 31 at 2:30 p.m. I am grateful for their willingness to serve the Diocese of Saginaw in the priesthood and ask your prayers for them as they prepare for this very special ministry in the Church. Each of their first assignments will be with a seasoned pastor who can, along with the parishes they serve, assist them in entering this special life of service. Please also pray for our four other seminarians as they continue their journey and for an increase in priestly vocations. I want to acknowledge the fine work of Father Andy Booms, currently the pastor of St. Brigid Parish in Midland, who has served as Vocation Director for the Diocese encouraging and guiding young men in their interest and pursuit of the priesthood. At the same time, I welcome Father Andy LaFramboise as the new director of Priestly Vocations effective June 1, 2019.

Priest Assignments

We are now in the process of making priest assignments to parishes. While it is my responsibility to make these assignments and I have gotten to know the priests of the diocese quite well, I rely heavily on the wisdom of the assignment board who assist and advise the Bishop in these appointments. The general pattern is that pastors are appointed for a six-year term with the possibility of renewal. Those appointed as Administrator of a parish are not assigned a term and may move more frequently. The Priest Administrator has the authority of a pastor, but does not have the same stability in the office as the pastor. Times of transition are often difficult for many priests and people. Please keep in your prayers all those affected by these appointments. It is also important to realize that change is often good for us all. We need to allow ourselves to be transformed by God's presence and call.

The following assignments have been made and announced with others to follow.

- Reverend Andrew LaFramboise, Pastor, St. Agnes Parish, Freeland; and Director of Priestly Vocations, effective June 1, 2019.

(Continued on next page)



Priest Assignments (continued)

- Reverend Robert Howe, Pastor, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Midland, effective July 1, 2019.
- Reverend Patrick Jankowiak, Pastor, Blessed Trinity Parish, Frankenmuth, effective July 1, 2019.
- Reverend Ronald Wagner, Pastor, Christ the Good Shepherd Parish, Saginaw in addition, Pastor, St. John Paul II Parish, Carrollton, effective July 1, 2019.
- Reverend Stephen Blaxton, following ordination, May 31, 2019, to Parochial Vicar, St. Dominic Parish, Saginaw; Chaplain of SVSU, Saginaw, effective July 1, 2019.
- Reverend Matthew Federico, following ordination, May 31, 2019, to Parochial Vicar, Christ the Good Shepherd Parish, Saginaw and St. John Paul II Parish, Carrollton; Chaplain of Nouvel High School, Saginaw, effective July 1, 2019.
- Reverend Marc Hopps, following ordination, May 31, 2019, to Parochial Vicar, Holy Spirit Parish, Shields, effective July 1, 2019.

Out and About

As I write this I believe I have visited and celebrated Mass in 26 (or about half) of the parishes in the diocese. Because of the unpredictable weather in winter I have not visited some of those farthest away. I was also able to visit and celebrate Mass at Saginaw Valley State University and visit over pizza with the students. As long as I am here as Apostolic Administrator I will continue to visit the parishes near and far! I am grateful for the welcome I have received and uplifted by the faith that is so lived here in the diocese. I am aware that these are difficult times for many in the church and in our diocese and I understand their disappointment. At the same time, I continue to be uplifted by many who have kept the faith and continue to strive to be joyful disciples of the Lord. When you stop and think of it, God thinks you and I are so important that he has chosen us to be part of His family and share in His saving work of bringing good news and light to a darkened world.

On March 10 I was privileged to celebrate the Rite of Election at our Cathedral to officially accept 60 catechumens (those preparing for baptism) and 53 additional candidates who have already been baptized, and are being welcomed into full communion with the Church. For those preparing for Baptism and full communion they begin a journey that does not end at Easter but is a lifetime journey with the Lord. "Never forget that it is God who calls us. It is God who has chosen us, and it is God who walks with us every day of our lives."

Good wishes and Easter Blessings to all,

Until next time-----


Bishop Walter Hurley

