



## DEAR PARISHIONERS,

**T**his is our second week of the combined St. John Paul II Pastorate bulletin. I would like to thank Alison McShane, our Director of Communications from Sacred Heart Church for the excellent job in putting this together. She works with the different parish secretaries to gather the information needed each week and then putting everything together for us.



### How Do I Reach a Priest in our Pastorate?

This is one of the questions that have come up since the Into the Deep implementation. With four priests serving in our pastorate, people are sometimes confused on whom to reach and how to reach a priest. I want to assure you that with four priests, the chances of reaching a priest in time of need or for appointment is very high. The first thing to remember is that nothing has changed from the way you would normally request for a priest.

I would encourage you to call the Church campus where you attend Mass and request to speak to the priest you want to speak with or make your requests. Our phone systems allow for your message to reach to us or for your calls to be answered from any place we are if we are free. If you don't get a live attendant when you call, be sure to leave a name, number, and the reason for your call. Someone will get back to you.

### Whom Should I Go To?

For most issues, personal and theological questions, request for a priest in general, etc., feel free to approach any one of the priests that you feel comfortable speaking with.

### Whom Should I Go To? *cont.*

It bears repeating here that we have a schedule for funerals and highly discourage people from asking for a particular priest. With the complexity of our pastorate and many other schedules, it messes things up for us. It is still possible though for a second priest who has some special relationship with a family to be present but may not necessarily be the celebrant.

For questions related to the administration of the pastorate, decisions that affect a campus or our pastorate in general, general financial questions, schedules, etc., your best bet would be to speak with me directly about your concerns since those matters fall within my purview.

The Parochial Vicars working me may not feel it is their place to answer those questions. Some of you have called me or have set appointments with me in the past to discuss such matters. I have appreciated those meetings and calls because we ended with better understanding and trust. We are here to serve you in our capacity as your priests and will do our best to be there for you. Do not hesitate to reach out to us.



### Prayer for My Parish

Almighty God, my parish is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly if I am. It will be holy if I am. Its pews will be filled if I help fill them. It will do great work if I work. It will be prayerful if I pray. It will make generous gift to so many causes if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship if I invite and bring them. It will be a parish family of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity, and mercy if I – who make it what it is – am filled with these same qualities. Therefore, with the help of God, I will dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my parish to be. Bless my journey, Lord God, Bless my journey, Lord God, that I might follow Jesus and build the Church for Your glory. Amen.

**Have a Blessed Week!**  
Fr. Paul