



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

240 E. ONONDAGA STREET, SYRACUSE, NY 13202-2608

June 24, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

I know that you are awaiting an announcement about the future leadership of Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Ambrose Churches. Due to our ardent desire that the parishes of the Endicott, Endwell, and Maine areas flourish and continue to form dynamic Catholic communities, I want to share our plan for the future.

You are familiar with the reality of the diminishing number of priests. At the moment there are 110 parishes, along with missions and other entities, and 81 full-time active priests 50% of whom are over the age 60. This reality means that we are searching for ways to best serve the faithful of our 5600 square mile diocese.

Father Michael Galuppi has been appointed the pastor of Our Lady of Hope Parish and pastor of St. Michael – St. Peter’s Church in Syracuse effective on the weekend of August 14-15, 2021. In order to best serve the Catholic Community of “Western Broome,” I have had conversations with Msgr. Putano and the priests of your area, and we agree with the following plan:

Father John Donovan, Father Ken Kirkman, and Father Clarence Rumble will be responsible for the care of the faithful of Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Ambrose. The Code of Canon Law allows me to appoint Deacon Tom Harley as the Deacon Administrator of these two parishes whose sacramental care will be entrusted to these three priests.

In the new model, Father Donovan will become the moderator for the parishes of Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Ambrose. He will be assisted by Father Kirkman and Father Rumble. They will work as a team, “In Solidum” (canon 517.1) in providing sacramental and priestly support to you and your parishes.

Father Donovan remains as pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows, which will remain in its PCA. Father Ken Kirkman remains the pastor of St. Anthony and St. Joseph’s parishes. Father Clarence Rumble remains the pastor of Holy Family in Endwell and Most Holy Rosary in Maine.

The priests and deacons of the parishes are working together to plan a Mass and sacrament schedule that will assure the on-going pastoral life of the parishes of Western Broome.

Please be assured of my prayers, and I ask for yours and we continue our pilgrimage of faith.

In the Name of Jesus,

Most Rev. Douglas J. Lucia
Bishop of Syracuse

Faith • Hope • Charity