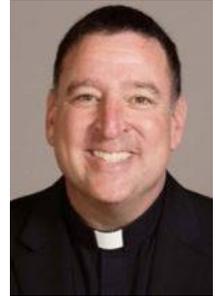


Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Let me begin by uniting my prayers with yours for those who were involved, harmed, hospitalized, or traumatized by this week's shooting in Frederick. Our hearts break with each of these acts of violence, and when it is so close to home it is all the more real and painful.



I also want to wish you many blessings in the Octave of Easter! In the next few weeks there will be many announcements about personnel changes throughout the archdiocese. It is that time of the year. This June I complete my ninth year at St. John, the last three of which have included the wonderful parishioners of St. Joseph. It has been an incredible blessing to serve alongside so many faithful parishioners here in Frederick, Buckeystown and beyond as we have come together as a pastorate. And now I am called to move on. Archbishop Lori has appointed me to serve as the pastor of St. Francis Xavier, Hunt Valley and I have accepted this new assignment. Eventually, I will become the pastor of the neighboring parish, Our Lady of Grace, as well. Msgr. Jim Hannon currently serves as pastor of Our Lady of Grace and I will work with him to create a pastorate to include both parishes upon his retirement. I am very excited to work with my good friend. Fr. Jim was once the associate at St. John's when he was transferred, and I was named his successor. He has served as my mentor in the new pastors program with the archdiocese when I was appointed pastor for the first time. What a true full circle moment for both Msgr. Hannon and me.

The archbishop has already named my successor. He is Fr. John Williamson, who is currently pastor at St. Augustine in Elkrige and Ascension parish in Halethorpe. Prior to his current pastorate assignment, Father John served at Holy Cross, Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Mary, Star of the Sea. You can see that he has extensive experience serving multiple parishes.



He has also served at the Cathedral and St. Jane Frances. I have known Fr. John since he was in seminary and I am very excited to welcome him to Frederick. We actually lived in residence together when he served at the Cathedral at the same time I was in the Vocation Office. You will be in capable hands that are very much guided by a loving heart.

I know you will extend to him your warmest wishes. Please keep praying for both of us as we make this transition. Know that you will be in our prayers as well.