

## **Weekend 04/06/24 and 04/07/24 Partners in the Gospel Announcement**

The Lord has risen, Hallelujah!!!

Perhaps it was fitting that Archbishop Etienne announced the assignments of pastors and parochial vicars on Friday, the week after Easter. Could it be the precursor to the emergence of a new, more invigorating life for our new Parish Family: the coming together of Holy Rosary and St. Thomas More?

The appointments will take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup> this year and mark a significant milestone in the journey we have come to know as Partners in the Gospel. A process that was conceived to address the declining number of priests, Partners in the Gospel can be the catalyst to revive our efforts to respond to the current needs of the Church. Why can't we have full Masses again; more people in the pews celebrating the Sacraments; more social outreach; and an increase in youth participation? Why can't this past Easter weekend, when we had over 2,000 attending Mass be the new norm? The numbers are out there, we just need to bring them in on a regular basis.

Our Parish Family that is Holy Rosary Parish and St. Thomas More Parish, will begin on July 1 with Fr. Matthew O'Leary as our pastor and Fr. Stephen Okumu as our parochial vicar. While we are not faced with drastic changes, personnel wise, there are many, many details to iron out. Rest assured that the priests and personnel at each Parish will work diligently to make the trip ahead as seamless as possible for all of us.

Please keep in mind that we are embarking on a three year journey. Remember too, that the ultimate goal of Partners in the Gospel is to focus more attention, more energy and more resources to revitalize parish life. You are invited to help shape the transition of our two parishes as one Family starting July 1, into One Parish with two Churches by July 1, 2027.

In the meantime, we should all continue to pray for success of this vital renewal effort and to pray for the members of our new Parish Family and the new pastoral leadership. Regular updates will appear on the Archdiocese website; our own website; and the NW Catholic website and magazine. These links will be published in next week's bulletin.

A staff member will be in the narthex to answer any questions that you may have.