

Dear parishioners of Catholic Neighbors in Faith,

It is with great joy that I share the news of my appointment as pastor of our Catholic Neighbors in Faith Family of Parishes. With this, my role as temporary administrator comes to a close, and I now embrace the responsibility of serving you as your pastor for a term of six years. It is hard to believe that I have been in the Jamestown area for nearly five years. During that time, especially over the past few years, we have faced many challenges together. Yet through it all, what has sustained us has been our shared reliance on Christ and the faithful prayers and support of our wonderful parishioners. I want to reassure you that, even amid these challenges, the Lord has deepened my love for the priesthood I share in Jesus Christ. In prayer, He continues to reveal His will and strengthen my calling. The ability to celebrate the Sacraments with all of you has been the greatest joy of my life. The role of pastor is that of a spiritual shepherd, entrusted with the care of the souls God has placed before me. I am called to carry out the *munera Christi*: to sanctify, to preach, and to govern. I take these responsibilities seriously, relying always on God's grace.

As we move forward together, I humbly ask a few things of you:

1. Please pray for me and for all our priests. Pray also for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, and holy marriage.
2. As the Catholic Church, we share in the mission given by Jesus Christ to baptize all nations. We are One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. As a Family of Parishes, we are called to live this unity more deeply, especially as we face a future with fewer priests to serve our communities. Let us grow stronger together in our shared Catholic identity.
3. Consider becoming involved in one of our Pillars, which help strengthen unity across our family of parishes: Liturgy, Spiritual Life, Forming Disciples, Stewardship, In-reach/Outreach, and Administration. There are many meaningful ways to participate.
4. Participate, as you are able, in both parish and family-wide events. I am especially looking forward to our upcoming Corpus Christi procession. More details will be shared soon.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your pastor and, God willing, to offer the stability of leadership for the next six years. May the Lord bless our family of parishes as we turn to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, through the maternal care of the Immaculate Heart of Mary as our source of our faith, hope and love.

May God bless you and your families abundantly and draw us ever closer together as His Church.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Paul Cygan