



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

June 21, 2024

**The following official appointments and announcements have been made by
the Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre.
Unless otherwise noted, all are effective June 26, 2024.**

PASTORS:

Reverend Stephen Alcott, O.P., a priest of the Dominican Province of Saint Joseph, to Pastor of the Church of Saint Barnabas the Apostle, Bellmore.

Reverend Sean T. Magaldi from Director of Vocations to Pastor of the Church of Saints Philip and James, St. James, while remaining Chaplain of Stony Brook University and Director of Campus Ministry.

Reverend John J. McCartney to Pastor of the Church of the Holy Spirit, New Hyde Park, while remaining Pastor of the Church of Notre Dame, New Hyde Park, with residence remaining at the Church of Notre Dame, New Hyde Park.

Reverend Geoffrey O. Muga, F.M.H., a priest of the Franciscan Missionaries of Hope, to Pastor of the Church of Saint Mary, Roslyn.

Reverend Stephen J. Pietrowski to Pastor of the Church of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Lake Ronkonkoma, while remaining Director of the Saint Pius X Residence, Lake Ronkonkoma, and Bishop's Delegate for Senior Priests, with residence remaining at the Saint Pius X Residence, Lake Ronkonkoma.

Reverend David Regan from Pastor of the Church of the Holy Name of Mary, Valley Stream, to Pastor of the Church of Saint John Nepomucene, Bohemia.

Reverend Henry Reid from Pastor of the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Patchogue, to Pastor of the Church of Saint Joseph, Hewlett, the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Inwood, and the Church of Saint Joachim, Cedarhurst, with residence at the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Inwood.

Reverend Edward Sheridan to Pastor of the Church of Saint Francis of Assisi, Greenlawn, while remaining Pastor of the Church of Saint Anthony of Padua, East Northport, with residence remaining at the Church of Saint Anthony of Padua, East Northport, effective October 9, 2024.

Reverend Allan Sikorski from Pastor of the Church of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Lake Ronkonkoma, to Pastor of the Church of Saint Matthew, Dix Hills.

Reverend Jeff Yildirmaz from Pastor of the Church of Saint Barnabas the Apostle, Bellmore, to Pastor of the Church of the Holy Name of Mary, Valley Stream.

PASTORS APPOINTED TO A SECOND TERM:

Reverend Gilbert D. Lap of the Church of Saint Frances Cabrini, Coram.

Reverend Gregory Rannazzisi of the Church of Saint Gerard Majella, Port Jefferson Station.

ADMINISTRATORS:

Reverend David Atanasio from Chaplain of Saint John the Baptist Diocesan High School, West Islip, to Administrator of the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Patchogue.

Reverend Gerald Cestare from Parochial Vicar of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Holbrook, to Administrator of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Holbrook.

Reverend Walter F. Kedjierski from Executive Director of the Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington D.C., to Administrator of the Church of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Centerport, and the Church of Saint Philip Neri, Northport, and Director of Seminarians, with residence at the Church of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Centerport. [*The Reverend Robert Holz remains Pastor of the Church of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Centerport, and the Church of Saint Philip Neri, Northport.*]

Reverend Marcin Nabozny, a priest of the Diocese of Rzeszow, Poland, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Joseph, Babylon, to Administrator of the Church of Saint Hedwig, Floral Park, and the Church of Saint Ladislaus, Hempstead, with residence at the Church of Saint Hedwig, Floral Park, effective January 24, 2024.

Most Reverend Luis Romero, M. Id, to Administrator of the Church of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Wyandanch, while remaining Vicar for Hispanic Ministry and Evangelization.

PAROCHIAL VICARS:

Reverend Patrick Baffour-Akoto, a priest of the Archdiocese of Kumasi, Ghana, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of the Holy Family, Hicksville, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Mary, East Islip, and the Church of Saint Peter the Apostle, Islip Terrace.

Reverend Anthony Bonsu, a priest of the Diocese of Koforidua, Ghana, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Catherine of Sienna, Franklin Square, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Joseph, Babylon.

Reverend Rejimon Benedict, O.I.C., a priest of the Order of the Imitation of Christ, Bethany Navajyothy Province, from Chaplain of Mount Sinai South Nassau Hospital, Oceanside, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Our Lady of Mercy, Hicksville.

Reverend James Calledo from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Joseph, Ronkonkoma, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Rosalie, Hampton Bays.

Reverend Joseph Catafago, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Anthony of Padua, East Northport, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Anne, Garden City, while remaining Chaplain of the Diocesan Scouting Program.

Reverend Jacob Cherian, C.M., a priest of the Congregation of the Mission, Province of South India, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Hugh of Lincoln, Huntington Station.

Reverend Stanislaw Choragwicki, C.M., a priest of the Congregation of the Mission, Province of Poland, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Frances de Chantal, Wantagh, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Patrick, Glen Cove, the Church of Saint Rocco, Glen Cove, the Church of Saint Hyacinth, Glen Head, and the Church of Saint Boniface, Sea Cliff, with residence at the Church of Saint Boniface, Sea Cliff.

Reverend Alessandro da Luz from Parochial Vicar of the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, Rockville Centre, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Anthony of Padua, East Northport.

Reverend Shaju Devassy, a priest of the Diocese of Sagar, India, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Barnabas the Apostle, Bellmore, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Frances de Chantal, Wantagh.

Reverend Mynor Morataya Franco, a priest of the Diocese of Jalapa, Guatemala, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint John of God, Central Islip.

Reverend Nasir Gulfam from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Our Lady of Mercy, Hicksville, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of the Sacred Heart, North Merrick.

Reverend Christopher Heller from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Dominic, Oyster Bay, to Parochial Vicar of the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, Rockville Centre.

Reverend Augustine Ibeh, C.S.Sp., a priest of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, Province of Nigeria Southeast, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Our Lady of Hope, Carle Place.

Reverend Kannamkulathu Joseph, O.I.C., a priest of the Order of the Imitation of Christ, Bethany Navajyothy Province, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Our Lady of Mercy, Hicksville, effective October 9, 2024.

Reverend Benedict Sung Ho Kim from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Raphael, East Meadow, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Raymond of Penyafort, East Rockaway.

Reverend John McCarthy from Pastor of the Church of Our Lady of Mercy, Hicksville, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Francis of Assisi, Greenlawn, effective October 9, 2024.

Reverend Thomas Moriarty from Pastor of the Church of Saint Joseph, Hewlett, the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Inwood, and the Church of Saint Joachim, Cedarhurst, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of the Holy Spirit, New Hyde Park, and the Church of Notre Dame, New Hyde Park, with residence at the Church of the Holy Spirit, New Hyde Park.

Reverend Fortunatus Mugisha, a priest of the Diocese of Kabale, Uganda, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of the Holy Family, Hicksville.

Reverend Michael Ngoka, C.M., a priest of the Congregation of the Mission, Province of Nigeria, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Barnabas the Apostle, Bellmore, to Parochial Vicar of the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, Rockville Centre.

Reverend Luke M. Nietzsche, O.P., a priest of the Dominican Province of Saint Joseph, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Barnabas the Apostle, Bellmore.

Reverend Matthew Obiekezie, a priest of the Archdiocese of Onitsha, Nigeria, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Patrick, Glen Cove, the Church of Saint Rocco, Glen Cove, the Church of Saint Hyacinth, Glen Head, and the Church of Saint Boniface, Sea Cliff, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Wyandanch.

Reverend Prince Charles Ofori, a priest of the Archdiocese of Kumasi, Ghana, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Joseph, Hewlett, the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Inwood, and the Church of Saint Joachim, Cedarhurst, with residence at the Church of Saint Joseph, Hewlett, effective November 1, 2023.

Reverend Tadeusz Olzacki, O.S.P.P.E., a priest of the Order of Saint Paul the First Hermit, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Isidore, Riverhead, effective May 16, 2024.

Reverend Anthony Osuagwu, a priest of the Diocese of Ahiara, Nigeria, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Anne, Garden City, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Joseph, Ronkonkoma.

Reverend Abin Panicker, O.I.C., a priest of the Order of the Imitation of Christ, Bethany Navajyothy Province, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint John the Evangelist, Center Moriches.

Reverend Gustavo Perez Alzate, a priest of the Diocese of Sonsón-Rionegro, Colombia, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, Copiague, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of the Holy Name of Mary, Valley Stream, the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Inwood, and the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, Rockville Centre, with residence at the Church of the Holy Name of Mary, Valley Stream.

Reverend James Mary Ritch, O.P., a priest of the Dominican Province of Saint Joseph, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Barnabas the Apostle, Bellmore.

Reverend Stephen Rooney to Parochial Vicar of the Church of the Holy Spirit, New Hyde Park, while remaining Parochial Vicar of the Church of Notre Dame, New Hyde Park, with residence remaining at the Church of Notre Dame, New Hyde Park.

Reverend Joseph Rwamwenge, a priest of the Diocese of Fort Portal, Uganda, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Raymond of Penyafort, East Rockaway, effective May 1, 2024.

Reverend Anthony Saliba from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Rose of Lima, Massapequa, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Mary, Manhasset.

Reverend Peter Sarpong, a priest of the Archdiocese of Kumasi, Ghana, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of the Sacred Heart, North Merrick, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Raphael, East Meadow.

Reverend Rolando Ticllasuca from Parochial Vicar of the Church of the Infant Jesus, Port Jefferson, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint John the Evangelist, Riverhead, effective August 1, 2024.

Reverend Sijomon Varghese, a priest of the Diocese of Idukki, India, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of the Infant Jesus, Port Jefferson, and the Church of Saint Gerard Majella, Port Jefferson Station, with residence at the Church of the Infant Jesus, Port Jefferson, effective July 1, 2024.

Reverend Roger Velasquez from Parochial Vicar of the Church of the Holy Name of Mary, Valley Stream, the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Inwood, and the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, Rockville Centre, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, Copiague.

Reverend Kenneth Zach from Pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Holbrook, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lindenhurst.

Reverend Frank Zero, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lindenhurst, to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Rose of Lima, Massapequa.

NEWLY ORDAINED:

Reverend Dennis Gannon to Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saints Philip and James, St. James.

Reverend Joseph Lettieri to Parochial Vicar of the Church Saint Dominic, Oyster Bay.

NON-PAROCHIAL ASSIGNMENTS:

Reverend John Crozier from Associate Director of Vocations to Director of Vocations with residence remaining at the Church of Saint William the Abbot, Seaford. Additionally, Chaplain of Saint Anthony's High School, South Huntington, effective April 11, 2024.

Reverend Maurizio Duru, a priest of the Diocese of Campobasso-Boiano, Italy, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint John of God, Central Islip, to Chaplain of Mercy Hospital, Rockville Centre, with residence at the Church of Our Lady of Peace, Lynbrook.

Reverend Yesudas Elias, O.I.C., a priest of the Order of the Imitation of Christ, Bethany Navajeevan Province, to Chaplain of NYU Langone Hospital – Long Island, with residence at the Church of Corpus Christi, Mineola, effective August 7, 2023.

Reverend Frank Grieco from Pastor of the Church of the Holy Spirit, New Hyde Park, to leave of absence at a private residence for personal reasons.

Reverend Joseph-Mary Hertzog, O.P., a priest of the Dominican Province of Saint Joseph, to Diocesan Preacher, with residence at the Church of Saint Barnabas the Apostle, Bellmore.

Reverend Henry Leuthardt from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Rosalie, Hampton Bays, to ministry at the Saint Pius X Residence, Lake Ronkonkoma.

Reverend Celestine Nwosu, a priest of the Diocese of Orlu, Nigeria, from Parochial Vicar of the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, Rockville Centre, to Chaplain of Mount Sinai South Nassau Hospital, Oceanside, with residence at the Church of the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Roosevelt.

Reverend Francis A. Nyarkoh, a priest of the Archdiocese of Cape Coast, Ghana, to Chaplain of Mount Sinai South Nassau Hospital, Oceanside, with residence at the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, Rockville Centre, effective May 1, 2024.

Reverend Daniel O'Brien, S.J., a priest of the Society of Jesus, USA East Province, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Roosevelt, and the Church of Saint Martha, Uniondale, to Senior Priest status with Society of Jesus and residence at the Church of Saint Martha, Uniondale.

Reverend Dominik Wegiel from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Mary, Manhasset, to Chaplain of Saint John the Baptist Diocesan High School, West Islip, with residence at the Church of Saint Mary, East Islip.

Reverend Bijily Varghese, O.I.C., a priest of the Order of the Imitation of Christ, Bethany Navajvothy Province, to Chaplain of Nassau University Medical Center, East Meadow, with residence at the Church of Saint Martin of Tours, Bethpage, effective January 2, 2024.

Reverend Monson Varghese, O.I.C., a priest of the Order of the Imitation of Christ, Bethany Navajvothy Province, to Chaplain of Good Shepherd Hospice, Port Jefferson, with residence at the Church of Saint Joseph, Kings Park, effective August 5, 2023.

RETIREMENTS:

Reverend Patrick Grace from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Deer Park, to retirement in a private residence.

Reverend Thomas Haggerty from Pastor of the Church of Saints Philip and James, St. James, to retirement in a private residence.

Reverend Robert Hewes from Pastor of the Church of Saint Matthew, Dix Hills, to retirement in a private residence.

Reverend Peter Kaczmarek from Pastor of the Church of Saint Francis of Assisi, Greenlawn, to retirement, effective October 9, 2024.

Reverend Joseph Schlafer from Pastor of the Church of Saint Nepomucene, Bohemia, to retirement at the Church of the Cure of Ars, Merrick.

Reverend Timothy Valentine from Pastor of the Church of Saint Mary, Roslyn, to retirement for medical reasons in a private residence.

DEPARTURES:

**The following priests no longer have faculties to exercise ministry in the Diocese.*

Reverend Felix Akpabio, a priest of the Diocese of Ikot Ekpene, Nigeria, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint John the Evangelist, Center Moriches, to departure from the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Reverend Fidel Cruz, a priest of Diocese of Tuxpan, Mexico, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Hugh of Lincoln, Huntington Station, to departure from the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Reverend Theodore Iloh, a priest of the Diocese of Awka, Nigeria, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Raymond of Penyafort, East Rockaway, to departure from the Diocese of Rockville Centre, effective May 1, 2024.

Reverend Vitus Mbamalu, a priest of the Archdiocese of Onitsha, Nigeria, from Parochial Vicar of the Church of Saint Joseph, Babylon, to departure from the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Reverend Chux Okochi, a priest of the Diocese of Abakaliki, Nigeria, from hospitality status and residence at the Church of Saint Pius X, Plainview, to departure from the Diocese of Rockville Centre, effective June 30, 2024.