

June 14, 2009

To: Saint Eugene Parish Members

Subject: Parish Communication Update

Dear Parishioners:

With the recent events affecting the Parish of Saint Eugene, we have met with the Parish Pastoral Council to develop some communication points as we begin our healing process and continue our personal spiritual journeys. We have tried to anticipate and address questions you may have.

We are grateful to Bishop Jugis for his immediate proactive attention to our situation following Father John's arrest. He was here the next morning to support us.

Father Wilbur Thomas, Priests' Vicar of the Asheville Vicariate at Saint Lawrence Basilica, is serving as our pastoral advisor. Father Bill, who will be here until July 26, will provide for our sacramental needs including daily and weekend Masses, while Deacon Mike will continue in his current role. The office will be open as usual.

The impact on Asheville Catholic School is a great concern and has been part of our discussion with the Bishop. Deacon Mike has contacted the ACS office and is scheduling a meeting with the principal, Mrs. Donna Gilson.

Father John's resignation was effective Tuesday, June 9, so he no longer lives in the rectory nor does he occupy office space here at the church.

The responsibility of recruiting a new pastor lies with the Diocese. We are confident that Bishop Jugis and his Personnel Committee will find an excellent priest to pastor St. Eugene.

There is no timetable for recruiting our new pastor. We are confident they will work expeditiously to fill our vacancy.

The role of the Parish Pastoral Council is strictly to function as advisors to the pastor. They have no authoritative role in recruiting the priest, though they are working together to help promote the healing process, and they provided input for this letter.

**OVER ►**

Next Tuesday, June 16, at 7:00 PM here in the church we will have a communal prayer service followed by a meeting to be moderated by Deacon Mike and Fr. Bill to answer other questions you may have and to seek input to pass on to the Bishop which might help him with the selection process. A session with the Latino community moderated by Father Bill will take place on Wednesday, June 17, at 7:00 PM.

Bishop Jugis will be here on Tuesday, June 23, at 7:00 PM to say mass for us as we continue our healing process. No interactive type meeting is planned.

We, as well as the Parish Pastoral Council members, are available to answer questions.

We commend you, our parish family, for your charitable thoughts, words, and numerous expressions of support as we all work to strengthen and accomplish the work that the Lord has placed before us.

The need for coming together as a parish family has never been more important or essential as it is during this challenging time. We need to prayerfully support all involved and each other during coming weeks and remember that our Lord told us that He would never give us a burden we could not bear. However, we need to remember that bearing burdens and overcoming adversities requires accepting God's guidance and seeking His help through prayer and devotion to Him.

Father Bill Ameche SJ  
Priest in Residence

Dr. Michael Zboyovski  
Deacon

Richard Hurley  
Parish Council Chair