



DIOCESE OF PORTLAND  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

December 4/5, 2021

Dear Parishioners of All Saints Parish:

It has been the practice in the Diocese of Portland that when a change of pastor takes place, the Bishop would write formally to notify you, the faithful of the parish, of the change. Since the unexpected sad death of Father Tom Murphy, you have been awaiting news of a new pastor. With this letter, therefore, I wish to inform you that after consultation with the Priest Personnel Board and the priests involved, I have asked Father Philip A Tracy to accept a new assignment as pastor of All Saints Parish. This appointment is effective January 18, 2022.

I want to publicly thank Monsignor Mathieu for serving as administrator of the parish in these past few months as we worked to find a permanent solution. I am especially grateful to him for his generosity in coming out of retirement and accepting this temporary assignment. I invite you to join me in thanking the Lord for all the graces the parish has experienced through his ministry these past few months as you grieved the death of Father Murphy.

I am grateful to Father Tracy for his acceptance of my request to become your pastor. In his letter of appointment, I reminded Father Tracy that in the ceremony of ordination to the priesthood, the Church prays that the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit will renew in the man to be ordained the grace of holiness of life. I invite you to join me in praying that through this new assignment Father Tracy will grow in priestly holiness, sharing the joy and peace of the Risen Christ, his first gift to his apostles. I know you will welcome him with your customary warmth and together will continue on your faith journey.

At this time of a change of pastors it seems appropriate to ask you as well to promote and pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our diocese. The numbers of priests to be assigned continues to diminish. There will be no ordinations to the priesthood this year in our diocese. It is the responsibility of all of us, clergy and laity alike, not only to pray for vocations but also to actively promote them among our young men. Our Vocations Office is a valuable resource which you may contact if you need assistance with this concern.

With every prayerful best wish for your parish as it seeks, always more, to make Jesus' Gospel of joy known in your community, I am

Sincerely in the Lord,

Most Reverend Robert P. Deeley, J.C.D.  
Bishop of Portland

cc: Reverend Philip A. Tracy