



OFFICE *of the* BISHOP

September 3, 2020

Dear Members of St. Augustin Parish,

I want to thank you for graciously allowing your pastor, Fr. Christopher Pisut, the necessary time to address personal health concerns. I know that he, too, appreciates this valuable opportunity for integrated renewal that now enables him to return to St. Augustin as your pastor on September 15th. I will leave it to him to share any of his experiences during this time away.

After mutual discussion and discernment, I want to let you know that Father Livingstone has elected to formally retire from the half time assignment he has been fulfilling at Saint Augustin for several years. Recognizing his great faith and wisdom and the host of relationships he has formed in the parish, he will remain available as “senior priest,” offering pastoral and sacramental ministry as circumstances permit, given the current climate surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic and his own personal health needs. We are enormously grateful to Fr. Jim for his dedicated years of service to your community. We look forward to celebrating with him when we can do so safely. Thank you, Father Jim!

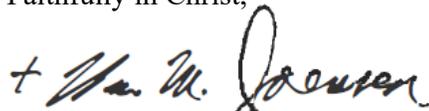
As a result, Saint Augustin Parish will have one full-time priest on staff, with more limited ability to rely on the retired priests who have assisted regularly at daily and weekend Masses, weddings, and funerals. With a single priest, you are called to rely on the four deacons, parish staff, school staff, and the entire community to do your part to carry out the parish’s mission to be and serve Christ’s Body.

One additional staff change I have asked be adopted that will assist Fr. Christopher and the fulfillment of your mission is to expand the scope of Business Manager Randy Mudge’s responsibilities. His reconfigured position will be Director of Parish Life. Fr. Vince Rosonke will assist you and parish leadership in conveying details of this proposed staffing plan. Please pray for evangelically bold hearts and minds that will embrace this new chapter in your parish’s storied life.

I want to thank Fr. Rosonke for his generosity in stepping out of retirement to serve as administrator of your parish for these many months. He will “love to the end” of his time among you by doing all he can to enable a smooth transition for Fr. Pisut and your parish community.

Again, thank you for your understanding over these past months. It is my firm hope that these developments will equip St. Augustin parish to be an ever more vibrant parish and pillar within our Des Moines diocesan family.

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W. M. Joensen".

Most Rev. William M. Joensen, Ph.D.
Bishop of Des Moines