



April 10, 2022

Dear Friends,

As you may be aware, the Diocese of Scranton is divided into smaller groupings of parishes known as DEANERIES. Deaneries are established because they promote open communication and collaboration between parishes and pastors and foster a spirit of collaboration that is essential to the Church’s mission.

Here in the western region of the Diocese of Scranton, the Williamsport deanery is rather large geographically, being made up of all 11 parishes in Lycoming and Tioga Counties. We have eight pastors, in addition to our senior priests and deacons, and I am proud to say we have always worked together with a great sense of openness.

In that spirit of transparency, as the Episcopal Vicar for the Western Region (the representative of Bishop Joseph C. Bambera to our area), I think it is important to inform everyone in our deanery that Father William D. Corcoran, pastor of Saint Boniface Parish, Williamsport, and Saint Lawrence Parish, South Williamsport, recently announced his plan to retire on May 31, 2022. For nearly four years, Rev. Corcoran has led both of his parish communities with great care and pastoral sensitivity. We are so appreciative of his tireless work in leading people to Jesus Christ!

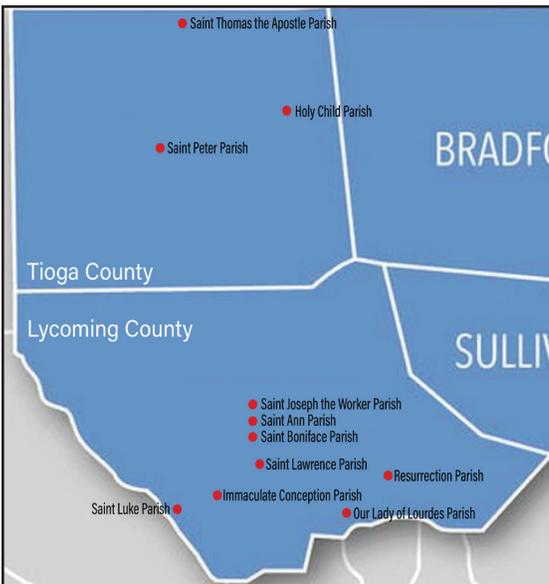
As the Diocese of Scranton continues its Vision 2030 pastoral planning process, it is critical for me to emphasize to everyone in our deanery that the Diocese is currently looking for a pastor for Saint Boniface and Saint Lawrence Parishes to succeed Rev. Corcoran upon his retirement. Whenever a pastoral vacancy is announced, the bishop asks all priests to discern whether their gifts and talents would fit that community. The selection process for a new pastor can take weeks, or even a few months, to ensure a good fit for both the faithful and the pastor himself.

Of course, this retirement announcement comes as the entire Diocese continues to address all of the priority drivers established in Vision 2030 – a diminishing number of active parishioners, parish infrastructure needs and financial challenges and confronting a shrinking number of clergy.

While there are no immediate plans to modify any of our parish structures at this current time in the Williamsport Deanery, like all deaneries in the Diocese, we must recognize and be open to the potential for change at any time. No one ever likes change – but we must all continue to be informed and engaged in the Vision 2030 process – because we all have a role to play in our local Church.

Please continue to pray for a fruitful outcome to the Vision 2030 process and its ultimate goal of creating parish communities rooted in the life of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Glenn E. McCreary, V.E.
Pastor, Resurrection Parish, Muncy



**WILLIAMSPORT DEANERY
PARISHES**

- Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport
- Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport
- Saint Boniface Parish, Williamsport
- Saint Lawrence Parish, South Williamsport
- Immaculate Conception Parish, Bastress
- Saint Luke Parish, Jersey Shore
- Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Montoursville
- Resurrection Parish, Muncy
- Holy Child Parish, Mansfield
- Saint Peter Parish, Wellsboro
- Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Elkland

To learn more about Vision 2030, visit the Diocese of Scranton website dioceseofscranton.org