



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
300 WYOMING AVENUE
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503-1279

October 30/31, 2021

Dear Parishioners of Most Holy Trinity Parish,

I want you to know that I am deeply aware of the pain and distress that you – and all the faithful of our diocese – rightfully feel due to the events of these past few days. Emotions including shock, anger and disbelief are all understandable, and they are feelings that I personally share with you.

Following the October 22, 2021, arrest of Father Gregory F. Loughney, I immediately removed him from active ministry. While the criminal investigation by police remains underway, I want you to know that this week I asked for, and received, the resignation of Father Loughney as your pastor.

The diocese will now immediately begin the process of appointing a new pastor for Most Holy Trinity Parish. I am hopeful the process will move expeditiously and that I would be able to join you for the celebration of the Eucharist to announce the appointment of a new pastor as soon as possible. In the interim, I have appointed Reverend Sean G. Carpenter, the pastor of your neighboring parish, Saint Maximilian Kolbe in Pocono Pines, to serve as temporary administrator, assisting with day-to-day operations. Monsignor John A. Bergamo has also graciously agreed to continue in helping to celebrate Masses and be involved in parish events as he always has been. Both men have shown great evidence of pastoral sensitivity and concern during this difficult time.

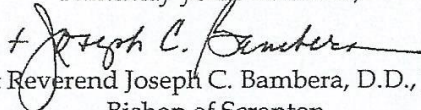
While the Diocese of Scranton received no complaints against Father Loughney regarding inappropriate behavior with a minor during his time in seminary formation or during the course of priestly ministry – the allegations filed by police are deeply troubling. The protection of young people is of paramount importance and cannot be compromised. Anyone who has relevant information should contact local law enforcement.

Given all the Church has endured recently, I understand that some people may need to talk about their feelings. As a result, the Diocese of Scranton has arranged for counseling opportunities for anyone needing to talk. Dr. Margaret Mahoney, a licensed professional counselor who has specific training in pastoral counseling, will be available at Most Holy Trinity Parish next week for anyone needing to discuss the events that have taken place. Dr. Mahoney will be available on the following dates:

- Sunday, November 7, from 9 - 10 a.m.
(This timeframe has been selected specifically for any parent with students in the religious education program who might wish to attend.)
- Monday, November 8, from 7 - 8 p.m.
- Other opportunities for counseling will be scheduled, as needed

During this difficult time, I encourage you to lift one another up in prayer. Also, please be assured of my prayers for you as we turn our hearts to the Blessed Virgin Mary for her intercession and to the Holy Spirit for guidance and consolation.

Faithfully yours in Christ,


Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton