



CHURCH OF GESU
A CATHOLIC, JESUIT PARISH

Sunday March 23, 2014

Dear Gesu Parish community,

I write to share with you the results of a process of listening and discernment aimed at identifying the next pastor of Gesu parish. After carefully reviewing the input from the recent listening sessions regarding the needs of the parish and the qualities recommended for the next pastor, I can now share with you an important decision. With the approval of Most Reverend Jerome ListECKI, Archbishop of Milwaukee, Fr. John P. Schlegel, S.J., has been appointed the next pastor of Gesu parish in Milwaukee beginning June 22, 2014. Fr. Schlegel began his service as associate pastor of Gesu last summer. Before coming to Gesu, he served in higher education as president of the University of San Francisco (1991-2000) and president of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska (2000-2011). He also served as president and publisher at America Press, Inc., New York City. He is energetic, creative, and has a great love for parish ministry. He has enjoyed his time so far at Gesu and looks forward to continuing to serve in the role of pastor.

I am also missioning Fr. Robert F. (Roc) O'Connor, S.J., to Gesu parish as associate pastor beginning in August. Fr. O'Connor comes from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, where he has served as Rector of the Jesuit community, associate pastor of St. John's parish, and instructor in theology at Creighton. He is a published liturgical music composer. You may recall that he served at Gesu parish as associate pastor from 1985 to 1989. He is eager to return to Gesu.

Fr. Schlegel and Fr. O'Connor will serve alongside the Jesuits you already know, Fr. Ken Herian, S.J., and Fr. Matt Walsh, S.J., and the rest of the competent and generous pastoral staff. I'm sure you will join me in thanking Fr. Ed Mathie, S.J., for his generosity in serving as pastor this past year. You may see him next year around campus as he returns to ministry at Marquette University in the fall.

I am confident that you will welcome your new pastor, Fr. Schlegel, and new associate pastor, Fr. O'Connor, this coming summer. I am also confident that they, along with the entire parish staff, will provide the kind of pastoral care and leadership which is desired by the parish at this time. Gesu parish is an important and valuable ministry of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in Milwaukee. May the Lord continue to bless the people of Gesu Parish with renewed grace this Lent to be "a faith community gathered in the heart of the city by our loving God, called to be disciples of Jesus, and enlivened by the Spirit."

Sincerely in Christ,

Thomas A. Lawler, S.J.
Provincial

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