



Diocese of Fall River
Office of the Bishop
Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.

LETTER FROM BISHOP TO PARISHIONERS
OF TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD PARISH
APRIL 15-16, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

I want to wish the entire Transfiguration of the Lord Parish a Happy and Blessed Easter and to share with you an important update regarding your parish.

As you know, since last August, Father Rodney Thibault has been on administrative leave, and I want to acknowledge the distress you have experienced because of that. I am grateful to Father Michael Ciryak for assuming the responsibilities of temporary parochial administrator and to Deacon Joseph Regali and the entire parish staff with whom he worked to ably shepherd this community through a difficult time.

I want to inform you that the investigation into the allegation of misconduct made against Father Thibault is nearing its conclusion.

At this time, I also want to inform you that Father Thibault has decided to resign as the pastor of Transfiguration of the Lord Parish, and I have accepted it. While difficult, his decision to resign is one with which I agree is in the best interest of the parish.

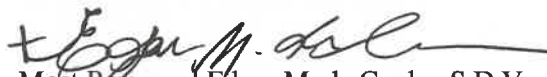
A large and vibrant parish like yours needs a permanent leader, so I am pleased to announce the appointment of Father David A. Costa as the new Pastor of Transfiguration of the Lord Parish. Father Costa is certainly well known to all of you, having served the Catholic community of North Attleboro for many years before beginning an assignment outside the area in 2019. He will return well familiar with you and the area and be ready to lead your parish. His appointment will become effective on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. Until then, Father Ciryak will continue to serve you.

As we celebrate this Second Sunday of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday, our Lord comes to us once again in the same way as today's Gospel and says, "Peace be with you." May we all hear his voice and receive his peace.

I thank you for your goodness, generosity, patience, and understanding throughout this time. Likewise, I wish to extend again a word of gratitude to Father Ciryak and your Parish Staff and volunteers for steadfastly moving your parish forward in these past months.

Please be assured of my prayers for the gift of Christ's Easter peace to you, your families, and your wonderful parish as you prepare to move forward with your new pastor.

Sincerely yours in the Risen Lord,


Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.
Bishop of Fall River