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February 19, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

This week I had a chance to visit with Cardinal Cupich about my next assignment. He assured me that he wants me to remain in my position as pastor of St. Catherine/St. Lucy until June 30, 2021. However, in anticipation of what he will ask me to do after that time, he invited me to begin a study sabbatical beginning March 15, 2021 until June 30, 2021. During this time I will remain as pastor but the parish will be administered by Fr. John McGivern, who will retain his duties as pastor of St. Edmund in Oak Park. Besides tending to the administrative, liturgical and pastoral concerns of your parish, Father McGivern will also lead your parish through the Renew My Church Process. You can count on his expertise and pastoral sensitivity to your needs. He is a very fine priest and will be a great asset to you. Please give him your every support.

The hope is that during the sabbatical I will acquire sufficient proficiency in Spanish to take on my next assignment on July 1, 2021. I have studied Spanish in the past and I have asked for more opportunity to become proficient.

Fr. McGivern will keep me informed of the progress of your discernment and I want to assure you of my prayers. When I return from my sabbatical, I look forward to celebrating with you and more formally thanking you for the joy you have given my priesthood over these past nine years.

It is vitally important that you enter the Renew My Church process with an open mind and heart, confident that the Lord is leading us to take up the challenge of your discipleship with greater intensity, of building a sustainable community and of inspiring witness through your good works. I know you are up to it. You have made me proud in the past and I have every confidence you will continue to do so.

Please keep me in your prayers and I will remember you daily.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. George Omwando