

July 27, 2009

Dear Priests and Parish Life Coordinators,

I write today as the newly elected Diocesan Administrator. I am deeply humbled by the decision of the College of Consultors, who elected me to fulfill these duties until a new bishop is installed. Today, I want to share some important information.

First, the date of the Dedication of the Cathedral is now set for Wednesday, December 2 at 2:00 p.m. Archbishop George Lucas has agreed to preside at this historic Mass. Cardinal Francis George will be homilist and bishops from the region have been notified of this date. I hope you will make every effort to be present for this Mass. A committee has been working on the details of this celebration. Please mark your calendars.

As Administrator, I have the authority to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation and to delegate priests to do the same. I will be more than happy to delegate any of our priests for this purpose. If you have confirmation scheduled and would like this delegation, please request this in writing to Cheryl Kannall, secretary to the Administrator as soon as possible. In the event you would like someone else or even myself to come and administer the sacrament, please let Cheryl know as soon as possible.

During a Vacant See, it is important that we invite our people to pray for a new bishop. To that end, I have designated the following Sundays as Days of Prayer for a new shepherd. (**August 29/30, October 24/25, January 23/24**) On these chosen weekends, I ask that every parish celebrate the special Mass FOR THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP. I further ask that on the first of these weekends please use the readings provided for you in the enclosed document prepared by the Office for Worship and the Catechumenate. For the other weekends, you may use the same readings or the readings for the day. Priests are encouraged to celebrate this special Mass on other days as well, provided they are obligatory memorials or lower in liturgical importance. Information from the Office for Worship and the Catechumenate is enclosed to assist you in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Eliot Kapitan in the Office for Worship and the Catechumenate, (217) 698-8500 x.177.

Please be assured of my prayers and thoughts as we prepare our people for a new bishop. I stand ready to assist you in any way I can. God bless you always.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Monsignor Carl A. Kemme
Diocesan Administrator