



*Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Saint Cloud*

214 3RD AVENUE SOUTH - BOX 1248
ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA 56302
TELEPHONE (320) 251-2340

November 23, 2024

Dear Mary, Mother of the Church parishioners,

You have been in my prayers these past months during Father Aaron Kuhn's leave. This has been a challenging time, and I have been very grateful for Father Tim Baltes' willingness to serve in a temporary capacity as your parochial administrator. The time frame that he and I agreed upon for this ministry, however, has come to an end, and I am appointing another priest, Father Arlie Sowada, as your new parochial administrator for the present time.

Father Sowada is a retired priest who has served as a pastor in many parishes of our diocese. Some of you may recognize him since he has stepped in occasionally to celebrate Mass in the *Mary, Mother of the Church ACC*, and he knows your communities through his previous service as pastor in the area. I know you will be in good hands with his leadership during his time there.

I am very thankful for Father Baltes' five months of service in the ACC. He willingly stepped forward during a time of great pastoral need and has served with a caring and generous spirit. May God continue to bless him in his future endeavors.

With regard to Father Aaron, he continues to participate in his residential treatment program and reports great personal growth from this time. I will update you about next steps when his program concludes and after he and I have an opportunity to discuss any recommendations made by the facility.

May you and your loved ones have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Yours in Christ,

+ *Patrick M. Neary, C.S.C.*

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