



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

# NEWS

Office of Communications

215 N. Westnedge Avenue

Kalamazoo, MI 49007

269-903-0163 (direct)

269-929-8298 (cell)

Fax: 269-349-6440

[www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org](http://www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Vicki Cessna, Director of Communications

269-903-0163

[vcessna@dioceseofkalamazoo.org](mailto:vcessna@dioceseofkalamazoo.org)

## Bishop Bradley Announces New Priestly Assignments

**KALAMAZOO, Mich.:** June 21, 2010: Bishop Paul J. Bradley has announced the following clergy assignments for the Diocese of Kalamazoo which become effective July 12<sup>th</sup> unless noted otherwise. [NOTE: Photos are available upon request.]

**Rev. James Adams** has been appointed Parochial Vicar for St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage and St. Martin Parish, Vicksburg. Fr. Adams recently completed his studies with a license in Moral Theology at the North American College, Rome.

**Rev. Richard Altine** has been appointed Pastor of St. Rose of Lima, Hastings and St. Cyril Parish Nashville. Fr. Altine was previously pastor of Holy Angels, Sturgis.

**Rev. Christopher Ankley**, Parochial Vicar for St. Catherine of Siena Parish, has been appointed additional responsibilities as Parochial Vicar for St. Martin Parish, Vicksburg.

**Rev. Anthony Bitchapogu** has been appointed Administrator for St. Stanislaus Parish, Dorr and Sacred Heart, Watson effective July 1, 2010. Fr. Bitchapogu was previously Chaplain for Borgess Hospital.

**Rev. Kevin Covert**, has been appointed Pastoral Administrator to Holy Maternity of Mary, Dowagiac and Sacred Heart of Mary, Silver Creek. Fr. Leo Taubitz remains Canonical pastor of Holy Mary Maternity and Sacred Heart of Mary until his retirement in 2011.

**Rev. Robert Creagan**, Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek, has been relieved of his responsibility as Canonical Pastor of St. Ambrose Parish, Delton. Fr. Creagan remains as Canonical Pastor of Our Lady of Great Oak Parish, Lacey.

**Rev. Christopher Derda**, Pastor of St. Ann Parish, Augusta, will assume responsibility as Canonical Pastor for St. Ambrose Parish, Delton.

**Rev. John Fleckenstein**, Pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage, also has been appointed Canonical Pastor of St. Martin Parish, Vicksburg.

**Rev. Joseph Gray**, has been appointed Pastor of St. Anthony Parish, Buchanan. Fr. Gray was previously the Parochial Vicar for St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek.

**Rev. Arthur Howard** has been appointed Administrator of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Bridgeman and St. Gabriel Parish, Berrien Springs. Fr. Howard was previously Parochial Vicar for St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo.

**Rev. James Vinh Le**, has been relieved of his responsibility as Pastor of St. Martin, Vicksburg and re-appointed Pastor of St. Edward Parish, Mendon where he will be in residence. Fr. Vinh Lee has also been given pastoral responsibility for the Vietnamese community within the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

**Rev. Matthew Manalel** has been appointed Pastor of St. Jerome Parish, Battle Creek. Fr. Manalel was previously Pastor of St. Anthony, Buchanan.

**Rev. German Perez-Diaz** has been appointed Pastor of Holy Angels Parish, Sturgis, and St. Joseph Parish, White Pigeon, and will have pastoral responsibility for the Hispanic community in Bronson. Fr. German was previously the Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Bridgman and St. Gabriel Parish, Berrien Springs.

**Rev. Carlos Portela** has been appointed Parochial Vicar for St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek and will have pastoral responsibility for the Hispanic community in Battle Creek. Fr. Portela was previously Parochial Vicar for St. Mary Parish, Bronson and in addition to Battle Creek had pastoral responsibility for the Hispanic community in Bronson and Sturgis.

**Rev. John Tuyen Tran** has been appointed Sacramental Minister for St. Ambrose Parish, Delton and Our Lady of Great Oak, Lacey and Parochial Vicar for St. Ann Parish, Augusta where he will reside. Fr. Tran was previously pastor of St. Jerome Parish, Battle Creek.

**Retirement:**

**Rev. Alfred Russell**, will retire June 30<sup>th</sup> as Pastor of St. Rose of Lima, Hastings and St. Cyril, Nashville.

**Resignation:**

**Rev. Stanley Witek** has resigned as pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish, Dorr, and Sacred Heart Parish, Watson effective June 30, 2010.