



## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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November 27, 2018

Dear Father English and the Faithful of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish:

With his letter of October 26, 2018, The Very Reverend Father Kevin J. Storey, Superior General of the Congregation of Saint Basil, informed me that: "Over the past several weeks of meetings of the General Council and after much evaluation, discussion and discernment, we have concluded that we are forced to withdraw from our ministry at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish in the Diocese of Rochester."

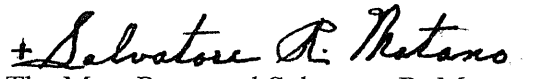
I am deeply saddened by this decision, but I do understand the challenges that the Congregation has in meeting the needs of its apostolates with the number of members declining. In that same letter, Father Storey wrote that: "The Congregation of St. Basil now has 154 ordained members; about 66% are over 70 years of age. An actuarial study we commissioned a few years ago indicates we will have 30 fewer Basilians in three years."

It is always a blessing to a Diocese when it has the representation of religious orders in its parishes and institutions. The Basilians have a long tradition in our Diocese reaching back to the foundation of Saint John Fisher College, The Aquinas Institute, Christ the King Parish, and more recently at Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish. I am grateful for the contributions that they have made in our Diocese and I so regret their departure from the parish. I am pleased that they will continue to direct the Campus Ministry program at Saint John Fisher College. On behalf of our diocesan family I extend my most sincere gratitude for the pastoral ministry of the Congregation of Saint Basil over these many years and up to this time at Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish.

The effective date for the departure of the Community is July 1, 2019. Already I am working with our Diocesan Priests' Personnel Board to prepare for the spring assignments of priests. I respectfully advise the parishioners that pastoral assignments are made after careful and extensive deliberations with the Priests' Personnel Board and with genuine concern for parochial, diocesan and clergy resources and needs. I also ask that the parish pray for vocations to the priesthood for both the Diocese and the Congregation of Saint Basil. It would be a great blessing if the Basilians were able to return to our Diocese in the future.

Renewing my deep gratitude to the Congregation of Saint Basil and asking for your prayers in this time of transition, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano  
Bishop of Rochester