

Dear brothers and sisters in the Saint Kateri family,

Last Monday, Bishop Salvatore Matano announced to the assembled priests and Pastoral Administrators at the annual Convocation that he had sent assignment letters to priests who would be taking on new pastoral duties in the Diocese of Rochester. He did not mention whom, but said that his sending the letters out this week would give new pastors adequate time to prepare their announcement to their present parishes this weekend. The pastor chosen for us is presently pastor of our "next door neighbor" parish of St. Rita in Webster, Fr. Lance Gonyo.

I have known Fr. Lance since he was a young "pre-seminarian" at Becket Hall while I served at Saint John Fisher College. He is from a very fine family who live in Greece, NY. Fr. Lance is a prayerful, holy man and a good preacher and teacher. He is an Aquinas graduate and has a particular love for Catholic Education, so to me as a Basilian, this is especially pleasing.

He is also a very "handy" man; I imagine one of the first things he'll unload as he moves in is a tool chest!

Fr. Lance will be stopping in at various points in the next weeks to get to know our campuses, to decide where he would like to live, etc. I intend to prepare a sort of "transition document" for him, so that he'll know the practical things, whom to contact for various purposes and a few notes about our history and how things have progressed up to this point, so that he doesn't come in and have to try and piece things together for himself.

I was told by Fr. Paul Tomasso, Vicar General of the diocese that Fr. Lance will be accompanied by a parochial vicar, a priest of the religious order, the Heralds of the Good News. I have not yet learned his name. But it is good to know that the diocese supports the parish with two full-time priests and with the continued, invaluable service of Fr. Evan Simington, whose commitment to Saint Kateri and to the Fellowship of St. Alban continues as it has before.

Fr. Tomasso also let me know that Fr. Gonyo's assignment begins on June 25. It is expected that he will move in on or around that date. This means that the present occupants will move out before that. Fr. Gonyo and I will "overlap" one week to make the smoothest transition possible.

I am so grateful to you for all the kindness and support you have given me these seven years. I know that I can count on you to be a vital support to Fr. Lance.

Let us thank God for answering the prayers that we have offered at the end of each weekend mass over these last few months and pray for the successful and blessed pastorship of Fr. Lance Gonyo at Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish for years to come. May he be a very good shepherd for this beloved flock.

Your grateful brother,

Fr. Paul F. English, CSB, Pastor

