



Open to the Spirit. Faithful to the Church.

It's official. As of July 1, 2017 I am "Pastor" of the Church of Saint Paul. I had been Parochial Administrator ("pastor in training") since June 1, 2016. It is common practice these days in our local church to appoint pastors to six year terms, with a possible six year extension. My appointment letter gives me six years. I am already praying for the extension!

The formal rite of installation will take place on Sunday, July 9 at the 10:30am Mass. I hope you can come, or if not, keep me in your prayers that day.

During the rite of installation I will take an oath of office, promising to preserve communion with the Catholic Church by holding fast to the deposit of faith, fostering the common discipline of the Church, and observing all ecclesiastical and Canon Laws. I will promise unity with the bishops who teach and govern, following with obedience what they declare and establish.

From our Pastoral Council, I will pledge to seek counsel, guidance, and advice in the spiritual and temporal care of my pastorate and to be attentive to the needs they express. With the ministry leaders and parish staff who assist me, I will be encouraged to serve in a spirit of mutual trust, common prayer, and genuine concern. With all of you, the people of God at the Church of Saint Paul, I will ask with confidence for the grace always to be open to the promptings and desires of God's Holy Spirit.

The Church of Saint Paul is not my parish. The Church of Saint Paul belongs to Christ and is united to Him in the One Spirit and in the One Church. The Church of Saint Paul is fully alive and spiritually fruitful when we are open to the Spirit and faithful to the Church. Together, let us strive for this abundant and fruitful life.

*Fr. Jim*