

Dear family of St. John,

On December 16, I got my call from the Archdiocese priest personnel board about my Beacons of Light parish assignment. The phone call announced that as of June 30, 2022, I will no longer be pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in West Chester. I was told that I have been given a new assignment for a different parish family effective July 1, 2022. I need to be honest with all of you to say that the call was shocking, and I am still feeling hurt. I truly wanted to continue with St. John the Evangelist's new parish family as either the pastor or parochial vicar. But that was not to be. As hard as this is, I know that we must move forward for the sake of this wonderful parish that I love so dearly.

This parish is my family, a family that I deeply love and have given my life to for all these years. I have given from the heart. I know I have not always met everyone's expectations, but I did the best I could given the tools the Lord gave me. I am leaving with a very heavy heart. I have been assigned to another parish family as their parochial vicar. When I am allowed to tell you where I am being assigned, I will make that announcement.

I am not really capturing all that I am feeling now and over the Christmas and New Year holidays. This news put a damper on my holidays. The sadness was (and still is) overwhelming for me. I will miss this parish; it has been the place I have called home for so many years. God bless each of you. I will be praying for all of you as the parish of St. John moves forward in the Beacons of Light process. Please say a few prayers for me. I will always keep this parish in my heart.

In Christ's peace,

Fr. Don J. West