



January 26, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When the Master of the Dominican Order visited the Southern Dominican Province of St. Martin de Porres in 2016, he encouraged us to consider a consolidation of our ministries and communities. In response to the Master's request, the 2018 Provincial Chapter commissioned the friars to begin a process of reconfiguration. Since then the Provincial Council, with the assistance of a professional consultant and in dialogue with our membership, articulated priorities that emphasize strengthening community life from which our ministries flow. This process has led us to recognize that we are in fact an aging province with fewer vocations, serving a vast geographical territory. Therefore after much prayer and deliberation, the Province has come to the painful decision that we must withdraw from Holy Ghost Parish and St. Albert Catholic Student Center and close the related Dominican Community in Hammond by June 30, 2022. We are returning the parish to the pastoral care and ministry of the Diocese of Baton Rouge who will provide the clergy in the future.

For over 100 years the Dominican friars have faithfully served the people of Holy Ghost Parish. We are quite aware of the legacy we leave behind and the hard work and dedication that many of our friars demonstrated in their years of service in Tangipahoa Parish. We are deeply grateful for the collaboration in ministry and your generous support of the friars in Hammond and throughout the Province of St. Martin de Porres over these many years.

We want to assure you that the Dominicans have no desire to leave you. However, for the sake of strengthening our community life and to better serve the many pressing needs of the Church in our Province we must consolidate our houses and ministries.

We will work diligently with Bishop Duca to assure a smooth transition and ensure that you continue to receive the pastoral care and ministry you expect.

The Dominican friars assure you of our prayers, support, and our great gratitude as we go forward in faith in the coming months.

Sincerely in St. Dominic,

Fr. Thomas Condon OP

Very Rev. Thomas Condon, O.P.
Prior Provincial

Victor Laroche, OP

Very Rev. Victor Laroche, O.P.
Socius and Vicar Provincial

Fr. Francis Orozco, OP

Rev. Francis Orozco, O.P.
Councilor

Scott O'Brien of

Rev. Scott O'Brien, O.P.
Councilor

Bro. Herman Johnson, O.P.

Br. Herman Johnson, O.P.
Councilor

Ian L. Bordenave, O.P.

Rev. Ian Bordenave, O.P.
Councilor

Mark Wedig, OP

Rev. Mark Wedig, O.P.
Councilor

Carl Joseph Paustian, OP

Rev. Carl Joseph Paustian, O.P.
Councilor

Marcos B. Ramos, O.P.

Rev. Marcos Ramos, O.P.
Regent of Studies

Fr. John Dominic Sims, OP

Rev. John Dominic Sims, O.P.
Syndic