



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to share an important update about the Northeast Deanery, or northeast region of the Diocese of Crookston. On July 1 of next year, 2026, Father Bryan Kujawa, pastor of St. Francis Xavier, Oklee; St. Ann, Goodridge; and St. Clement, Grygla will be receiving a new pastoral assignment. At that time, I will not have another priest available to serve the three parishes he currently pastors.

Because of this, we will be entering into a time of discernment about how best to move forward — not only for those three parishes, but for the surrounding parishes in the area as well. We will have to form new clusters of parishes in the area and discern together the best way to carry out the mission Christ gives us in those parish clusters.

As a diocese we are beginning *Planning for Mission* which is not simply about priest assignments or parish structures. Rather we are seeking to discern the best way to use our limited resources to fulfill the mission Christ gave to His Church. We need to discern in prayer together how we can strengthen the faith of those who currently attend and proclaim the Gospel with joy to those who have not yet encountered Christ or who have fallen away from their relationship with Christ.

I ask for your prayers for the parishes directly affected by this transition and for all of us as we discern together the path ahead, which will be announced in the upcoming weeks. Please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we continue this important work of planning for mission in our diocese.

Know of my deep gratitude for your faith, your love for your parish, and your willingness to journey together in hope.

Sincerely, in Christ,

The Most Reverend Andrew H. Cozzens, S.T.D., D. D.
Bishop of Crookston