



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



Dear Parishioners of Saint Maria Goretti Catholic Church,

I am writing to you as your bishop with love and compassion as you receive the sad news of the decision of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Province of the Third Order Regular Franciscans to withdraw from the pastoral care and oversight of your parish later this summer.

Please know that I am praying for you and for the friars during this time of grief and sadness at their departure. I wish to thank all of the friars who have served and continue to serve Christ, present in each and all of you. I thank their provincial, Father Joe Lehman, TOR, for his willing and transparent collaboration in oversight.

I am especially grateful for the ministry and religious witness of the friars at Saint Maria Goretti who assisted so many parishioners in healing from past trauma. I thank each of the friars for their continued ministry and collaboration with the parish and school staff. I know the decision to leave Saint Maria Goretti Catholic Church was not made by the provincial council easily or without sadness.

In closing, I want to assure you that I have already begun the process of consultation in discernment to provide your parish and Catholic School with a pastor who can serve you with compassion and integrity. I have met with your parish staff and financial advisory council. Please pray for me and for your parish as we ask God's guidance during this transition. I remain,

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ Michael F. Olson

Most Rev. Michael F. Olson, STD, MA
Bishop of Fort Worth