

# *Church of the Immaculate Conception*

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Dear Parishioners and Friends,

June 21, 2020

After much prayer and discernment, I have decided to submit my resignation as Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Bishop Checchio has granted my request, effective September 1, 2020. After 18 years of pastoral ministry here and now at age 72, I think the time is right to pass the responsibility to a pastor with new energy to grow this vibrant parish and our schools for the future. I am able to request this change with confidence because I know the good people of Immaculate Conception Parish and our schools will continue to support those efforts fully, as you have always done. I am not retiring from active ministry, but have requested an assignment where I will concentrate primarily on pastoral ministry and less on the management of a parish.

I am eternally grateful to Bishop Checchio and his predecessors for giving me the opportunity to serve as pastor of this vibrant and exciting parish with its many pastoral, educational and social ministries. My eighteen (18) years in Somerville have been among the most rewarding and challenging of my forty eight (48) years of priestly ministry. Thanks to the great support I have received from parishioners, school administrators, especially the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, faculties, staff, associates, deacons, benefactors and friends, school boards, advisory councils, volunteers, diocesan personnel, especially bishops, my ministry here was always a great team effort in which I felt fully supported. Thanks to all, but most of all, to the Lord for these fruitful years in service to God and His church.

The Office of Priest Personnel will assist the Bishop in selecting the next pastor for Immaculate Conception Parish by conducting some listening sessions to gauge the current status of the parish and the opportunities and challenges going forward. One of these listening sessions will be held on Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM and will be facilitated by Msgr. John Fell, Director of Priest Personnel and Msgr. Randy Vashon, a member of the Priest Personnel Board. While this meeting is open to anyone, members of the NEPC (Pastoral Council), Finance Council, Trustees, School Boards, H.S.A. Officers and other ministry leaders are strongly encouraged to attend. This meeting will be in church with social distancing, masks, and other restrictions observed.

There will be a separate meeting for Parish staff which will also be held June 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. The listening session for the members of the Hispanic Committee and leaders of ministries in the Hispanic community will be on Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM.

Please pray for our Parish that the Holy Spirit will continue to enliven all our members and guide our Bishop and his advisors in choosing the next pastor to lead this great community of faith. I will continue to serve the pastoral, spiritual and temporal affairs of the Parish until September 1<sup>st</sup>. I do not know where my next assignment will take me but whatever the future brings, I know that part of my heart will always be in Somerville and with the good people of this Parish and our schools.

Yours Sincerely,



Msgr. Seamus F. Brennan