



## *Diocese of Rockford*

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Office of the Bishop

November 23, 2021

Dear Father Twenty and Parishioners of Holy Cross Parish,

I write in order to update you on recent developments regarding Father James Parker.

As you are well aware, I wrote to Father Parker on June 8, 2021, to inform him that his six-year term as Pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Batavia had lapsed and he was no longer Pastor of that parish. That six-year term of Pastor was made in accordance with the longstanding particular law of the Diocese of Rockford as found in the *Priests' Personnel Policies*.

Since that time, Father Parker made hierarchical recourse to the Congregation for the Clergy in Rome against my declaration that his term of office as Pastor of Holy Cross Parish had lapsed. By means of a letter dated November 4 of this year, the Congregation for the Clergy has informed me that, after studying the matter, it has decided this recourse which had been made by Father Parker. The Congregation rejected Father Parker's recourse and decreed that his recourse against the lapse of his term as Pastor of Holy Cross Parish had no canonical basis in law or in fact. As a consequence of the decision by the Congregation for the Clergy, Fr. Twenty's own appointment as Administrator of Holy Cross cannot be said to have been invalid. Father Parker retains the right to make further recourse against the decision of the Congregation of the Clergy to the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura in Rome.

I am sorry that the various statements that Father Parker made last May and June about the illegitimacy of the action bringing about the conclusion of his term as pastor caused hurt and confusion among the faithful. Another consequence of the recent decision by the Congregation is that the decision recognizes those statements as being without foundation. At the same time, I am grateful, Father Twenty, that in your own fulfillment of your priestly commitment, especially your promise of obedience, you have worked to build upon the faith and good work for which Holy Cross parish has long been known.

As was indicated in the diocesan statement of June 15, 2021, efforts were made to reach out to Father Parker to discuss his situation as early as February 2021, and he had refused to engage in that dialogue absent conditions, and now has refused to meet at all. For that reason, it has been communicated to Father Parker that any new assignment for him will be determined pending his cooperation with and obedience to his Bishop with respect to concerns that have arisen related to his ministry. In the meantime, I again ask that you, Father Twenty, and the faithful of Holy Cross Parish keep Father Parker in your prayers.

With the assurance of my prayers for the community of the faithful at Holy Cross Parish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *David J. Malloy*  
Most Reverend David J. Malloy  
Bishop of Rockford