



OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Community

FROM: Archbishop Shelton Fabre

RE: Parish Leadership

DATE: September 23, 2026

I am fully aware that the past few days have been a difficult time for the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and School. Media stories, civil litigation, criminal investigation, and community concerns have resulted in a great deal of stress for everyone involved. I acknowledge the many calls and messages sent to me and other archdiocesan administrators. No doubt civil and criminal investigations might continue for quite some time, which raised the question of pastoral leadership and ministry at Our Lady of Lourdes, which I want to address with you in this memo.

Father David Sanchez is acutely aware of the difficulty that has been introduced at Our Lady of Lourdes. While he remains a priest in good standing, he does not want to be the source of further unrest in the parish. Therefore, Fr. Sanchez has offered his resignation as pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, and I have accepted his resignation. He will now be on Administrative Leave.

I have appointed Father John Schwartzlose as the temporary administrator of the parish effective September 23, 2026. Fr. John has served well as your Associate Pastor, and I have confidence in him. In addition, I have asked Deacon Ken Roberts to assist Fr. Schwartzlose with administrative tasks as there is no opportunity to provide the parish with an Associate Pastor. These appointments will likely continue until July of 2027 when I hope to appoint a new pastor.

To also assist Fr. Schwartzlose, I have asked Dr. Mary Beth Bowling, Vice Chancellor for Administration for the Archdiocese, to provide administrative oversight and support for Ms. Wissing and Our Lady of Lourdes School. This appointment allows Fr. Schwartzlose to focus solely on the Sacramental life of the parish and general administration.

I trust in Jesus Christ, who is Emmanuel, "God With Us" in all circumstances. Grounding ourselves in our faith and trust in the Lord, I know that as we proceed forward as people of hope, God will walk with us to guide us, sustain us, and comfort us. Be assured of my prayers for you and for all involved in this situation.

Blessings and peace to you!