



Office of the Archbishop
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June 22, 2021

Dear Parishioners of Old St. Patrick's,

The recent message you received from Father Tom Hurley, informing you that he has decided to step down as your Pastor, was no doubt a cause of sadness. He has been unswerving in his dedication to you, bringing intelligence, a deep faith and a generous heart to his ministry these many years. I know he will be missed, and I take this occasion to offer my public thanks to him. However, I also want to assure you that he will receive my personal support as he continues his own journey.

Father Ken Simpson generously responded when I asked him to step in to pastor you, although it meant leaving his very significant work on behalf of the priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago. I am grateful to him and grateful to you for welcoming and supporting him in this moment of transition. Like Father Hurley, you can sense he is a great priest the first time you meet him.

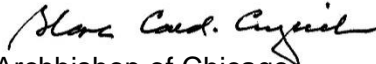
As for the future leadership of Old St. Pat's, after consultation and prayer I have decided to appoint Father Patrick McGrath, S.J., who will begin his service as your pastor upon completion of his term of office as President of Loyola Academy. Father Simpson will continue in his role as administrator until that time.

I very much appreciate the generosity of the Jesuits for providing this excellent priest. He has distinguished himself as a leader who is strong, loving, and wise. Thank you for warmly welcoming and supporting him, just as you have pastors in the past.

Let me take this moment to express my great admiration for the wonderful witness to the gospel that you and the entire staff at the parish offer in so many ways each day. The Archdiocese needs strong parishes like your own, particularly as we take up the work of *Renew My Church* to make disciples, build communities and inspire witness.

Assuring you of a place in my prayers and asking you to include me in yours, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Archbishop of Chicago