



December 5, 2020

Dear Members of Old St. Mary's Parish,

Advent greetings! As we enter this season of waiting and watching for the fulfillment of God's promise, I take this opportunity to provide an update regarding the commitment of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit to Old St. Mary's Parish in Greektown. These past several months have been a time of great difficulty following the recent passing of your pastor, Fr. Epperley, and the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. I express my sincere appreciation for your deep faith and commitment to Old St. Mary's Church during this time of anxiety and uncertainty.

I am pleased to inform you that after considerable dialogue with the Archdiocese of Detroit and discernment within the leadership of the Congregation, we are able and eager to continue our commitment to Old St. Mary's Parish in Greektown. We have been blessed and privileged to serve the faith community at St. Mary's since 1892, and we look forward to a future full of hope and continuing grace. We are particularly grateful for the opportunity to work closely with the Archdiocese to implement Families of Parishes, which will greatly enhance the evangelization efforts of our local Church.

Continuing the long and proud tradition at Old St. Mary's of welcoming all people on our common journey of faith and prayer, we look forward to embracing new opportunities to collaborate with parishioners and the Archdiocese to bring the Spiritan charism to the local church as we collaborate in proclaiming the Good News to the "far ends of the earth."

We are grateful to Fr. Nyaki, the current Administrator, who will continue in this role until we are ready to present to the Archbishop an experienced Spiritan to be appointed as the new full-time pastor in the spring. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to living the Catholic faith in Greektown. Please be assured that we are one in prayer and spirit. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen us on our shared journey.

Sincerely in the Holy Spirit,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Jeffrey T. Duaine, C.S.Sp." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Very Reverend Jeffrey T. Duaine, C.S.Sp.
Provincial