



## Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

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Office of the Bishop

March 13, 2015

Dear Parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Collinsville:

I am writing to let you know about an impending change in the assignment of priests in our diocese that will soon affect your parish. Due to some particular circumstances and the needs of the diocese that have arisen in recent months, Father Steven Sotiroff, currently Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Mattoon, is being transferred to become Chaplain for the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, Alton, and Chaplain of St. Anthony's Health Center, Alton, effective March 23, 2015. The Sisters and the hospital have been without a priest chaplain since November, so they are most eager for Father Sotiroff to begin as soon as possible.

To replace him in Mattoon, I am appointing Father John Titus as Parochial Administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Mattoon, while retaining his duties as Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish and Chaplain at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. In order to assist him in these ministries, I am transferring Father Steve Arisman from Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Collinsville to be Parochial Vicar at Immaculate Conception Parish in Mattoon, Parochial Vicar at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Charleston, and Associate Chaplain at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. Father Titus and Father Arisman will both reside at St. Charles Borromeo Rectory in Charleston. These assignments will begin March 23.

I know this change in the assignment of Father Steve Arisman after less than a year at Saints Peter and Paul Parish is unexpected and undoubtedly is a disappointment to you. I wish that circumstances were different and that some other alternative arrangement could have been found. But due to the shortage of priests in our diocese it sometime becomes necessary to make changes to address shifting needs as they arise. I thank you for welcoming Father Arisman so warmly to your parish as a newly ordained priest. I ask for your understanding and your prayers for more vocations to the ordained priesthood, so that we may have sufficient priests to provide for all of our pastoral needs in this diocese. Please be assured of my prayers for you as well.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki  
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois