



May 22, 2020  
Littleton, CO

Dear St. Mary Parishioners,

May is a month that always brings many changes to our families as the school year ends, sacraments are conferred, and clergy are re-assigned. Through these changes, God continues to call us to love in and through Him in many new ways. I am sure that, by now, you are aware of the different changes that are coming to the clergy in our parish. For the sake of clarity, I list here the different assignments of the clergy and seminarian in our community in Littleton. For the most part, the changes are effective July 1, 2020:

- Fr. Jose Noriega – Pastor, St. Mary Parish
- Fr. Javier Nieva – Parochial Vicar, St. Mary Parish
- Fr. Stefan Zarnay – Parochial Vicar and Principal of St. Mary School
- Fr. James de Cendra – Parochial Vicar, St. Mary Parish
- Fr. Luis Granados – in residence at St. Mary, continuing his work at the seminary
- Fr. Javier O'Connor – in residence at St. Mary, Parochial Vicar, Notre Dame Parish
- Fr. Armando Marsal – reassigned to Virginia
- Fr. Leopoldo Vives – reassigned to Virginia
- Br. Ignacio Golmayo – returning to house of formation in Madrid (effective August 1, 2020)

So, my six-year appointment as Pastor here has ended, and it is time for me to say farewell. However, I do not say farewell to you, my dear friends, but only to the role of Pastor. God has truly blessed me in many ways during these years, giving me the opportunity to serve Him in this wonderful parish family, and to live in community with my brother priests. I am very happy to be able to stay as Parochial Vicar to assist Fr. Jose Noriega with the transition to Pastor. I look forward to this opportunity to serve in a new way, to be more available to the St. Mary parish families, to continue to celebrate the sacraments and support the mission of the parish as needed.

It is with great joy that I present to you Fr. Jose Noriega as the new pastor. Fr. Jose (Madrid, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1965) was ordained to the priesthood on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1990 and he is one of the founding members of the Disciples of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. He completed his seminary studies in Toledo and Burgos (Spain). He obtained his Doctorate at the Pontifical Institute John Paul II for Studies on Marriage and Family in Rome in 1999. Since then, he has been an ethics and moral theology professor at numerous ecclesiastic institutions including Madrid Seminary (School of Theology St. Damaso) or, mostly, the John Paul II Institute in Rome, combining his academic work with pastoral work for the family. He has also taught courses at the Institute's branch in Washington D.C., and other locations, besides many other Catholic institutions worldwide. From January 2008 to January 2020 he has served as Superior General of the Disciples of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. During that time, Fr. Jose has had the opportunity of following very closely the developments of St. Mary Parish and has visited us on numerous occasions.

I am sure Fr. José will greatly contribute with his passion and vision so that our parish continue flourishing with many fruits for the Lord.

I am extremely grateful for the work Fr. Armando Marsal has done at St. Mary for the last 7 years as a parochial vicar, and previously as priest in residence. It was a privilege to live and work side-by-side with him and witness his deep faith, abundant hope and true charity for our community and for the parish family. He has guided many people in a deeper relationship with Christ through his countless retreats, meditations, classes, spiritual direction and more. We were so blessed to be able to celebrate in 2018 his 25<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary and I wish him many more years of service to the Lord. We will be sharing soon more information about a farewell Mass and celebration.

It has also been a blessing this past year to have Fr. Leopoldo Vives living in residence with our community while being assigned at Notre Dame parish as a Parochial Vicar. We will miss his presence in our home and pray that as he returns to Virginia, the Blessed Mother will take him under her mantle of care. With his departure, Fr. Javier O'Connor returns to Colorado. Many of you will remember Fr. O'Connor as one the "Three Amigos" who first came to St. Mary parish in 2007. His primary mission will be as a Parochial Vicar at Notre Dame, but he will be helping out part time at St. Mary's as well.

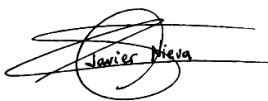
In addition to these changes, we are very happy to have an increase in the number of priests serving St. Mary Parish! Fr. Jose Granados, Superior General, and Archbishop Aquila have approved the assignment of Fr. James de Cendra as Parochial Vicar. As we announced last week, Fr. Stefan Zarnay was appointed principal.

All these changes will allow St. Mary to have two clergy dedicated to supporting the day-to-day operations of the school, the Disciples continue their commitment to Catholic Education, helping St. Mary School flourish in its mission to develop each student's potential.

Finally, we say goodbye to Br. Ignacio. I am thankful for the enthusiasm and creativity that Br. Ignacio has brought to the many apostolates that he has worked with in his time here: Altar Servers, Kairos, soccer with the priests, youth ministry, and the school. He will return to the house of formation in Madrid to continue his studies by the beginning of August. We will plan to have an opportunity to say goodbye sometime this summer.

I am excited to see the what the coming year will bring to St. Mary in the light of all of these changes. Even though the names and faces are changing, the Disciples vision and spirituality remains a constant. Please keep us all in your prayers these next few months as we work through these transitions.

God bless you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Javier Nieva", enclosed within a circular scribble.

Fr. Javier Nieva, DCJM  
Pastor