



The Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher  
Bishop of Buffalo

March 22, 2021

My Dear Brothers in the Presbyterate, Deacons, Parish and Education Leaders and Friends -

Since the *Road to Renewal* initiative was launched last September, a great deal of work has been implemented and many valuable insights have been gathered in our aim to redefine the relevance and impact of Catholic faith and ministry throughout Western New York. For my part, I have been so impressed in these early days of my Episcopal ministry here in the Diocese by the close cooperation and dedication to this effort of so many as we seek to more fully optimize parish and diocesan resources, and importantly increase the reach of Catholic ministries among those who need them most.

As we together advance the work of renewal across our Diocese, it is clear to me that we would benefit from a dedicated team and leadership that will serve to coordinate the essential input and learnings being gathered from our parishes and schools, and as we define our most essential near- and long-term priorities. Toward this end, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Father Bryan Zielenieski as the Episcopal Vicar for Renewal and Development, a position that is effective immediately and which will report to me. Fr. Bryan will continue as pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Swormville.

Fr. Bryan, who has been serving as a member of the Renewal Task Force, will direct the newly-established Office of Episcopal Vicar for Renewal and Development which will oversee the coordination of the planning process that includes consultation, education and promotion of the renewal initiative among Diocesan offices, our parishes, schools and ministries. The work of educating all of the Faithful of our Diocese about the purpose and objectives of the renewal, as well as the formation of ministry leaders, is also vital to this new role. Fr. Bryan will be identifying a small support team that will be charged with collaborating and closely coordinating with our parishes and schools to ensure utmost clarity about the steps to be implemented and their implications.

I am deeply grateful to Fr. Bryan for his willingness to accept these added responsibilities and ask for your prayers and support for him, as well as for your ongoing commitment to this important and sacred work to bring about renewed zeal across our Diocese for promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Bishop Mike