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April 10, 2026

St. John Henry Newman Parish
1615 Lincoln St.
Evanston, IL 60201

Dear St. John Henry Newman Parish Family,

On March 30 of this year, I informed you that serious questions had been raised about the fiscal administration of your parish and that we would undertake a review of parish finances. During that review Father Anderson was asked to step away from his financial administrative duties and I asked Father Wayne Watts, Pastor of Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish in Wilmette, to oversee the administration of parish finances until we completed that process. Father Anderson fully cooperated with this decision and the review.

That review has revealed that Father Anderson violated a number of core archdiocesan policies pertaining to the proper exercise of good stewardship of parish resources. These violations included the creation and maintenance of a separate bank account into which he deposited substantial parish funds. Some of these monies were used to cover costs unrelated to parish needs including his personal expenses.

After the results of this review were shared with Father Anderson, he decided to resign as the Pastor of St. John Henry Newman Parish. Moreover, he accepted my instruction that, when the full accounting is complete, he is to make restitution for any funds clearly identified as covering his personal expenses.

Bishop Timothy O'Malley, Episcopal Vicar, will be visiting with the pastoral and finance councils of the parish to answer their questions and to determine the best steps forward to rebuild the trust of parishioners.

I am grateful to Father Wayne Watts for his willingness to manage the finances of the parish during the review. I am committed to ensuring you have the pastoral care you deserve and I have asked our placement board to recommend a new pastor to begin July 1, 2026. In the meanwhile, I have asked Father Gerald Gunderson, an experienced pastor who lives in retirement, to serve as administrator until the new pastor arrives. I ask that you welcome him and cooperate with his leadership.



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As I noted in my earlier letter to you, we take seriously our duty to steward the resources you provide and uphold best practices in their management. Your trust means a great deal to me and I appreciate the patience you have shown as we conducted the review. We will take steps with the parish leadership to remedy any deficiencies or lack of controls.

You continue to be in my prayers and I ask for yours.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Blase Card. Cupic".

Archbishop of Chicago