



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

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PRESS RELEASE

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OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY – October 14, 2021 - The Diocese of Rockville Centre is pleased to announce that the Reverend Liam McDonald has been appointed the pastor of the parish of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux in Montauk, New York.



At present, Father McDonald serves as the Chaplain to Holy Trinity Diocesan High School in Hicksville, New York and resides at the nearby Church of the Holy Family. Father McDonald was ordained in 2017 and is noted for his humility and pastoral zeal. With family ties on the east end of Long Island, he looks forward to serving the Catholic faithful in Montauk.

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Photo by Ed Casey

THOMAS GRIFFIN
teaches at a Catholic
high school on Long
Island and lives with
his wife and son. View
his latest content at
EmptyTombProject.org

Life as a parish priest is both full and powerful, according to Fr. Liam McDonald, who said “every day is like surfing divine waves. I begin my day and wait to see what God wants to do.”

Father Liam is chaplain for Holy Trinity Diocesan High School and associate pastor at Holy Family Parish in Hicksville. A day in the life of this parish priest is both practically filled and spiritually potent.

His day begins with personal prayer in the chapel at Holy Trinity or Holy Family and continues with teaching freshman religion in the morning, presiding over Eucharistic Adoration or the Sacrifice of the Mass in the afternoon, along with attending extracurricular activities after school, and meeting with parishioners in the evenings.

Fr. Liam was baptized at Cure of Ars parish in Merrick but traveled with his family for much of his young life. His journeys led him to schools and parishes in both Rhode

Island and Virginia, but his lack of a consistent home base for a parish never halted the movement of God in his life.

Moments of prayer, after college and before Eucharistic Adoration, allowed him to see the deep questions God was asking him to consider in his life and helped lead him to discern the priesthood more intensely.

There was no shortage of people who aided his path to the priesthood. Specifically, Fr. Liam highlighted the witness and writings of Pope St. John Paul II as pivotal for his discernment. Most emphatically, it was the “authenticity and zeal to evangelize” that captivated him about the pope. Getting to know Fr. Liam, it is clear that these are two traits that he has taken on with deep devotion as a high school chaplain and parish priest.

One of the greatest moments in his current assignment, Fr. McDonald said, is “sharing what God is doing in my life and hearing what God is



doing in the lives of those around me." Relaying the actions of God in your life and listening to his movements in the lives of others allows "for the faith to spread, grow in us, and we effectively prepare for the fruitful proclamation of the Gospel by sharing testimonies of what God is doing in our lives."

This focus on personal relationships with others and the need to express that relationship with those we meet, personifies Fr. Liam's desire to be real about the faith and shows just how passionate he is about spreading the message of Jesus. When asked what the essential aspects of being a disciple entails, he shared it all begins with relationship.

A Christian must always remember that his or her relationship with God ought to drive every aspect of life. This is the bedrock of the Catholic faith, according to Fr. McDonald, because relationship springs from love and God infinitely "loves you and has an amazing plan for your life" (Jer. 29:11).

Secondly, we must realize that sin has messed up this plan. Therefore, we must "never blame God for x, y, and z in life. Don't blame God, blame His enemy." (John 8:44)

"Good news for you reading this article," said Fr. Liam. "Jesus came to do something about this....Jesus stood in for you when he died on the cross and he reconciled you with God."

Even though Christ stood in for each of us, there is still something required of us. We are asked "to reorient our life to Christ" and live out the call of our Baptism to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth.

According to Fr. Liam, so often, we can become so anxious about the future or uncertain of where things are headed in our nation that we remain silent about Christ. Faith seems to be neglected at best and outright rejected or attacked at worst.

We must hold fast to the call given to each one of us to bring God's mercy and face to a world that desperately desires to meet him. The question is, how do we accomplish this task?

A passage that has been continuously powerful for Fr. Liam on this topic is from the Acts of the Apostles. The early Church was faced with countless obstacles, but in its challenges members doubled down on faith, truth, and evangelization. "And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and

give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus." (Acts 4:29-30).

Christians, from the earliest days, did not cower in fear of the darkness that surrounded them. "They did not," Fr. Liam said "try to solve earthly problems with human ingenuity or self-reliance. They didn't even pray for safety...no...they prayed for boldness to preach God's word."

No matter the circumstances, Fr. Liam encourages all Catholics to turn to prayer and ask God for help in seeing the plan he has for each of us; a plan for great joy and immense treasure in knowing him and bringing him to others. Speak his name and be emboldened to live intentionally for Jesus Christ because the victory has already been won through his cross and resurrection.

Despite the darkness and the unknown future let us make these words our own, as Fr. Liam so often does. Riding the divine waves that come his way each day enables him to be a true servant of Christ who allows his hands to work wonders in bringing Christ to everyone he meets. Let us be emboldened to do the same and "wait to see what God wants to do" through us. †

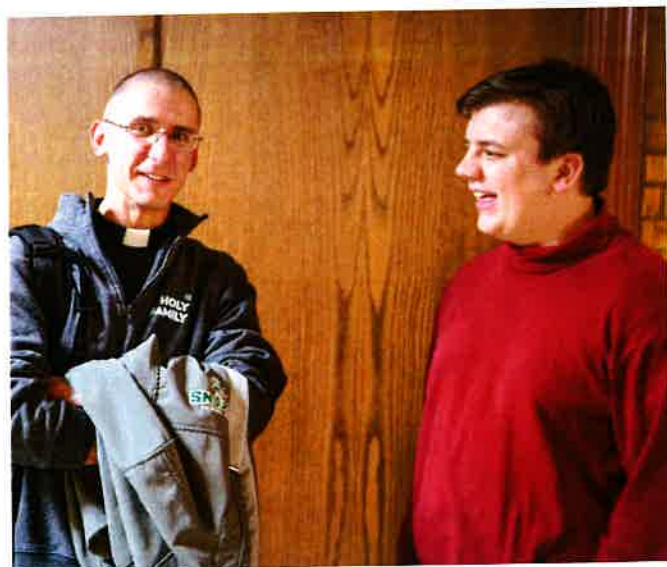


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