



6.8.2023

## **Bishop Persico announces several changes to diocesan administration**

*Father Nicholas Rouch appointed as vicar general*

With the Holy Father's appointment of Monsignor Edward Lohse as bishop-elect of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, the Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, bishop of Erie, has announced several changes to diocesan administration, effective July 19.

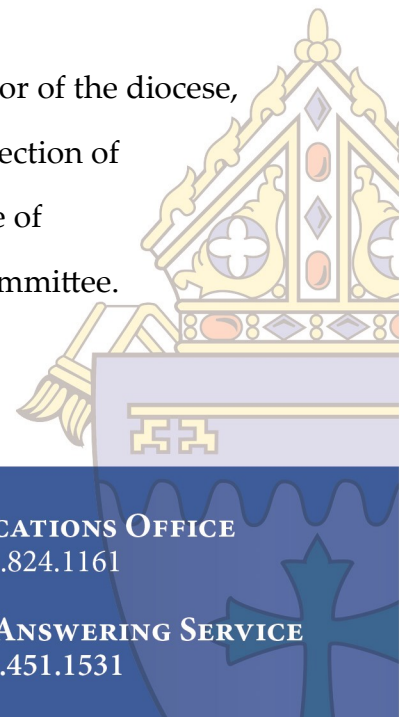
He has appointed:

- Father Nicholas Rouch, STD, as vicar general and moderator of the *curia*. The vicar general is the highest official in the diocese after the bishop. During his time in administration, Father Rouch has served in several roles including as vice rector of St. Mark Seminary and vicar for education. His latest position was as vicar for clergy. In addition to his new role, he will serve as acting vicar for clergy.
- Father Christopher Singer, JCL, will remain in his position as chancellor of the diocese, but also take on the responsibility as director of the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth. Bishop Persico also appointed him to the College of Consultants, the Clergy Personnel Board and the Pastoral Planning Committee.

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- Father Matthew Kujawinski, who has been serving as administrator of the Office for Divine Worship, now has been named as its director. He also will continue as pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Erie.

“I am grateful for their generous service to me, to our priests and to the faithful of our diocese,” Bishop Persico said. “I am confident they will serve us well, individually and as a team.”

Bishop-elect Lohse will remain pastor of St. Julia Parish in Erie until his departure July 19. Bishop Persico plans to announce the appointment of a new pastor for St. Julia when other clergy appointments are made in July. The bishop also asked that people continue to pray for Bishop-elect Lohse as he prepares for his ordination to the episcopacy on July 25, as well as for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life in the Diocese of Erie.

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