



OFFICE OF THE MOST REVEREND ARTURO CEPEDA  
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF DETROIT

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January 7, 2023

Dear Parishioners of The National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica,

2022 brought a series of consequential events to Shrine Parish – medical issues impacting Fr. Horn’s health and recovery, a personnel transition in the business office, and a recently concluded review by the Archdiocese of Detroit that identified some concerns regarding administrative and financial practices. Consequentially, Archbishop Vigneron has appointed a Delegate of Fiscal Affairs (Interim Financial Administrator) to assist Fr. Horn, the other priests *in solidum*, the parish and its schools with administrative and financial oversight. Bishop Walter Hurley, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Grand Rapids and former auxiliary bishop of Detroit, will serve on-site in this position for six months, through the end of June, with the possibility his appointment may be extended.

Fr. Horn continues in his role as rector of the basilica and to have principal responsibility for the parish, attending to the pastoral and sacramental elements of parish and school operations. Likewise, the other priests *in solidum* will continue to have responsibility for all other aspects of parish life, minus those involving Shrine’s finances or administration.

St. Therese said: “... *Prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.*” As this process begins, let us hold in prayer Bp. Hurley, your priest, parish and school leadership teams, especially those on staff and those who serve on the councils, committees, and advisory boards. May God bless their efforts.

En Cristo y Maria,

+ ARTURO CEPEDA

Most Reverend Arturo Cepeda