



November 17, 2022

Dear faithful of Saint Francis and Saint Clare Parish,

On Wednesday I met with Fr. Nathanael and members of parish leadership to begin to formulate a plan to support you.

I wish to announce that Archbishop Martin Currie has agreed to provide pastoral support to the parish and assist Father Nathanael with the spiritual care of the people of Saint Francis and Saint Clare parish.

Additionally, I have appointed two members of my staff to work closely with your parish leadership team to continue to advance the administrative work of your parish.

Your leaders also raised some questions regarding Fr. Pio's withdrawal of faculties for pastoral ministry. Father Pio has confirmed his part in these allegations. Plans to care for all involved, including counselling, are underway. As you can understand providing significant details is impossible out of respect for the privacy of everyone involved. I also wish to restate that this matter does not involve minors.

While I understand the situation is difficult, I ask you to show kindness and respect and pray for everyone involved.

May Saints Francis and Saint Clare intercede for all of us at this time.

Sincerely in Christ,

†Brian Joseph Dunn  
Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth