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**DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA**  
*OFFICE OF THE BISHOP*

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July 2020

Dear Parishioners of St. Raphael Parish,

May the Peace of Our Savior Jesus Christ reign in your hearts and your homes.

With this letter, I wish to announce the appointment of Reverend Michal Szyszka as the new Administrator of St. Raphael Parish, Lehigh Acres, effective July 13, 2020.

Father Szyszka is a priest of the Diocese of Venice and was ordained on May 21, 2011. Father previously served as Parochial Vicar of Ss. Peter and Paul the Apostle Parish in Bradenton and prior to that Parochial Vicar of St. Thomas More Parish, Sarasota and Resurrection Parish in Fort Myers. In his assignments, Father has shown that he is a man of prayer and deep pastoral solicitude for his people. I pray that he will bring many blessings and spiritual care to your parish community.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the sudden departure of your beloved Pastor, Father Dennis Cooney. He will be greatly missed. As I mentioned when I celebrated Father's Funeral Mass, a public Memorial Mass will be held when everyone is able to participate. Please pray for the repose of his soul.

At this time, I wish to thank Father Arnold Zebrowski and Father David Baugh for the spiritual care and guidance they have both provided to all the Faithful of St. Raphael Parish during this time of transition.

Kindly welcome Father Szyszka to the community of St. Raphael Parish and please keep him in prayer as he assumes his responsibilities as your new Administrator.

I take this opportunity to extend to each of you, the Faithful of St. Raphael Parish, my greetings and prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane  
Bishop of the Diocese of  
Venice in Florida

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