



THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

July 16, 2020
Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Dear Father Oganda:

Peace be with you!

I note that the term of your appointment as Pastor is scheduled to expire on August 12, 2020. Therefore, I am pleased to renew your appointment as Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in DuQuoin and Immaculate Conception Parish in Tamaroa. This appointment is effective immediately. Ordinarily, this would be for a period of six years. I am very grateful for your years of dedicated and faithful ministry.

As you well know, as Pastor it is your vocation to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ to the Christian Faithful and support them in fulfilling their Baptismal call to be vital members of the Body of Christ. In all you do, you are charged, by the Church, to help them to learn their faith, love their faith, and live their faith.

Because you are well established in these parishes and you know the Faithful and they know you, there may be a temptation to ignore the challenges of this appointment and to go along with the *status quo*. I urge you not to do this. This second term appointment provides you, your parish leadership, and the parish communities with the opportunity to look back on the past years and evaluate the manner in which the Catholic Church has been nurtured and sustained in your community.

How much effort and attention have you devoted to the prayerfulness of your liturgies (reverence in the sanctuary, remote preparation, high quality sacred music, excellence in preaching, well trained lectors and altar servers and other ministers, an atmosphere of prayerful silence in the church)?

Have you provided the necessary oversight for the educational ministry of the parish in all aspects (sound adult education and sacramental formation for children)? Has the community of faith given expression of genuine love of neighbor with ministries to the sick, the homebound, the needy, and the bereaved? Have you been actively involved in evangelization, working for vocations to the priesthood, community outreach, and ecumenical affairs? Has the parish exercised good stewardship of its material resources, taking good care of the parish buildings, using monies wisely, meeting parish responsibilities for the *cathedraticum* and the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal? Do you make a conscious effort to welcome new members and to expand the circle of those who are actively involved in parish life?

Office of the Bishop

222 South Third • Belleville, Illinois 62220-1985
Phone (618) 277-8181 Ext. 108 • Fax (618) 277-0387
E-mail: ebraxton@diobelle.org

Are you working well with your Parish Staff, the Parish Pastoral Council, the Finance Council, the Liturgy Committee, and the Trustees? Do you engage them in long-range planning? Do you have days of reflection and prayer together?


Are good efforts being made to make progress in your **PARISH PARTNERSHIP** according to the provisions of the **PASTORAL PLAN FOR PARISH RENEWAL AND RESTRUCTURING**?

Finally, are you continuing to take good care of your spiritual, physical and mental health? I urge you to reflect on these questions and to discuss them with the Christian Faithful of your parishes so the next six years will be forward moving, building on the good work of the past.

After about six months into your second term as Pastor (perhaps in February 2021), I suggest that you arrange a visit with the Bishop so that you may reflect on how your renewed ministry is unfolding.

I am deeply grateful to you, dear Father Oganda, for your willingness to assume a second term in this pastorate. *Oremus pro invicem.*

Fraternally and appreciatively yours in Christ,


The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton, Ph.D., S.T.D.
Apostolic Administrator
Diocese of Belleville

Copies: Reverend Monsignor John W. McEvilly, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia
Reverend Monsignor John T. Myler, V.F., Chairman of the Priests' Personnel Board

The Reverend Joseph O. Oganda
Pastor
Sacred Heart Parish
17 North Walnut Street
DuQuoin, Illinois 62832



P.S. This letter should copied and inserted in your parish bulletin the weekend of July 18-19, 2020, at Sacred Heart Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish. It should be placed on your parish website and shared with your Trustees and Parish Pastoral Council members. The substance of this letter should be communicated at this weekend's Masses, but the letter need not be read.