

DIOCESE OF ORANGE



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September 22, 2001

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

As your Bishop and Shepherd, I am writing to you to let you know that Father John Lenihan will no longer be serving as Pastor of St. Edward's Parish.

Father John and I have met other times to talk about past difficulties. During this last week I met with Father John and we discussed the most recent news articles about him in which he revealed information about his private life that was previously unknown. Father John acknowledged that the information given was correct. This self-revelation is a cause of scandal to many in the Church, and it is a cause of great concern to me.

Conscious of my personal responsibilities to you and to the entire Church of Orange, I asked Father John to resign as pastor of St. Edward's Parish. Father John agreed to do so; his resignation was effective on Tuesday, September 18, 2001.

I met with the Father ^{Redacted}, Father ^{Redacted}, deacon candidate ^{Redacted} and the parish staff on Wednesday, September 19th to inform them of Father John's resignation and to offer my support to them in the days ahead.

Father John's future in priestly ministry is uncertain at this time. During the coming days, weeks, and months, I ask for your prayers for him.

Father John's resignation does not negate any of the good that has been accomplished in the parish during his time as Pastor. St. Edward's Parish is a faith filled, vibrant, and marvelous community. I am confident that you will weather this difficult moment and will move ahead into the future.

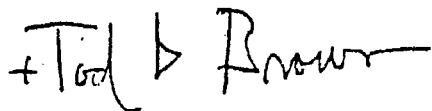
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That you might have pastoral leadership at this time, I have appointed Father Redacted to serve as temporary Administrator of St. Edward's Parish until a new Pastor is named. Father Redacted will also continue as Rector of Mater Dei High School during this time of transition.

I am aware that this announcement will be met with many emotions. This will not be an easy time for you. I am certain you will support one another in prayer and in the common bond of charity, which is our duty as Catholic Christians.

Please pray for me and be assured of my own prayers for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Tod D. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Tod D. Brown
Bishop of Orange

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