

# New rector named at St. Peter's Cathedral

By Teri Maddox

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BELLEVILLE — The Rev. Eugene Wojcik, pastor of St. Bruno Catholic Church in Pinckneyville for six years, has been named rector of St. Peter's Cathedral, the largest parish in the Catholic Diocese of Belleville.



Wojcik replaces Monsignor Joseph Schwaegel, who left the cathedral last fall to enter a treatment program for stress and emotional problems. Schwaegel formally resigned in February and is awaiting an assignment in the diocese.

Sister Michelle Emmerich, spokesman for Bishop James Keleher, said Wojcik started his new job Tuesday. A prayer for him will be held during the noon Mass on Sunday.

The Rev. Dean Braun will serve as temporary administrator at St. Bruno. "He has been on sick leave, but his health is getting better," Emmerich said of Braun.

Wojcik, 45, was ordained in 1974 and taught at the former Assumption High School in East St. Louis before being named executive director of the institution in 1976.

Wojcik served as pastor of Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Fairmont City from 1980 until his assignment to St. Bruno in 1987. He also assisted at the Newman Center at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale for about a year.

Emmerich said several diocesan assignments — including a permanent replacement for St. Bruno — now are being considered by the Priest Personnel Board. They will be announced later this month and will take effect July 6.

## Keleher to undergo back surgery

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Bishop James Keleher will undergo surgery Thursday to correct a protruding disc in his back.

"For the last couple of weeks, he's been trying to work with some back pain," Emmerich said. "We hope that this will be the end of it."

Last week, Keleher underwent testing to determine the cause of pain. He was admitted Tuesday to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., where surgery will be performed.

Emmerich said the diocese staff is in daily contact with Keleher. Monsignor Bernard Sullivan, the vicar general, has taken over some of his duties.

"Whenever bishop is away from the diocese, Monsignor Sullivan is the person people contact," she said. Keleher is expected to return to Belleville next week.

Get-well cards and other correspondence may be sent to the bishop in care of: Catholic Diocese of Belleville, 222 S. Third St., Belleville Ill. 62220-1916.

Among the current vacancies are six pastoral positions left open by the removal of six priests this spring because of allegations of sexual misconduct.

At a recent meeting of priests in

Mount Vernon, Keleher set a goal of July 1 for completing an internal investigation into the alleged misconduct and for making a decision on whether or where the priests will be reassigned.