



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Pastoral Center Staff  
FROM: Archbishop Alexander Sample  
DATE: April 27, 2017  
SUBJECT: New Director of the Office of Divine Worship

I am very pleased to announce that I have finally been able to fill the position of Director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Archdiocese of Portland. I have secured the services of Monsignor Gerard O'Connor, a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, MA. He will be available to begin his work here on September 1 of this year.

Monsignor Gerard O'Connor was born in Hull, Yorkshire in England in 1964; he attended Marist College High School and then Kingston University in London where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Applied Physics. After university he began working in marketing for the personal computer industry. In 1992 his employer transferred him to Boston where he began working as Vice-President of Marketing.

After a couple of years working in the United States, he discerned a priestly vocation. He became a seminarian for the Diocese of Fall River in 1996 when the now Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston was Bishop of Fall River. He was sent to Rome for his priestly studies at the North American College where he obtained his STB degree in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University.

Msgr. O'Connor was ordained by Bishop O'Malley on 22 July, 2000 and after a brief assignment on Martha's Vineyard was sent back to Rome to work for the Holy See as an official of the Congregation of the Clergy. He was named a Chaplain to His Holiness in March 2005.

Upon his return to the United States in January of 2007 he was assigned as Parochial Administrator of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in New Bedford, MA. Then after one year as an assistant priest at Our Lady of Victory Parish in Centerville, MA Msgr. O'Connor was named pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Acushnet, MA in June 2008. He has served well as a pastor of this parish, which has a very successful school, for the past 9 years. He brings to his new position with us this rich pastoral experience.



# ARCHDIOCESE OF PORTLAND IN OREGON

*Office of the Archbishop*

As well as an MBA from Kingston University in London, he holds a License and Doctorate in Sacred Liturgy from the Pontifical Liturgical Institute in Rome. He is a member of the consultative committee of the journal of liturgical studies *Ephemerides Liturgicae*. His doctorate in Sacred Liturgy is from the well-known Pontifical Athenaeum of St. Anselm, the Benedictine university in Rome.

We look forward to having Monsignor O'Connor with us as he brings his wealth of educational and pastoral experience to assist us here in our local Church.