



DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

August 4, 2021

Memorial of St. John Vianney

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The St. Matthias Parish community has been on my mind and in my prayers today. Please know that I am saddened by this whole tragic situation, as well as today's outcome, and am holding Fr. Doug and your entire parish community close in prayer.

As you may have already read in my letter to all the faithful in the Diocese of Metuchen, while I of course am disheartened, I am reminded and encouraged by all that has been done, even within your own parish, and all that continues to light a fire in the heart of our Church, a light that cannot be extinguished or darkened by the shadows of sin or evil. Our diocese has taken further steps to strengthen our financial transparency and fiscal accountability, all of which are outlined further in that same letter, so I hope you will take the time to read it.

As we celebrate the Memorial of St. John Vianney, patron of priests, I ask that you all please pray for our priests, including Fr. Doug. Our priests, including those in your own parish – Fr. Abraham and Msgr. Brennan – do wonderful work to make incarnate the Word of God in our parishes and communities. Our clergy, together with our Catholic school principals, administrators and teachers, our diocesan and parish ministry lay leaders, our social service agency staff members, our healthcare workers, and you – the people of God – each beautifully contribute to the building up of the Kingdom of God in our diocese and right there in the St. Matthias Parish community, and for that, I am continually grateful and thank God. It is only He who will sustain us through such tragic times as this, along with our support of one another.

Please know of my prayers for you and your families and know of my thanks for your goodness and patience throughout this long process too. It has not been easy, but I am united with you in prayer and so is the rest of our diocesan family. Together, we will see brighter days ahead.

With renewed best wishes, I remain

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen