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**The Catholic Week**  
**Editor, Rob Herbst**  
356 Government St.  
Mobile, Alabama 36602  
251-434-1544  
rherbst@mobarch.org

**MOBILE, Ala.** - Fr. Marcin Dudziak has been reinstated to active ministry in the Archdiocese of Mobile.

In November 2020, Fr. Dudziak requested a leave of absence. He was then employed for approximately one year in a secular job and during this period, he gave consideration for his future. After this period, Fr. Dudziak worked on personal issues with the help of professionals.

Fr. Dudziak will serve as chaplain for Mobile area hospitals.

Below is a copy of Fr. Dudziak's letter to parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Mobile.

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**Dear Parishioners,**

I write to express my deepest apologies for the improprieties I had committed during my pastorate. These past several months have been marked by examination of conscience and reflection, and I was able to experience greater friendship, support, and signs of trust than I could ever have imagined. As I deeply regret my behavior, and with contrition, much like the Prodigal Son, I return seeking reconciliation. I am very touched by the fact when the Church begins each celebration of the Holy Eucharist – in which the Lord gives us his word and his very self - with the confession of our sins and petitions for forgiveness, we publicly implore the living God to forgive our fault. Every day at Mass I pray for awareness and forgiveness of my faults.

As I prepare to return to the active ministry, although I am not returning to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, I would like to ask for your forgiveness for all the times when I have been unfaithful to my promises as a priest in my personal life and priestly service. I realized that my conduct of extravagant living and spending did not reflect the spirit of priestly life which should be marked by gentleness, humility, self-restraint and modesty. Finding myself lacking in these qualities I asked for a one year leave of absence which was given to me.

Through that year I continued to pray and discern about my future as a priest. I worked in secular employment during that time. Afterwards, I spent the next several months working on my personal and spiritual issues with the help of professionals and priest peers. During that time I have fully engaged myself in making progress in my treatment, self-acceptance, awareness and boundaries. I have received knowledge, skills and tools to make improvements in my personal life by navigating my thoughts to prevent inappropriate anger and related actions, in building relations, setting up necessary boundaries and being more self-compassionate. I have learned how to deal with negative thoughts, depressive feelings, traumatic and life challenging events, rumination and social withdrawal. By renewing a mindful and spiritual life, I have gained strength, motivation and awareness that God's providence and support is present in every step and decision that I am making.

I am returning, but not as a finished product. I humbly ask of your prayers, support and friendship. I have rediscovered the joy of my priesthood and I am returning to the ministry with my mind and heart renewed. Once again I vow with a joyful heart to return to faithful ministry as a priest. I am very grateful for those who have prayed for me. I humbly ask for your forgiveness.

With my thoughtful and fond memories, I am sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Marcin Dudziak

June 17, 2022