

December 5, 2022

His Excellency

Most Reverend John O. Barres

Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Center

Your Excellency,

DISCERNMENT AND GRATITUDE

After a period of discernment and deep prayerful consideration, and with the full approval of my Ordinary, Most Rev. Paulinus Ezeokafor, the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Awka, Nigeria, I write to inform you of my sincere desire to join the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA as a military chaplain. This desire was facilitated by the urgent need for Catholic priests who will continue to provide the pastoral and spiritual services to those serving in the armed forces of the United States and their families and dependents.

This desire comes with mixed feelings. On the one hand, I am deeply grateful for the hospitality, kindness and the rare opportunity the Diocese of Rockville Center has offered me throughout my eleven (11) years of serving here as a hospital Chaplain at the Glen Cove Hospital Northwell Health. I am also grateful for the opportunity of being in residence and assisting for all these years at St. Boniface Martyr Church, Sea Cliff. At the same time, I cannot help but feel a sense of grief to depart from this diocese especially the Clergy, members of the Consecrated Life and the Lay Faithful, and in particular the faithful of St. Boniface Martyr Church, with whom I have enjoyed a nourishing and fruitful collaborative ministry.

Therefore, I sincerely and deeply thank you and the Diocese of Rockville Center for everything. I have grown more in my priestly spirituality and ministry during my time here and so I will always carry with me the fond memory of this beautiful Diocese. I will always keep this diocese in my thoughts and prayers. I request for your prayers too, dear Bishop.

All things being equal, I will depart here for the chaplain's basic military training on January 18, 2023 in South Carolina.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,



Father Azubuike Igwegbe

CC:

Bishop R. Henning,

Rev. Kevin Creagh,

Rev. Josef Nory

Deacon Antonio Gordon