



THE PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE

VERY REV. PETER HARMAN TO RETURN TO DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD-IN-ILLINOIS FOLLOWING COMPLETING EXTENDED TERM AS RECTOR OF PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE

ROME, October 20, 2021 – The Very Reverend Peter C. Harman will complete his term as Rector of the Pontifical North American College effective January 31, 2022. In November 2015, Fr. Harman was appointed to a five-year term as Rector beginning February 1, 2016 after previously serving on the College’s formation faculty and as director of media relations.

In July 2020, the Congregation for Clergy in Rome extended Fr. Harman’s term for an additional year in response to a request from the College’s Episcopal Board of Governors that cited his “excellent leadership through these unprecedented and difficult times caused by the worldwide pandemic.”

The Congregation for Clergy is in the process of appointing a new Rector in consultation with the College’s Board of Governors. Fr. Harman will return to the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, where he served most recently as pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Bishop Robert P. Deeley, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the College and Bishop of Portland, Maine noted: “Father Harman has provided exceptional leadership as a stable and careful caretaker of the seminary, its seminarians, faculty and staff. The entire Board is grateful for his years of outstanding service to the College – as well as for his willingness to extend his term during the pandemic. He has been a blessing to the Church and to our community.”

The Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, Bishop of Springfield in Illinois, said: “While we here in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois were pleased to share Father Peter Harman’s abundant gifts as a priest in the service of the universal Church as a member of the formation faculty and then as Rector of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, we have missed him here in his home diocese and we look forward to his return to resume pastoral ministry among the People of God in Central Illinois.”

In response to the College’s annual *Relazione*, Archbishop Jorge Carlos Patron Wong, Secretary for Seminaries at the Congregation for Clergy wrote to Fr. Harman: “The College is to be

commended for its work in all four dimensions of priestly formation: spiritual, intellectual, pastoral, and human... We conclude with our sincere gratitude for your work in priestly formation.”

Fr. Harman commented: “The time I spent as a seminarian at the College was such a powerful experience for me, that I felt both blessed and humbled to be asked to serve it as a priest. It was a great gift to return eight years ago to serve on the faculty and then as Rector, responsible for the seminarians and priests entrusted to my care. We have been blessed to be able to make many improvements to our facilities and our community life. Now I am excited that God’s never-failing providence has called me to return home to the presbyterate and faithful, family and friends in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. I am profoundly grateful for all who have assisted me and supported me in this role during the last six years, and who help make the College such a special place for the life of the Church. I leave very edified and confident that the important work going on here will continue to bear fruit in the years to come!”

The Pontifical North American College serves as the American seminary for diocesan clergy in Rome. Founded in 1859 by Blessed Pius IX, the College has formed over 5,000 priests near the heart of the Church for service in dioceses around the United States. The College strengthens the bonds between Rome and local churches worldwide, and it allows its students to study the Church’s rich religious and cultural heritage at close range. It currently forms over 200 men as seminarians and graduate priests for service in the United States and Australia.

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