



## Welcome Father John Allen

Father John Allen was appointed as Pastor of St. Margaret Mary in Swannanoa effective July 8, 2025. Father is thrilled to be relocating to western North Carolina. Prior to this appointment, Father Allen was leading the largest Catholic Parish in the United States, Saint Matthew Catholic Church in Charlotte, NC. He returned to his home diocese and was appointed to Saint Matthew by the Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis, Bishop of Charlotte, on December 13, 2019. At the time of his return to Charlotte, he had completed two terms on the faculty (2005-2009) and (2012-2019) of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, the only pontifical seminary in the world outside of Italy. His appointments to the faculty were made by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States in 2005 and by Archbishop Carlo Vigano, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States in 2012.

Father Allen is the youngest of four children born to the late Barton Allen and Ruth Doherty Allen, and was raised in Springvale Maine. He prepared for the priesthood and completed his graduate studies at the Catholic University of America and was ordained to the priesthood in 1990. He has served the Diocese of Charlotte as a pastor, as Director of Vocations, as Rector of the Newman House and as Chaplain of Charlotte Catholic High School.

At the Josephinum, Father Allen taught the following graduate courses: *History of Catholicism in the United States*, *American Catholic Spirituality*, *Church and State in the United States* and *Documents of the Second Vatican Council*. He served the seminary as Vice President for Advancement, as the Dean of Men for both the School of Theology and College of Liberal Arts and as the Director of Pastoral Formation. While in Columbus, he also served as a member of the Joint Ethics Advisory Board for Ohio Health, a nonprofit network of seventeen central Ohio Hospitals, as well as a member of the editorial board for the *Josephinum Journal of Theology*.

As a member of the National Catholic Educational Association, the United States Catholic Historical Society, and the American Catholic Historical Association, Father Allen has delivered guest lecturer at the University of Saint Thomas (Houston), the University of Saint Thomas (Saint Paul) and the University of Notre Dame. He has directed numerous retreats for parishes, for diocesan priests and deacons and for religious communities. He has received an Outstanding Pastor Award from the NCEA and investiture in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.