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PRESS RELEASE

Five to be ordained Catholic priests on August 15

Springfield – While the COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of their original ordination date in early June, five men are now scheduled to be ordained Catholic priests on Aug. 15 in St. Michael’s Cathedral. The five men to be ordained are: Transitional Deacons Stanislaus Achu, Matthew Barone, Michael Goodreau, Valentine Nworah and Sinh Hong Trinh. (brief bios attached)

Archbishop-designate Mitchell T. Rozanski, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Springfield, will ordain the men during an 11 a.m. Mass. This will be one of the archbishop’s last public Masses he will celebrate in the diocese before leaving for his new position in St. Louis.

Due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions, the Mass is by invitation only and will not be open to the public. However, the event will be live streamed on www.diospringfield.org.

“These men have been looking forward to their ordination for years, envisioning in their minds eye what that day would look like. I am sure none of them anticipated the circumstances we now find ourselves in, nor the impacts and restrictions on our celebration as a result,” said Father David Darcy, co-director of vocations for the Diocese of Springfield, noting that they are not alone in their experience. He said many important events have been affected by the pandemic, including baptisms, first Communions, confirmations, marriages and funerals.

“As priests we are called not only to share in the joyful moments of our people’s lives but also their sufferings. We are called not only to offer the sacrifice of Christ at Mass, but unite our own sacrifices to it: a lesson we learn in the seminary that they now see and experience concretely,” said Father Darcy.

“While there will be sadness that our celebration will be subdued and restricted, there will be all the more grace for these men, their priesthood, and the people they serve as a result.”