



DIOCESE OF FAIRBANKS

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 22, 2025

Dear Parishioners,

As many of you already know, Fr. Alphonsus Afina was released yesterday from captivity by Boko Haram. I received confirmation from his home diocese of Maiduguri that he has been returned and is currently with his bishop, Oliver Doeme Dashe.

Thank you for the deep concern for Fr. Alphonsus which many of you expressed to me during the past two months. Most of all, thank you for your perseverance in prayers for Fr. Alphonsus' well-being and release.

God's grace was at work in the goodwill and efforts of many people. Please continue to pray for Fr. Alphonsus as he recovers from his ordeal and to remember all the faithful who are suffering in captivity.

Let us recall how the Lord powerfully works in the lives of His children!

In Christ,

Most Rev. Steven J. Maekawa, O.P.
Bishop of Fairbanks

BSM/bsm

