

# SAID ED July 14, 2013

## Fr. Edison is moving

Today I have some sad news to share. While we rejoice over the fact that we have twenty men “in the pipeline” headed towards ordination and last month we celebrated the ordination of three men to the priesthood, we also celebrated the retirement of four priests who have served our diocese for a combined 160+ years. But the priest shortage is still upon us. We are doing our best to empower our people and to share in pastoral leadership even as we support our priests and affirm their important ministry.

We have to be creative in our ministry as the number of priests diminishes. There are parishes that have critical needs for a priestly presence. Because of that, Bishop Cunningham has asked Fr. Edison to go to St. Charles Borromeo and Holy Name of Jesus parishes in Greece effective August 5<sup>th</sup>.

This assignment is to respond to a critical need for an energetic, pastoral and caring priest who can be part of transitioning these parish communities into the future. The Bishop needs someone with Fr. Edison’s ability, energy and enthusiasm to be part of this transition process. As the saying goes, our loss is their gain.

Fr. Edison has been a gift to us in many ways. His regular presence at the sick bed of parishioner, his Bible Study program and his “can do attitude” have been a wonderful blessing for our parish. As you know, St. Charles is very close to my heart; I spent over ten years there and I know that Fr. Edison will be received graciously and joyfully by the many people of that community. We send Fr. Edison, who has touched our hearts in so many ways, to this new assignment.

No one can replace any of us; we are all so unique in our gifts, talents and abilities. But we will be receiving another priest to assist us; Fr. Anthony Boahen Nketiah comes from Ghana. He was ordained for the Diocese of Konongo-Mampong in 2003. He will be arriving to assist us as Fr. Edison leaves to work at St. Charles/Holy Name. I want to ask your help in welcoming him to our parish.

I also want to publicly thank Fr. Edison for what he has brought to us, for the many people he has touched and for his excellent pastoral care of so many. We pray for him as he goes forward with every confidence that he will bring the same quality of ministry to wherever the Bishop sends him.

We will acknowledge Fr. Edison’s work with us at the coffee hours after 8:30am and 11:00am Masses on August 4<sup>th</sup> which will be his last weekend with us.

Have a great week!

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