

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

I want to bring you up to date on the changing clergy scene here at St. Patrick's. You must know by now that Fr. Tom Kreiser has already transferred to Sacred Heart in Monroe as an associate priest. You most probably know that Msgr. Barry is being transferred to Holy Rosary parish in Hawthorne as the administrator. Today is his final Sunday with us. All happening within 10 days!

As I wrote previously, we will miss both of these wonderful priests a great deal. It is unsettling to lose one associate priest, but two at the same time is a bit upsetting. Please be assured that no one intended to do any harm to our parish. Fr. Tom served six years as an associate priest here, which is pretty much the maximum term for associates. Msgr. Barry was not sure how long he would serve here but it is now clear that his was a short term assignment. They are both needed elsewhere now. I am certain that both priests were very happy in their time here. For different reasons, both of them were very familiar with this parish. Fr. Tom grew up here; Msgr. Barry had his first assignment as a priest here 43 years ago. We all wish they could have stayed here longer, but I think we all know that priests have to go where they are needed when they are transferred. It is always challenging to have to leave a parish where one is comfortable. We will have separate farewell events for Fr. Tom and Msgr. Barry in the Fall. Summer is not the ideal time for that.

We are fortunate that the Cardinal has assigned a nearly newly ordained priest to us beginning August 1st. Fr. John Wilson will start his first full time parish assignment in our midst. I know we will all welcome him warmly when he arrives. We also hope that the Archdiocese will send another priest sooner rather than later.

In the meantime, we are blessed to have two summer priests with us until Labor Day weekend. Fr. William Kyere is from Ghana and Fr. Raphael Madu is from Nigeria. They are both extremely good priests. I am grateful they want to serve in our parish for the summer. We need the sacraments year-round and the Lord does provide. Short term and long term, the Lord is always with us through His Church.

As the scriptures remind us, Jesus said "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for His harvest." Amen. Keep praying! Blessed Summer everyone!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.