

It was nearly 35 years ago that Father Jim Sayres invited me to help out at St. Joe's Parish. My role as "supply help" involved into assisting at funerals, weddings, baptisms and many wonderful parish parties. His eye caught sight of me in the media as I was trying to save inner city Catholic Schools from closing in Englewood. My rhetoric then as it still is today, the only way out of the poverty is through education. Nearly eight Catholic Schools closed in Englewood. Poverty and violence still abound. I am no longer in the position to help the larger community there, but each week I still venture back to help a few families I have known over the years.

Recently, I was asked to take on the role of being Administrator of your Parish as we journey through the Renew My Church program. Lots of meetings. I will be working with a committee of three from the Parish (Carol Gsell, Tom Brabec and Bill O'Brien). Working with St. Anne, Infant Jesus of Prague, St. Lawrence O' Toole, St. Irenaeus and St. Emeric we will be discerning how to strengthen the Catholic presence here in the South Suburbs.

Your input is valuable as well. There will be opportunities to share visions, hopes and expectations. But until that time may we continue to celebrate our Faith. I am looking forward to celebrating weekly and daily Masses with you. I am sure funerals, weddings and baptisms will follow, but I am also anticipating some spirited gatherings and parties as a Parish Family.

Sincerely,

Father Ron