



**Amy Ballanco** —Religious Education K to 6, Special Needs and Sacrament Coordinator

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January 16, 2019

To Rev. Joseph Chapel/Pastor, the People of Our Lady of Mercy Parish and Whom It May Concern;

This letter is to formally inform the Rectory office that I will be seeking retirement effective on July 31, 2019.

I have served as a part time employee, Religious Education assistant and Sacrament Coordinator from 1994 to 1997 and full time Religious Education Director/Coordinator from 1997 to the present day (21 years). While I am stepping down from my position, I fully intend to remain an active member of the Our Lady of Mercy parish community.

I started volunteering for the Religious Education program in 1972 when I was 17 (47 years ago). It is a part of who I am and what I believe. I will remain a Eucharistic Minister and am looking forward to continuing developing more programs for our families with special needs on a volunteer basis.

My current staff, Diane Manzione and Lorraine Hurd, are also taking this opportunity to once again join their family in daily life by stepping down.

I promise you and our Pastor Fr. Joe that the three of us will remain available to support the transition of reorganizing the positions we now hold. Please know that I am retiring on good terms as are Diane and Lorraine. My family also needs and looks forward to having me more available to them as their lifestyles have also changed.

Because I am stepping down, there are parts of my heart that understand what it may mean to some of the children, families and activities I now oversee. With change comes some sadness but also offers more opportunities to look to the future of our children's programming and support of parents raising them to be good examples of faith.

How could I not acquire an affection for the beautiful spirits and faces that I have been able to encourage and hopefully inspire? This is what I will miss the most. Thank you, Our Lady of Mercy Parish, for allowing me to serve you all these years.. God has truly blessed my life by placing me in your midst.

Remember, I am not going anywhere, just doing something different. I will always be available to chat or listen. That will never change.

With Deep Affection and Blessings,

  
Amy Ballanco/CRE