

A Letter from Our Pastoral Coordinator July 15, 2018



May Christ's peace, joy and hope be with you all!

It is great to be with all of you in the communities of Holy Rosary and Visitation this last weekend! I will ask for your patience as both Fr. Martin and I get to know all of you. We will do our best to remember your names but please help us along as much as you can.

I've been on the job just a few days and three questions kept being asked by many of you. Two of them are the following: Are you here just for this weekend or are you staying for a while? Archbishop Sartain has assigned Fr. Martin and me to Holy Rosary and Visitation parishes. Ours is not a temporary posting. I have no intention of leaving or looking for another pastoral assignment. Both Fr. Martin and I always serve at the discretion of the Archbishop. He is the one who missions us to serve these two communities and schools.

It seems that this model of leadership has a solid chance of working. Fr. Martin will be our parish priest and lead us in the celebration of all the sacraments, especially in regard to the Eucharist, Penance and Anointing of the Sick. I'll work on pastoral leadership and with Fr. Martin and our two staffs to address our pastoral urgencies. I'll meet this month with the finance and pastoral councils of both parishes first on the 17th at Visitation and then on the 24th at Holy Rosary. In September I want to schedule a few evening listening sessions to hear more from you in what you think are our urgent pastoral needs, our strengths, and where you think we need to improve. It will take at least a couple of months to get an initial sense of both parishes.

The question that has been asked of me the most so far is: are you changing the mass times, either daily and/or Sundays? Apparently the move to the 7:15 AM liturgy for daily mass was recent. Each parish has particular needs/wants as well as times from the past for which people long. While the pairing of these two parishes together may not be a natural one as they are about 5 miles apart, the reality with which all of us must deal is that we are two communities that have been joined together by Archbishop Sartain. I discovered too that even without coffee/donuts after the 10 AM mass at Visitation, it was tough to get over to Holy Rosary on time and be present 30 minutes before the start of mass at 12 noon. That has been my practice at my previous parish and I want to continue to do the best I can in welcoming you every mass for which I am present.

It will take time to get my bearings and assess the needs of both these communities. Please pray for Fr. Martin and I as we transition from being strangers to members pledged to your service.

In God's great love, hope, and mercy,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deacon Jim".

Deacon Jim Fish, Pastoral Coordinator
Holy Rosary and Visitation parishes
Archdiocese of Seattle