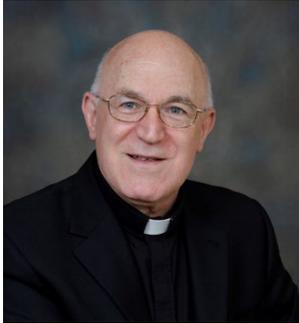


Father Louis DiRocco – from Italy to Westport

Susan Lett



This Fall marks the conclusion of one chapter and the beginning of another in the interesting life of Father Louis DiRocco. The pastor of St. Edward Parish, Westport, and St. Columbanus Parish, Elgin, retired in November after 20 years of priestly service in the Archdiocese of Kingston.

Father DiRocco was born in Roccamorice, Italy, and grew up in Hamilton, Ontario. After graduating from St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto and l'Université Laval in Quebec City, he worked as a high school French teacher for 25 years. His call to the priesthood took him to Rome, where he studied at the Beda College until his ordination in 2000. After ordination, he served as Associate Pastor at St. Peter-in-Chains Parish, Trenton, until 2002, when he was appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Madoc, and the mission of St. Bernadette, Ormsby; three years later, his pastorate expanded to include the parish of Sacred Heart of Jesus in Marmora. He served in these parishes until 2011, when was appointed Pastor of St. Edward Parish, Westport. In 2012, the parish of St. Columbanus, Elgin, was added to this assignment, and he served in Westport and Elgin until his retirement in November.

Father DiRocco is an accomplished musician, and his wonderful singing voice will be missed in the parishes where he served. He not only led and arranged music for his parish choir, but he also composed several Mass settings. Over the last several years, he has produced three Christmas CDs with his parish choir ensemble, which include several of his own stirring solo performances. As he enters the 'retired priest' chapter of his life and provides assistance to neighbouring pastors, I am sure that he will continue to use his musical talent for the glory of God. Happy Retirement, Father!