



ST. FRANCIS

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

My dear brothers and sisters,

Greetings of love and peace in the name of Jesus, our Lord!

I am happy to reach out to you through this letter. It has been more than two weeks since I joined the parish family of St. Francis in Sherwood, taking the pastoral leadership of this historic and great faith-community. In the midst of this pandemic situation, it may take a while to get to know each other; nonetheless, the small gatherings of 25 for the celebration of the Eucharist have given me an opportunity to see (though not the smiling faces) and interact with the parishioners. We will indeed play a waiting and patient game!

At the outset, I want to go on record saying that I am here to serve; may we all have the attitude of our Divine Master to serve. This will go a long way to let others know who we are and who we are called to be. May we set our eyes on the goal of envisioning the values of our Patron, St. Francis by praying and working together to build our parish family as a vibrant and faith-filled community!

We do have the special privilege of imparting the Gospel values through catholic education that is offered in our school, serving as the mission of our parish. The church and school will continue to function as one entity (parish) and walk hand-in-hand in serving the needs of our parishioners and others as well.

In our sojourn to reach the goal, we need to intentionally work together. As we all cherish the long history of our parish which was built upon the great and meritorious works of its members in the past, let us continue our journey with the same mindset. Let us recognize the God-given gifts in us and feel that we are called to share them with our larger parish family by way of participating in the ministries, meaning you may want/volunteer to serve in any of the councils (Pastoral, Finance or Liturgy), organizations (School, Knights of Columbus) or programs (Faith Formation, Social action), to name a few.

It is my earnest wish and prayer that each of us will seize the opportunity to serve our parish; while we are proud of the realized potential, we need to come together to reach the unrealized potential which is enormous.

May all that we sincerely do, bring glory to God and success to our parish family!

May the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother and that of our beloved Patron, protect and guide us in the journey of faith!

May God bless us all!

United in Christ,

Fr. Amal

Little 'bio' to introduce myself.

Family:

Both my parents are with the Lord. May they rest in peace!

A family of five boys (three are priests) and two girls (one is a nun).

Fr. Amirtham (meaning Ambrose) is a Salesian priest, serving in India.

Fr. Dominic is a Jesuit priest, teaching in Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome.

Sr. Vinnarasi (meaning Mary, Queen of Heaven) is a Servite nun, serving in India.

Priestly ministry:

29 years, as a happy Catholic priest.

16 years in India (Pastor, Vocation Director and Student Counselor)

13 years in the archdiocese of Portland (Tigard, Sublimity & Tillamook)

Interests

Faith

Spiritual direction

Faith sharing in small groups

Scripture study

Fun

Hiking

Cooking (of course, Indian Food)

Field work

Individual, family or group counseling