

**REV. JOHN W. O'BRIEN**

Pastor Emeritus  
**St. Lucy Church**  
909 West Main Road  
Middletown, RI 02842

August 8, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I would like to extend a sincere word of thanks and appreciation for the wonderful retirement celebrations shared with you on the weekend of June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, in Church and at Johnny's Atlantic Resort in the Wyndham Hotel. My thanks to the organizers of these events and to all of you who participated in our Church and social celebrations.

The liturgical celebrations on Saturday and Sunday were truly full of God's Spirit and praise. Many thanks to Helen Glynn, Music Director; musicians Flo Oliveira, Cecilia Heredia and Kathy O'Neill; and the angelic singing of both the Choir and the Philippine ensemble. Thank you also to Deacon John Croy, our lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, altar servers, ushers and greeters for these Masses. A special word of thanks to my brother priests who were able to concelebrate and share in the joy of this day with me. My sincere gratitude is extended to Auxiliary Bishop Evans for his presence at Liturgy on Sunday morning.

The joyous celebrations at the Wyndham Hotel on Sunday afternoon and Sunday night were gatherings of Parishioners, family members and friends who have been part of the mosaic of my life these past 44 years of priestly ministry and longer. The delicious food, performances by the Irish Steppers and Filipino dancers, the Mistress of Ceremonies, Colette Savaria; the presentations by Marty Dutra and Sheila Collins, all contributed to the dignity and the *specialness* of the celebrations. There were many other behind-the-scenes people who contributed to the success of the weekend deserving of my thanks: some of whom were the heavy-lifters on the Retirement Celebrations Committee including Linda Dutra, Marie Lachapelle and Jane Parrillo as well as the Parish Staff. I am also very appreciative of the talents shared with us by the Florist and Photographers, and so many others. Many, many thanks!

On a personal note, thank you to all who may have given me a gift. The only present requested was that of your "presence" at the celebrations. So I thank you with great appreciation for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

In closing, the message I wished to convey through those celebrations comes from Paul's letter to the Ephesians that "*God can do more than we could ever ask or imagine if we cooperate with His Grace.*" This scripture passage describes my priesthood journey!

Again, thank you for a wonderful weekend of celebrating! Please be assured of my continued prayers for all of you. Please pray for me as well.

God Bless,

*Fr. John*

Fr. John O'Brien  
Pastor Emeritus