

A Pastor's Perspective

April 18, 2021 Bulletin



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

There is only one priesthood and it is rooted in the person, life, and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a grace that Jesus shares with us in two distinct yet interconnected ways:

- First, all the baptized share in the royal priesthood of Christ by which we are called to offer the gifts of our lives and salvation back to God; and
- Second, the ministerial priesthood is conferred on men chosen by God to build up his people by preaching the Word, celebrating the sacraments, and shepherding the flock entrusted to their care.

When we are ordained as priests, we make three promises that are meant to sustain our commitment of sacrifice and service: we devote ourselves **to prayer**, especially through the Liturgy of the Hours and the celebration of the sacraments; **to celibacy**, by which we make ourselves completely available to ministry that reflects our hoped-for life in the Kingdom of heaven; and **to obedience**, by which we entrust ourselves to God's will for our priesthood through the ministry of our bishop.

New assignments for Fr. Tony: It is in a spirit of obedience that **Fr. Anthony "Tony" Kanagaraj, HGN**, has accepted both a temporary and a longer-term assignment from Bishop Deeley:

- Temporary Assignment – Effective May 6, Fr. Tony will begin serving as a Parochial Vicar in the Parish of the Precious Blood in central Aroostook County. This community, made up of 10 churches, has been lacking a full-time parochial vicar for more than a year. His presence and ministry will bring much needed relief to the pastor and the faithful in that part of the diocese.
- Long-term Assignment – Effective July 30, Fr. Tony will begin serving as Administrator in Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, in Howland and Lincoln. This assignment will be a grace-filled occasion for Fr. Tony to grow by engaging these communities in the role of "pastor."

St. Paul the Apostle Parish has been blessed by Fr. Tony's priestly ministry; therefore, it should come as no surprise that his gifts are being recognized for greater responsibility in our diocese.

Opportunities to thank Fr. Tony: We want to express our gratitude to Fr. Tony and to wish him well. Keeping in mind that COVID-19 continues to prevent us from gathering for a formal reception, please plan on offering your well wishes and prayerful support to Fr. Tony after his Masses on the following two weekends:

- Saturday, April 24: St. Joseph at 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 25: St. Gabriel at 8:30 a.m.; St. Matthew at 10:30 a.m.; and St. Teresa at 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 1: St. John at 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 2: St. Mary at 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.; St. John at 10:30 a.m.

The future for St. Paul the Apostle Parish: Of course, we are blessed to have **Fr. Augustine Nellary** serving our parish. With the permission of Fr. Augustine's bishop, Fr. Murray was able to engage his services temporarily (summer 2019 to 2021), primarily as our Director of Faith Formation, while also providing some priestly ministry. However, his time with us will come to an end later this summer. We are in the process of advertising and hiring a lay person to assume his responsibilities as Director of Faith Formation and to provide other pastoral and evangelizing ministries to our parish.

New Parochial Vicar for St. Paul the Apostle Parish: Effective July 30, **Fr. Bruce Siket** (currently the pastor of Christ the Divine Mercy Parish in East Millinocket/Millinocket and St. Benedict Parish in Benedicta) has accepted a new assignment as a parochial vicar here at St. Paul the Apostle Parish. We are blessed to be receiving someone to minister among and with us who has extensive priestly wisdom and pastoral experience. We look forward to welcoming you, Fr. Bruce!

Please pray for all our priests.

Peace and blessings,

Msgr. Andrew