

## A NOTE OF APPRECIATION TO PARISHIONERS, ST. MARY ~ ST. PETER PARISH

There is a time for everything under the earth and I want to say like Rousseau, “Gratitude is a duty which ought to be paid, but which none has the right to expect.” But I owe my most profound gratitude to all of you, parishioners of St. Mary ~ St. Peter Parish, Kingston, New York. I am expressing my gratitude first to Fr. Edmund Burke, who invited me to serve here at St. Mary Parish in 2011. Then Fr. Lawrence Paolicelili accepted me to stay with him and render my service to Kingston Hospital on Broadway as a volunteer chaplain (2014-2015). Then came Fr. Robert Bubel to replace Fr. Larry. He too allowed me to render my service to Kingston Hospital (2015-2018). In between Fr. Larry and Robert, Fr. Mark Oliver and Fr. John Kearney were assigned as Temporary Administrators for a short while Fr. Arthur Rojas was also in residence and was serving Ferncliff Archcare Nursing Home. Finally came Fr. William Scafidi in July 2018 as Pastor and August of 2018 came Fr. Nelson Pichardo, Fr. Bill allowed me to continue my chaplaincy work. I want you all to know that a Parish is “like a military Barrack. Where Soldier come and Soldier go, but the barrack remains.”

At this time, I am quoting St. Louis IX of France who said, “Give thanks frequently to God for all the benefits he has conferred on you, that you may be worthy to receive more.” Today, I give thanks to God for all the energies he gave me to exercise my priestly ministry since 2014 till date. I am eternally grateful to all the priests mentioned above and especially to you, my beloved brothers and sisters of St. Mary~ St. Peter Parish. And honestly, I cannot thank you enough.

Your Pastor, Fr. Bill was so kind to donate to me The Stations of The Cross and the Tabernacle of St. Peter Church, I am taking them to my home Parish (St. James Parish, Fori, Catholic Diocese of Kafancahn, Nigeria). Using the Stations of the Cross and the Tabernacle will always remind me of the love you all showered on me during my years with you. I will always remember St. Mary ~ St. Peter Parish, Kingston New York.

If I offended any of you during my stay here. I am sorry and I now beg you to please forgive me. I cannot remember having any misunderstanding with any of you all these years.

Finally, in the words of Charles E. Jefferson, “Gratitude is born in hearts that take time to count up past mercies.”

THANK YOU FR. BILL, FR. NELSON AND ALL THE WONDERFUL  
PARISHIONERS OF ST. MARY ~ ST. PETER PARISH. GOD BLESS YOU ALL YOU  
ALL WILL ALWAYS BE IN MY PRAYERS.

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