

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



After the Masses last Sunday, the Feast of Pentecost, I received a call from Cardinal Tobin, asking me to become Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Bergenfield, effective July 1st.

In the Archdiocese of Newark, we priests are assigned to a parish for a six-year term, and can then be renewed for another six years, after which it is normative to be moved to another assignment. I came to Our Lady Mother of the Church on July 1, 2011, and was renewed for a second term. It was no secret that my twelve-year term was up this year, at least on paper; I know many of you wrote letters asking that I not be moved, and I was hoping the same.

Yet I could see the writing on the wall with so many priests retiring from big parishes this year, and I have been bracing myself for the news that I would be changed.

But when I was ordained a priest twenty-four years ago, I promised obedience to the bishop and his successors. This obedience has always defended me, without it I would not have come to Woodcliff Lake in the first place. So, when the Cardinal called asking me to move, I immediately said yes, not only out of obedience, but also out of gratitude for the gift of the priesthood, which does not belong to me.

I have really enjoyed being here the past twelve years, and will dearly miss all of you when I leave; I have felt loved and supported during my time here, and we have accomplished a lot together.

The good news is that Fr. Siffredus will be staying here, and there is a wonderful priest coming in my place, Fr. Jason Mantich, who is currently serving as Parochial Vicar at Nativity parish in Midland Park. This is not farewell, yet, - I will still be here until the end of June. If you agree, I would like to have a meet and greet with all of you on my last Sunday here. We could do it in the McCarthy Center after the 10:30am Mass that day, Sunday June 25th.

Fr. Sean