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September 8, 2020

To all of my valued patients and friends,

I am writing this letter to let you know that I am retiring from the practice of dentistry this month. I'm sure this comes as a surprise for many of you and the decision to retire was a difficult one for me. I love being a dentist and I love my interactions and relationships with you all. I have received endless satisfaction and joy from caring for you and your families over the years and watching you live through all the milestones in your lives. Some of you came to me as children and are now bringing your own children in, which is priceless to me. I have had a fulfilling career and it has been a true privilege to have served you for the past 34 years. I look back with fondness and pride, at my years with you and all that we have accomplished together. I look forward with excitement to retirement and spending more time with family, but I'll miss all of you. We plan on moving to Ohio to enjoy retirement near our daughter, Danielle.

There are many factors that influenced my decision to retire and I have been thinking about retirement for a while. This is an appropriate time for many reasons. My office lease is expiring soon and I would rather not commit for several more years. Secondly, there are some health issues that Lois and I need to attend to, which has made daily practice more difficult (arthritis etc) and we simply need to take care of ourselves. Third, the temporary closing of our office due to the Covid-19 pandemic has made coming back more difficult than most people can even imagine. Things are necessarily very difficult in terms of expense and office modifications. While patient safety has always been the most important thing to us, now with the pandemic concerns and necessary additional new procedures, we are only able to see a fraction of the patients we used to see pre-pandemic. Finally, we need to be more available to care for and assist our aging parents.

As you can imagine, it is a very difficult time to find a buyer for our practice. There aren't many dentists looking to take on the responsibility and difficulty of owning a dental practice at this time. We searched long and hard to find a dentist to continue serving our patients. We were negotiating a contract with a local dentist and they suddenly withdrew at the very last minute for financial reasons. Therefore, we will maintain records ourselves as needed and you will be able to receive copies of recent x-rays etc if you wish. Please reference the enclosed guide for help in selecting where to find your next dentist.

I want to thank each of you for the privilege of being your dentist and for your past and present support. It means more to me and Lois than we could ever express in words. Please know that you have our very best wishes for the future. Lois and I are thankful for your kindness, your loyalty, your friendship, and most importantly, your trust.

Forever Grateful,

Dr Albert Joaquin (and Lois)

Dr Joaquin is Retiring - Now What Do I Do?

Now that Dr Joaquin is not seeing patients, what should you do next? We are still searching for another dentist to continue seeing our patients, but here are some possibilities to help you find another if we are unsuccessful:

1. Ask your friends and family who they see for their dental needs. This is often the best way; if they are happy with the dentist then chances are you would be too.
2. There are many other fine dentists in Homewood who may be able to see you. Here are a few general dentist offices to try.

Dr Mayer near the post office, (708)799-5353

Dr Seidel on Harwood, after October, (708)798-5376

Park Avenue Dental Care (708)798-6868

Homewood Flossmoor Dental Care (708)799-0660

Dr Sandy Kauffman on Harwood (708) 798-6888

3. Consult the Chicago Dental Society online at **www.CDS.org** and click on the "For The Public" button for a list of dentists. Here you will be able to choose a dentist by language spoken, gender, etc.

We will be keeping our phone number for a short time (708) 798-8888, so if you have any questions please feel free to call. Also, for the longer term you may email albert.joaquin.dds@gmail.com. If you would like a copy of your most recent x-rays, within the last year for bitewing x-rays or 2 years for a complete set of x-rays, we would be happy to send you a free copy. If you require more than those recent x-rays, there may be a reasonable duplication and postage fee. Please allow up to 30 days for duplication.