



St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church

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Strive Celebrate Serve

My "NICK"el's Worth

By: Fr. Nick Zukowski

Dear Parishioners of St. Martin de Porres,

Throughout my life and my years in the priesthood, I have experienced God's extraordinary goodness and abundant grace. What I treasure most are the countless friendships formed along the way and the privilege of walking with so many souls—touching lives, offering guidance, and, by God's mercy, helping to bring some to salvation.

I am deeply grateful to each of you here at St. Martin de Porres for allowing me to serve as your shepherd these many years. You have journeyed with me in faith, supported one another in love, and together we have worked to build up the Body of Christ through service, prayer, and community.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kind words, thoughtful gestures, and especially your prayers during my recent convalescence and ongoing medical challenges.

After careful consultation with my doctors and medical team, it has become clear that a full recovery enabling me to return to active ministry is no longer possible. With a heavy yet peaceful heart, I must share that I will be stepping down as your pastor, effective January 25, 2026—the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle. This date holds special meaning for me, as it commemorates the date in 1977 when I was officially accepted as a candidate for priesthood. That means almost 50 years of service to God and His Church. What a milestone!

I enter this new chapter with deep peace, confident that, like St. Paul, I have “fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7). Yet, as time draws short, I entrust the remainder of my journey to the Lord.

As I continue through these final days under palliative care, please know that you remain very much in my prayers. I ask, in return, for your continued prayers as I prepare for the journey ahead.

With profound gratitude, love, and affection in Christ,

Fr. Nick -- Your happy wanderer on the road to Emmaus.