



seeds of gratitude

WEEKEND OF MAY 18/19, 2019 PARISH TRANSITION NEWSLETTER

When parish leadership changes, it is important that there is a smooth transition, as it would be with any business or organization experiencing change.

For this purpose, a Transition Team, a group of 14 individuals, has been formed by Father John Wilkie at Our Lady Queen of Heaven to assist in this process.

The primary responsibilities of this team are:



To ensure regular communication with the parish community about the transition process.



To assist the parish community in the farewell activities for Father John and the welcoming activities of Deacon Jim Fish and Father Vinner Raj.



To assist Deacon Jim Fish and Father Vinner Raj during their first few months of transition.

THE MEMBERS OF OUR TRANSITION TEAM ARE:

- CELYN ALBINO
- ED & RUTH CABALLERO
- ED & JULIA CAMACHO
- TERI DEGROOTE
- JEANIE ESPANTO
- VICKIE GLASTETTER
- DIANA JORDA
- LONNIE & KIMBERLY MCCANN
- MICHELLE MENO
- MARILYN WALNY
- VIDA YINGLING-THOMAS

Celebration

The Retirement Celebration for Father John will be June 23rd after the 11 AM Mass. There will be a BBQ and an international potluck on the parish grounds. Watch the bulletin for further details on this event. If you would like to help with the celebration please contact the parish office or a member of the Transition Team.

Memory Book

The weekends of June 1st/2nd and 8th/9th there will be blank pages in the narthex to write your favorite memory, a thank you message, or stories about Father John that you and/or your family would like to share. These will be compiled in an album and given to Father John as a way of taking a part of us with him. Photos may also be attached if you wish.

Gift

If you would like to honor Father John with a gift, we are "showering" him with cards. You can bring them to the Retirement Celebration or drop them off at the parish office. Any monetary gifts need to be made directly to Father John, not to the parish-- make checks payable to Father John Wilkie.



Questions for Our Lady Queen of Heaven Transition Team and Parish Staff

***Place in box located in the Narthex

NAME (IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONTACTED) _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS A DEACON?

A deacon is an ordained minister of the Catholic Church. Deacons are ordained as a sacramental sign to the Church and to the world of Christ who came "to serve and not to be served." Deacons can proclaim the Gospel, preach, witness marriages, baptisms, and conduct funeral services.

DEACON JIM FISH HAS BEEN NAMED PASTORAL COORDINATOR. WHAT IS A PASTORAL COORDINATOR?

A deacon, religious, or lay ecclesial minister appointed by the Archbishop under the supervision of a priest moderator and entrusted with the day-to-day leadership of a parish.

FATHER VINNER RAJ HAS BEEN NAMED OUR PARISH PRIEST. WHAT IS A PARISH PRIEST?

A priest appointed by the Archbishop to provide priestly ministry i.e. Sacraments and pastoral care in a particular parish in collaboration with the pastor or pastoral coordinator.

I AM FEELING ANXIOUS OR UNCERTAIN WITH THIS CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

First and foremost, PRAY! Pray for our pastor, Father John, as he transitions into a new life. Pray in gratitude and thanksgiving for the ministry over the years. Pray for our incoming leadership, Deacon Jim Fish and Father Vinner Raj, as they come to know our parish. Greet them and make them feel welcome. Be open to new possibilities and avoid misconceptions. Only share information that you know to be true and avoid conversations which lead to uncertainty. Be patient with yourself and others as we make this transition together. Trust in God's Will and Plan for us.

PRAYER FOR TRANSITION

O Faithful God,
As your people, we cherish
our memories and our
history as a sacred gift.

We ask you to guide us
in our time of transition.
We need your wisdom
that we might be
receptive to change,
conversion, and growth.

We need your grace to
redirect our hearts that
we may be willing to offer
ourselves in joyful service.

Keep fear, ignorance,
and pride from limiting
the work of your Spirit
so that your creativity
within us bears fruit.

Open our hearts
to the call of the Gospel.
Give us courage and
renewed hope so that we
might meet the challenge
of being the Church you
have called us to be.

We ask this in the name
of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

