

# SAID ED April 29, 2012

## Thanks and changes are coming!

Thank you everyone for making the celebration of my 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary such an outstanding success. Thanks to all who worked so well, so long and so hard behind the scenes for many months. The celebration came off without a hitch. I want to officially thank all the liturgical ministers, the musicians, young and old, for the beautiful celebration at Sunday's Mass. I also thank all those "6:45 am Mass people" who worked so hard organizing and preparing the wonderful celebration on Friday night and Sunday afternoon. The family and guests from near and far were very appreciative of the warm welcome from the parish. And of course, I need to express my gratitude to Guido Sarduci and "the Twisted Sisters", who regaled us with their comments and song. They managed to engage everyone in the experience of being Catholic as we have experienced it in last 40 years. I so appreciate everyone who was a part of the wonderful celebration.

For those who were not present last weekend, Fr. John announced that Bishop Clark has appointed him to become the Pastor of St John the Evangelist Church in Spencerport, NY, effective June 26. I am sorry to lose a great co-worker, wonderful housemate and a good friend, but the people of St John's will be very blessed in Fr. John's leadership. John has been with us for almost three years and like every good priest he has grown close to our community as we have grown close to him.

Priestly leadership is about relationship. It's about connecting with people and drawing them closer to God and each other. One ancient definition of priesthood says: a priest brings God to people and people to God. This is certainly true for us. We have been blessed to have Fr. John among us and I am quite confident that he will be a blessing for the people of Spencerport as well.

Every ending is also a beginning. Bishop Clark has also appointed another priest to follow Fr. John. As you know, I also have the responsibility of convening the Priest Personnel Board and of overseeing the process whereby recommendations for new appointments are made to the bishop. Since this takes a fair amount of my time, even though we are short of priests (no news to you, I know) the bishop is sending another priest to minister among us. Fr. Edison Tayag will arrive to begin serving in our community on June 26, the same day that Fr. John moves to Spencerport. He will bring new gifts and talents as he serves among us and will also be a blessing to us all. More on that later.

Next weekend we celebrate First Holy Communion. It's a great honor for our parish to welcome these little ones to the Table of the Lord. We are adding another Sunday mass at 2pm so as to not over crowd the regular mass schedule with visitors and friends of the communicants. Thank you for your good example which has brought these little ones to this point on their faith journey.

Have a great week!

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