

SAID ED June 24, 2012

This weekend we bid a fond farewell to Fr. John as he leaves us to become the Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Spencerport, NY. I will miss John's presence in our midst very much; not only a valued co-worker, fellow priest and staff member but also a housemate and friend. I know you join me in thanking John for his three years of dedicated service to our parish. Now we pledge our prayer and support as he moves on to new and greater responsibilities.

Our Parish Life Committee is always hard at work coming up with new ways of serving our parish and helping others to enter into our common life. Recently I had the opportunity to join them in a great adventure that we hope has some long range possibilities for evangelization. Last Saturday a bunch of us from the committee went "geo-caching" together. What? You may be asking.

"Geo-caching" is like an electronic treasure hunt. We had the coordinates of certain treasures or "caches" that were located in our Perinton Center Park. Using longitude and latitude on GPS devices we were able to locate the treasures. Once we found the cache we signed the small log book inside and were off to find the next one. It was quite a bit of fun as we tromped through the paths and woods and even some of the swampy areas in Center Park.

To my delight we found several caches using the electronic clues. Geo-caching involves placing of materials inside the cache for others to take out after they place new materials from the cache. Our Parish Life Committee has established a geocache on our parish grounds. This is now set up and ready to be "found." The thought is to place the cache in a location our church on our property in a garden area. Inside our cache will be copies of our **Welcome to the parish DVD** as well as some material about our parish. People anywhere in the world can learn about our parish when they are out searching for geo-caches.

If you would like to learn more about this go to www.geocache.com and you will find a whole list of very interesting information. They tell me there are 16 million caches like these all around the world. We are now one of them. This is all part of our effort to use all media at our disposal, especially electronic media, to spread the gospel and to be present in our community as the loving presence of God.

Last week Marie Claus was honored by the civic community for her outstanding advocacy for youth. We are really proud of Marie's passion for our teens. See page 5 inside for more information. Please join me next week in welcoming Fr. Edison Tayag who will be coming in after Fr. John leaves; but more on that later. I wish you all the best.

Have a great week!
