



Some News To Share...

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Rose,

Life is full of surprises. Some surprises are exciting ones, like expecting a new baby, a promotion at work, or even a friend we haven't seen in a while stopping by to say hello. Other surprises are the cause of pain or anxiety – the death of a loved one, a friend moving away, or a difficult diagnosis. On Monday, I received a very surprising phone call that is the cause of both excitement and some sadness. Bishop Barres has appointed me to be the Administrator of St. Gerard Majella Parish in Port Jefferson Station. My appointment was effective March 1st, actually, by the time you read this. The speed of this transition was just as surprising to me, but was due to a number of factors outside my control. This change is a bittersweet one for me, to say the least, because while I am looking forward to this new role, I am also deeply saddened to be leaving Massapequa so quickly.

The past 15 months serving here at St. Rose have been ones I will forever cherish. You all have been a blessing to me far beyond any words I can find. Whether it was working with our children in Religious Education or the School, visiting sick parishioners in the hospital or at home, presiding at weekend Masses or just a casual conversation in the parking lot – all these moments and so many more have been grace-filled ones.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the extraordinary men and women I've been privileged to serve with here at St. Rose. First, my brother clergy – Fr. Ken, Fr. Collins, Deacons Flood, McGuinness and Gambardella – have been wonderful brothers and collaborators. Additionally, we as a parish are blessed to have so many smart, competent, and talented people on our professional staff with whom I have worked closely during my time here. To them all, I express my heartfelt gratitude.

Finally, to you all, the People of God in Massapequa – know of my tremendous appreciation for your love and support during my relatively brief time here. I carry you all in my heart and in my prayers. Please pray for me that I will be an effective shepherd to the good people of St. Gerard Majella after the model of Christ, the High Priest and Good Shepherd of us all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Greg