

I would like to inform the parish that I plan to retire this year. The retirement will go into effect on July 1, 2021, the regular day for priest transfers within the archdiocese. Archdiocesan policy allows priests to retire after their 70th birthday, which I celebrated in October. I decided to do this in the fall and my bout with the Covid 19 virus solidified my decision.

I have had a wonderful life as a priest and I hope to continue priestly ministry, even as I move into retirement. I tell people that I have had 44 wonderful years and a bad day here and there. I hope to be in residence in a parish which can use a priest for a daily Mass and possibly a few other light ministry duties. The question arises as to whether this could be St. Bernadette. I am not in favor of this, primarily because I believe the new pastor deserves to be fully in charge of the parish and not hindered by the presence of the retired pastor.

As many of you know, I spent two periods at St. Bernadette. From 1985-1988, I served as associate pastor under Bishop Milone and Father Dan Soltys. Presently, I have served here since 2013. I consider these eleven years, one fourth of my priestly life, as years of great blessings and have always felt the support of the St. Bernadette parishioners. In particular, I felt powerful and personal support after my car accident in December of 2013. I felt the same powerful prayerful support at the time of my covid illness this year. I also felt your support as we undertook various projects for the benefit of the parish. You, the parishioners of St. Bernadette love your priests, are very loyal to us and support us in so many ways. For this love and support, I am very grateful.

I will continue to pray for the parish, particularly in the coming months as we prepare for a transition. I will be praying for the archdiocesan personnel board and the archbishop as they discern the assignment of a new pastor. I pray that you will be sent a holy and zealous priest to serve the parish. I ask you to join me in these intentions.

At the same time, I ask you to pray for me as I make this transition. During my forty-four years of priestly ministry, I have been very active. Retirement will bring a slower pace, with life-style changes and challenges. I appreciate your prayerful support as I make this transition.