

Column062622

June 26, 2022

Dear Friends,

This past Monday, Father Michael Saban arrived here at Saint Anthony's and he will be our Parochial Vicar and I am very happy that he is. I know that you will join me in making Father feel welcome in genuine Saint Anthony fashion. Please add him by name to your prayer list. I will be grateful and I know he will be also.

Father is no stranger to Ambler as his mom and dad live in this area and are members of Saint Joseph parish. Father Saban is very faithful to them both and I encouraged him in this task much as my friends encouraged me back in 2002 when my mom moved into the Rectory. Father Saban has three siblings: one brother in this area and two sisters who live at some distance. Part of the family caretaker role has alighted upon his shoulders.

Father's most recent assignment in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia was as pastor of Saint Bernadette's parish in Drexel Hill. He, like most priests in the diocesan ministry has had a number of assignments over his 30+ years as a priest. It is a very rare phenomenon for a priest to be stationed anywhere for as long a time as I have been stationed here at Saint Anthony's.

It has been a few years since I have had another priest living in the Rectory and it is a blessing to have Father Saban's company and friendship. Please introduce yourself to him. He is an easy conversationalist and his smile is a constant companion. He and I will sit together over the summer to discuss what parish responsibilities best fit with his own priestly ministry skills and interests. As you know there is always plenty to do.

I already know how valuable Father will be to me in helping me to provide for an orderly and seamless transition of authority from myself to the priest the Archbishop will designate as my successor next June.

One of the things I am committed to is to have a big parish picnic at the end of my thirty-two years here. I have already put together a Committee of parishioners to work out the details. There will be more information to come. May the summer provide opportunities of relaxation for us all and a time to muse and dream a little. And pray. Especially pray. That the Lord will hand pick the priest to succeed me as the Lord handpicked me to succeed Monsignor Eugene Sullivan. Remember. The Lord always provides.

Peace,

Msgr. McHenry