

Column051423

Companions on the Journey

May 14, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you are reading this we are entering into the last week before the ordination of new priests next Saturday, May 20th. Please pray for the Lord of the harvest to lay his hand upon and choose young and worthy men to respond to his call to be harvest masters in the vineyard of the Lord.

On this Friday, all those priests who will be newly assigned as pastors will meet individually with Archbishop Perez at his office and he will personally assign them to their new ministry. This includes the priest who will succeed me here at Saint Anthony's. Immediately after the last of the pastors has concluded his interview, the list of changes will be sent out to parishes of the Archdiocese. This is a special week for intense prayer. It is not unknown for the Archbishop to make changes—last minute—on the previously agreed upon changes. There needs always be room for the working of the Holy Spirit. From May 19th to June 19th, the first day for the pastors in their new assignment, there will be time to visit the parish, be visible and tangible to the staff and parishioners, and begin to move his things into the Rectory. Greet him with your customary hospitality and make him feel welcome as you did for me 32 years ago. He will be your good pastor.

I know you know that my Jubilee Mass celebration is scheduled for June 11 at 1:30PM in our church. There will be additional people present because I have invited extended family and friends. There are a few things you need to know early on about the celebration so that you may make any necessary adjustments to your usual weekend schedule.

After the Jubilee Mass we will have a picnic outside in our parking lot. On the Friday before the event, a large tent will be erected, and tables and chairs moved in. This means that there will be **no parking lot parking available** for confessions or evening Mass June 10 and no parking on the lot available on June 11 for the 815 Mass. In order to accommodate having our picnic onsite there will be no 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday June 11. Just Mass at 8:15 and 1:30PM. In effect I am moving the 10:30 Mass to 1:30 just for that day.

I realize that this causes disruption to your customary Sunday schedule, but it is a rare occurrence and I hope that you will understand and not be dismayed. I do ask you to help us to spread the word to other parishioners or friends who are not going to be reading this column so that they will be informed. We will be using all the parish social media vehicles to spread The spirit of the day is joy and gratitude to the living God for his care of his people the word also.

On that Sunday afternoon we will have a variety of food trucks available, and you will be able to choose the kind of food you most enjoy, including ice cream and cupcakes. I look forward to seeing you and celebrating the Eucharist with you on that Sunday. The following Sunday June 18th is my final Sunday here at Saint Anthony's. I will leave that Monday morning and the new pastor will arrive that same day. More to come. Please continue to pray for me. My thanks.

Peace,

Msgr. McHenry