

Bulletin Reflection

A Heart Filled with Gratitude and Hope

As I prepare to begin my ministry as Pastor of Saint Patrick Church on July 1, my heart is filled with profound gratitude to Almighty God. Before I was born, God knew me, loved me, and called me according to His divine plan. Looking back on my life's journey, I see His faithful hand guiding every step, even through moments I did not fully understand. Today's Gospel reminds us of Jesus' invitation: *"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."* Throughout my priesthood, I have experienced the truth of these words. Whenever the road has seemed difficult, Christ has remained my strength, my peace, and my faithful companion.

I am deeply grateful to my parents, siblings, and relatives, whose love, sacrifices, and prayers helped shape the person I am today. I also thank my mentors, teachers, brother priests, friends, and all who have encouraged and challenged me to grow in faith and service. My sincere appreciation goes to Cardinal Blase Cupich and the Placement Board for the confidence they have shown in appointing me to serve as Pastor of Saint Patrick Church. I receive this appointment with humility, knowing that leadership in the Church is not about authority but about serving God's people with the heart of Christ, who is "meek and humble of heart."

To the staff members and parishioners of Saint Patrick Church, I extend my deepest gratitude for the warm welcome and kindness you have shown me since I arrived last year as your Administrator. From the very beginning, you embraced me as part of your parish family. Your faith, generosity, and commitment to the mission of the Church have been a source of inspiration and encouragement. Thank you for your trust, your friendship, and the many ways you have shared your gifts in building up this parish community.

As we begin this new chapter together, I humbly ask for your continued prayers, support, and guidance. A parish flourishes not because of one individual but because the entire community walks together as disciples of Jesus Christ. Let us continue to grow together in faith, deepen our love for the Eucharist, strengthen our families, welcome those seeking a spiritual home, and joyfully proclaim the Gospel through our words and actions. Together, let us labor in the Lord's vineyard with hope and generosity, trusting that Christ will continue to guide Saint Patrick Parish into a future filled with faith, unity, and abundant blessings.

May Saint Patrick continue to intercede for us, and may the Lord bless each one of you and your families abundantly.

-Fr. Patrick