

***“We know that all things work for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to his purpose.”***

**(Romans 8:28)**

*My Dear Parishioners and Friends,*

As we celebrate Easter season, I would like to thank you all for the outpouring of prayerful support that you have given me during the most difficult period of losing my Dad. I am sure that he is having the real Easter season with the heavenly court. I am not sad that he is gone to the Lord. I am happy for him. My mom died in 2015 and the difficult part for me is the vacuum created in me since both my parents are gone. I know that it takes time to overcome that. I am deeply moved by your prayers and support. Please continue your prayers.

Please accept my sincere gratitude for all those Masses offered and for all the flowers and cards. This time of the year doesn't allow me to write personal notes. Thank you all.

There is also another reason to write this letter. This weekend is the official weekend to announce my transfer and to introduce the new leadership team taking over. As of June 18, 2024, I will no longer be your pastor. I am assigned as pastor of St. Paul, St. Rita, St. Louis, and St. Mary by the Lake. Fr. Marco Valentini is going to be my associate pastor. Fr. Marco is from Italy and is currently serving at St. John Vi-  
anney in Brookfield. Corpus Christi Sunday (June 1st and 2nd) will be my last weekend at St. Lucy. June 15th and 16th will be my last weekend at St. Sebastian. I will be out of town on June 8th and 9th week-  
end for the first Mass of one of my friends. I don't want to keep this letter too long. I will write again. Please continue your prayers as we go through this transition. Your prayers mean a lot. I know that it makes it difficult for you that both Fr. Javier and I had to leave after 4 years for different reasons. But God is good and he will bless you with great leaders. His plans are always better than ours.

Your new pastor will be Fr. Juan M. Camacho. Here is part of the letter that he sent to his existing parish-  
es:

*“I find it fitting for this season to make this official announcement to all of you, my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. As of June 18, 2024, I will be the pastor of the Faith Communities of Saint Sebastian, Saint Lucy, Saint Richard, Saint Edward, Saint Patrick, Sacred Heart, Saint Joseph, and Saint John Nepomuk. This is a monumental task to take on. With the help of your prayers and the Holy Spirit, I believe God will provide the wisdom, knowledge, and passion needed to fulfill this task. There is not an ounce of doubt on that.*

*But this task is not for me alone. I will share this task with three great brother priests. Fr. Michael Petersen will be part of the team; he brings a breadth of experience as a priest. He has experience serving in many communities throughout the archdiocese. Fr. José Mario Nieto has been part of the Family of Four Parishes until now. He is an excellent biblical scholar and priest, as you know already. And finally, Fr. Craig Richter. He will be newly or-  
dained and bringing a fresh passion for ministry. Our job as his first assignment is to help him become a great pas-  
tor of souls. Soon you can meet all of them and get to know them better.”*

Please welcome the new team with a warm heart as you did for me. They will do great.

Keep us all in your prayers as we continue this journey with new vision and mission. Please know that you are in my prayers as you are also going through the transition.

*Blessings,  
Fr. Thomas Vathappallil  
Pastor*