



ST GERTRUDE'S PARISH

ROMAN CATHOLIC
28 SCHOOL ST., BAYVILLE, NEW YORK 11709

June 20, 2020 (Immaculate Heart of Mary)

Dear Holy Name of Mary Parish Family,

A very holy and wise bishop said "This is the Lentiest Lent, that ever Lented!" That was true at Holy Name of Mary. Not only was the parish family suffering the result of lockdown and covid-19 but you also lost your pastor. Msgr. Sosing was an insightful and kind priest. I trust he is doing now the very same work he did while on earth. While he was among us, he pointed us to heaven and now in heaven he is imploring the heavenly realms to advocate, pray and work on our behalf. God bless him and his mission.

The term "Holy Name of Mary" was used by Marian troubadour St. Bernard of Clairvaux. In a homily he states "O most holy Virgin Mary, your name is so sweet and admirable that one cannot say it without becoming inflamed with love toward God..." I have found that the greater Mary is included in my prayer life the easier it is to discern the will of God and subsequently have the strength to follow it. Mary desires something very simple. She desires that we fall deeper in love with Jesus, who is so deeply in love with each of us.

Falling in love with Jesus opens us up to a great adventure. 1 Cor 2:9 states that "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." Transitions are never easy and there many challenges with a community welcoming a new pastor as well as the pastor saying good-bye to a community he loves and leading a new family.

The people of St. Gertrude's in Bayville, have been so wonderful in demonstrating the gift of hospitality. They warmly welcomed me and we have been building the family of God together. I will profoundly miss them and their togetherness.

That being said I am excited to embark on a new journey with the people of Holy Name of Mary Parish. Holy Name of Mary has a great history of heroic acts of devotion and community spirit. No pastor can replace Msgr. Sosing's kindheartedness or can a new pastor fill his shoes. It is my prayer that together we continue the mission of Holy Name of Mary and echo those wonderful words of victory of Mary herself "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord!" In the Magnificat Mary is looking back and recognizing God in her family tree as a Father who faithfully keeps His promise. Mary recognizes that she is part of something much bigger than herself. So too, you and I are part of God working a great miracle in the lives of all around us. Please pray that we can each recognize grace, growth and miracles in the lives of those around us. Pope Francis has said "Miracles happen but they need our help!"

I thank Bishop Barres for entrusting me on a new mission as your pastor and together we will see miracles in each other.

In the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Rev. Dave Regan (Pastor)