

MONSIGNOR TOM TO RETIRE IN JUNE

Dear Epiphany people of OMOS Parish,

38 years have passed since I became Pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows on the feast of the Epiphany January 5, 1981. It has been a grace-filled extraordinary walk with the Lord and His people. It is appropriate on this Epiphany feast 2019 for me to announce my June retirement as your Pastor. It has been a blessing to have been able to serve for almost six years past the canonical retirement age of 75. I am grateful to Bishop Weisenburger for saying “yes” to my retirement request in June.

The parish which has captured my heart for 38 years of its 60 years will be transitioning to new Pastoral leadership in July. It is important that we pray for the gift of discernment upon our parish, diocese and Bishop in the designation of a new Pastor.

I move toward retirement overwhelmed with gratitude to the Good Lord and His gracious people of Our Mother of Sorrows for the great honor and privilege of this unique and holy companionship, and for being together in ministry with you for almost four decades.

I believe the Lord of the ministry is in charge of our ministry, and all of us are instruments striving to do His bidding as He accompanies us on the journey. How blessed we are in His companionship! Isn't this what it means to be an Epiphany people... God manifesting Himself to us and through us. This 38 year journey has been truly an ongoing Epiphany.

I have learned much about ministry and will continue to do so through exceptional staff persons past and present (lay, deacons, and priests), through our school staff and faculty, and our parish collaborative lay leadership bodies. Our parish is blessed with the energy of a good social consciousness... *Love your neighbor as yourself*. This energy flows into many parish mercy outlets. Through the Eucharist and this social consciousness, we are the Body of Christ.

I am so grateful as your Pastor to be with Our Mother of Sorrows Parish through the completion of its 60th Anniversary year on May 10th. See the late January 60th Anniversary event for our Parish School elsewhere in this magazine. The second of the Three-R's three-year projects is due for completion this next summer. The final phase is scheduled to take place in the summer of 2020. Thanks to all Three-R's pledge givers in making the three phase projects possible.

Thankfully, the first phase, the renewal of our church space was successfully completed during this past Fall. The sound system is still being fine-tuned otherwise there has been a very positive parishioner response to the overall renewal within the church space. The new shrine areas have been very well-received. The addition of the shrines to St. John the XXIII, Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Teresa of Calcutta, with the relocation of Mary and Joseph to the new shrine areas on either side of the sanctuary, are all seen as enhancements to our worship space.

As your retiring Pastor, I am very grateful for having had the opportunity to lead the parish through its 60th Anniversary year and through the successful Three R's capital campaign in its purposeful reinvestment into the ongoing mission and ministry of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish.

May our God of Epiphany continue to manifest Himself to us and through us as we enter into this new year 2019.

Prayerful and very grateful good wishes,
Your retiring Pastor,

Msgr. Tom Cahalane