



Immaculate  
Heart of Mary  
Catholic Community

13505 Excelsior Boulevard  
Minnetonka, Minnesota 55345

April 5, 2017

Dear Parishioners of IHM,

Several years ago the policy in the Archdiocese was changed so that if needed a Pastor could be transferred in his ninth year, rather than after six or twelve years. This change was to give the Bishop and Personnel Board greater flexibility in assigning pastors, especially when a parish had been without a pastor for some time. Since I am finishing my ninth year as your pastor, it was no surprise that I received a call to inform me of my transfer. Last week I met with Archbishop Hebda and received a new assignment as Pastor of the Church of St. William, Fridley, MN effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

I know this news will cause various emotions in you as it has me. Saying goodbye is never easy. My leaving IHM this summer will be bitter-sweet. While I am sad to have to leave you, I feel now is a very good time for you to receive a new pastor who can continue to build on the good work we have begun together.

You and I have been through some very challenging times over the past nine years. A severe recession, budget issues, staff turnover and losing our school were difficult. But thanks to your faithfulness and generosity, we have accomplished so many good things despite those challenges. You can be proud of the church and rectory renovation; the creation of Notre Dame Academy; paying off of the church mortgage; newly resurfaced parking lots that will be done as soon as the weather is stable and work that has already begun on the heating system (HVAC). Finances have stabilized for the most part. You have a dedicated staff, committed trustees and excellent advisory councils so I know you will be well served until a new pastor is named.

Within the next few months, a member of the clergy assignment board will come to IHM to speak to staff and councils about a transition plan for the good of the IHM parish.

At this time I do not know when my final days at IHM will be, but most likely sometime in early to mid-June. This will allow time for moving and taking vacation before reporting to my new parish.

Change is difficult but as the upcoming Holy Week reminds us, we are never alone on our journey. The Risen Lord is always with us and will give us the strength with his life giving love.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. David Ostrowski, Pastor