



February 23, 2018

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

My family and I have found great consolation in your outpouring of prayers, condolence, and generosity at the death of our Mother. We are most grateful and ask your forgiveness for not responding to all of you, as we would have liked.

As you may know, I was diagnosed with Influenza B shortly after returning from my Mother's funeral. Recovery from the flu was made more difficult due to my Myasthenia Gravis, a neuromuscular disease that causes the breakdown of the normal communication between nerves and muscles. This breakdown in communication causes muscles such as those that control my eyes, breathing, speech, swallowing, my arms and legs to fatigue and weaken very rapidly. MG is made worse by continual use of a muscle, a rise in the temperature or by illnesses such as the flu. The effects of this disease are rapid and changes from moment to moment. As an example, I may be doing well at the start of Mass but by Communion it becomes difficult for me to speak, see clearly, or keep my balance. This is why I have not been able to participate fully in as many of the liturgies and functions of the parish as I would have liked.

I have come to realize that I am no longer able to devote all my energy into ministering to you, whom I have come to love and cherish over the past 12 years. It has come to the point where you are taking care of me rather than my taking care of you. "The Spirit is Willing, but the Flesh is Weak."

After much prayer and discernment, I have decided to retire as Pastor **Next Year, June of 2019.** Father Raymond has accepted, with the Blessings of Archbishop Aymond, to become the next Pastor of St. Christopher, which makes me very happy and relieved; as I am sure many of you are as well. I have already begun turning more and more of the administrative responsibilities of the parish over to Father Raymond. Under Father Raymond's loving, faith-filled guidance and leadership, I am confident that St. Christopher will continue to be a vibrant, living, growing Catholic Faith Community.

Pastors come and pastors go, each bringing their own gifts and talents. Each parish is a growing, living entity, unique in its own way that leaves its mark on the pastor. In order to keep alive and growing, change is necessary. The parish is never about the pastor. It is about you, my sisters and brothers, who are the living stones of St. Christopher, the Temple of God. I am blessed and most grateful to be your pastor.

Remember, I am not retiring until **Next Year, June 2019.** I do not have any plans of going anywhere soon and plan to continue to be as active and involved in St. Christopher, as I am able.

Please be assured of my continued prayers. May we all have a fruitful Lent so that at Easter we can more fully celebrate the Resurrection of Our Loving Lord.

I remain yours in Christ,

Father Frank