

Dear Holy Family Church & School Parishioners:

July 1, 2009 Bishop Muench and the Clergy Personnel Board of the Diocese of Baton Rouge assigned me as pastor of Holy Family. Although I knew very little about the parish it has been a great honor to be a part of your faith, family and West-Side community. You have blessed, graced and enriched my life and ministry. Thank you for opening your lives to me in your most joyful and challenging moments.

I will complete my 12th year in June 2021. I will be 69 which is 1 year beyond allowed retirement (68) for a priest of DBR. Therefore after much prayer and reflection I have decided to retire from my pastorate.

Leaving will be very difficult but I believe the Lord is leading me and this is best for Holy Family. You will always remain in my prayers, as you are dear to me. Thank you for all your support, prayers and challenges, so we could grow together in our service of the Lord, Jesus.

In this 100th year of Holy Family Church, God has been our shepherd, guide and most faithful friend in our mission to “spread and deepen the Kingdom of God” to the people of Port Allen.

Hopefully you appreciate our journey together. Things started rough with 3 of our buildings being condemned due to black mold and severe structural damage. We began with more funerals than baptisms, few weddings and a dropping enrollment in Holy Family School.

With the guidance of our Parish Advisory Board, parish & school staffs and the commitment of you the parishioners, we have made great growth and renewal of our faith life. I know many more good things are still to come.

The process of replacing me at Holy Family will begin quickly. The Bishop accepted my request for retirement and the Clergy Personnel Board will advertise the parish opening in the next few weeks. They will accept applications from priests of the Diocese for pastors at Holy Family and St. Mary's in New Roads. Those discussions and recommendations could take through May, depending on how many other openings occur. Please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit upon Bishop Duca and the Clergy Personnel Board. I believe it was the work of the Holy Spirit that brought me here and will do the same with your next pastor.

Although I will retire from being pastor, I will not retire from being a priest. I will help churches with weekend mass assistance. I will also remain Director of the office of Clergy Health & Wellness for Bishop Duca and the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

God bless you all and thank you for enriching my priesthood. I look forward to our final months as the Lord continues to lead us on the road to His kingdom. Peace in Christ,

Fr. David

