



Embracing the Legacy of Service

Welcome to our inaugural Newsletter from the Staff and Residents of St. Pius X Residence for Retired Priests. We are delighted to share exciting updates and reflections from the staff and retired priests of our diocese. We thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and to engage with us!

A SEASON OF GRATITUDE FOR ALL GOD'S GIFTS



Dear Friends,

This past spring, I took over the role of Administrator for the Pius X Residence and as Bishop's Delegate for Senior Priests. My choosing for this role surprised many. Quite a few people commented that I was barely old enough to make my AARP membership! My own age has nothing to do with the Bishop's request for me to take on this new role. Instead, I believe his wisdom saw in me a love for the priesthood of Jesus Christ and a profound respect for my brother priests – especially those brothers who have

worked so hard over the years and sacrificed their own ambitions, for the sake of the Kingdom. I said at my first Mass at the residence back in the Spring, that "I stand in awe of the pastoral wisdom that surrounds me in this chapel." And I meant it. It truly is my honor to serve my brothers who have given so much for the building up of the Church here on Long Island. They have preached the Word and brought the sacraments to God's people, sharing our joys and sorrows. They have led our communities in times of peace and times of great upheaval, always being stalwart leaders and gentle shepherds. Now it's my turn - *our turn*- to give back to them for their tireless service.

I asked the editors of this newsletter if we could use the theme listed above, "A season of gratitude for all God's gifts". With the arrival of the cooler weather our thoughts start to focus on the holiday season that awaits us around the corner. We here at the Pius Residence are looking to welcome Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. Thanksgiving, because we have so much to be thankful for. The friendship of so many that sustains us through good times and bad, health and sickness, life and loss. Advent, because as the light changes and the days grow shorter and colder, we are reminded to look with that same gratitude and with hope to the light that never fades - Jesus Christ, our Lord. And Christmas, the promise of ages, our God always with us, a reminder that though we bear wounds in our flesh and though we may grow in age and infirmity, we never do it alone. Our God walks with us gently calling us forward till we see him face to face.

My friends, our fondest wish and prayer, (mine and my brothers here at the residence), for each of you in this season of gratitude for all God's gifts is that you too may look and see and understand with faith, hope and joy all that our God has wrought for us and may all the promises of our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, strengthen you and abide with you wherever he leads you!

Please pray for us - as we are praying for you!

With Gratitude, Hope and Peace,
Fr. Steve

**The St. Pius X Statue Finds a
New Home!**



Back in 1958 Bishop Walter Kellenberg, first Bishop of Rockville Centre opened the St. Pius X Preparatory Seminary in Uniondale. For many years the Seminary formed young men many of whom went on to serve in the priesthood for the Diocese and countless others formed to be catholic men who would make their mark on the secular world.

For the years that the building stood on Front Street in Uniondale, visitors were greeted by the twelve foot, six inch Limestone statue depicting his holiness St. Pius X in a gesture of blessing that graced the front of the building. The striking statue was a hallmark for many of the men who fondly remember their days of learning at the School. In 1984, the school closed. For several years the campus was used by Mercy Medical Center as an outpatient clinic.

Recently the Diocese closed the sale of the property to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis (local Greek Orthodox Diocese). When the sale was disclosed, members of the St. Pius X Alumni Association requested the preservation of the statue. From there Frank McQuade, the President of the Alumni Association and the Alumni made it their task to raise funds for the statue's removal and preservation. During that time the Diocesan Priest pension fund had acquired the former Cenacle retreat house in Ronkonkoma

to become the new Pius X Retired Priest Residence.

Plans were quickly laid to relocate the statue to the grounds there. Due to the pandemic and several delays the statue was finally relocated to the front plaza of the new residence on October 8, 2023. Mr. McQuade, several graduates and benefactors gathered with the priests of the house as Bishop Andrzej Zgleszewski, Vicar of Nassau County gathered with us to rededicate the statue and give thanks for its beautiful new home.

Many thanks to the Alumni Association, Mr. McQuade, Northshore Architectural Stone, Mr. Thomas Dufek and the many benefactors who made this all come to be.

St. Pius X, Pray for us!

Jesuit Mealtime Prayer

*For food in a world
where many walk in
hunger;*

*For faith in a world
where many walk in
fear;*

*For friends in a world
where many walk alone;
We give you thanks, O
Lord.*



By Fr. Ron Richardson

The above prayer found its way to St. Pius through the internet. It is placed on each table in the dining room as we come together for meals. There are on average twenty-four or twenty-five men living here in community assisted by a staff of clergy, and lay professionals. Some of us have known one another for a long time; others are newer friends. We are to a man very grateful for having been given this opportunity to live out our final years with dignity and care in the former Cenacle Retreat House in Lake Ronkonkoma. This, as the relatively new hymn suggests, is "holy ground." Some of you may have had occasion over the years to come here to pray and perhaps to enjoy a retreat given by the Sisters of the Cenacle.

For food in a world where many walk-in hunger:

As I am writing this message of thanks to you for your support in this endeavor, the war in the Middle East is on the cusp of breaking out, hundreds of thousands of people are without food or drink and have been deprived of shelter and hope. We are faced with the ongoing temptation to jog along in the present, as if there were no significant changes to be made in our lifestyles. We can get

comfortable about how things are or upset and cynical about the state of the world. In this prayer Jesus urges us to take the longer view: to believe that God is in charge of human history and wants us to take our part in bringing the Kingdom of God to completion.

For faith in a world where many walk in fear:

So many adults and children are frightened by the chaos and disruption in daily life, the cruelty and hatred and despair we all face each day as we try to make sense of a world aflame with unkindness and hopelessness. Each day we are forced to confront the loss of hope for the future. Even within the family of the Church there is pervasive unsureness as to the anchors of faith, hope, and love. As Flannery O'Connor once wrote, *"To know oneself is above all to know what one lacks. It is to measure oneself against Truth and not the other way around. The first product of self-knowledge is humility, and this is not a virtue conspicuous in any national character."*

For friends in a world where many walk alone:

I mentioned earlier that many of us priests at St. Pius have been friends for many years. With others, we are now given an opportunity to become friends and to grow in love and support. What a rich experience we are offered through your kindness and support. We take this opportunity to thank you and Bishop John Barres for making this possible in the midst of so many financial and spiritual burdens within the Diocese and the world. I need to also express our gratitude for all the staff, lay and clergy. They are a gift to us all.

One of the things that was central to our formation as parish priests living among you in parishes was the life of prayer. We learned the rudiments of spending time each day with the Lord – praying for you, ourselves, and the world. This has always been and will always be at the center of our individual lives and our common life together. Please know that this is now our joy and our commitment to God, to the Diocese, and to the world.

Our Blessings and Good Wishes for Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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Residence

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