

Message to St Philip Parish from Sister Mary Ann McPartland, CND

At Easter time in 1979, I flew East from Chicago to visit several parishes in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, where I interviewed to become the Director of Religious Education. I went home to Chicago very unsure of what parish would be the best for me. There were so many wonderful places and they were all much nearer to my Mother and my family. One evening in early May, I told my Mother over the phone of my dilemma, and she said, "Pray to your Father, he never refused you anything!" (That was true!)

The next morning when I opened the missalette at Mass, it was May 3rd: it was my Father's birthday, and it was the Feast day of our patron Saint Philip! I believed then that my Dad helped me to find the right parish! And, here I am, 40+ years later, telling you that it is time to retire, time to retire from full-time ministry with all of you.

I have been with you for more than half my lifetime. You have welcomed me into your lives to share your joys and your sorrows; to witness many of your sacraments and those of your children. You have challenged me to be the best DRE I could be for 23 years! You have prayed me through two dreadful bouts of uterine cancer. You have encouraged me in every possible aspect of pastoral ministry a woman can experience. And, you have helped me through the sorrows of losing my brother Tony in December 2003 and my Mother 4 months later. You have supported me through two hip-replacements, too! Finally, you have celebrated my 25th and my 50th anniversaries as a member of the Congregation of Notre Dame, a follower of Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys.

At the end of June, I will leave you in the hands of younger people who will do all in their power to minister to you in every way possible, beginning with Father Sudhir. I thank Father Sudhir for allowing me to continue to minister with him as I did for nearly 29 years with Father Boccaccio and before him with Father O'Connor. How blessed am I!

After a rest and hopefully some European travel, if the coronavirus doesn't interfere, I hope to volunteer in some ministries in the area. Nothing is firmed up, yet. So, stay tuned!

Finally, I promise you a place in my daily prayers. God's Blessings on each one! Thank you!

Mary Ann McPartland, CND

March 7 & 8, 2020