

4/09/2019

## **Deacon Jim Thill Announces Retirement as Pastoral Associate**

*"The clock on the wall tells us more than just the time of day."*

About 30 years ago I was told this by an optometrist who then told me the clock on my wall was telling me it was time I needed a little help in reading fine print and prescribed for me my first pair of eye glasses. I dread and fear what that clock on my wall is saying to me these days. I will be 77 years old on my next birthday. My body stamina and strength isn't what it used to be. My spirit is willing but my body is not in that same place. That clock on my wall is now telling me it is time for me to retire as the pastoral associate at Holy Spirit Parish. So I will retire as your pastoral associate effective June 30, 2019.

I have enjoyed 30 years in the parish as a volunteer...followed by 19 years of full-time employment as your pastoral associate. For the last 14 years of those 49 years as an Ordained Permanent Deacon. I pledge to help in any way whoever takes my place as your pastoral associate. Now this does not mean I am riding off into the sunset. I will still be a deacon assigned by Archbishop Jackels to Holy Spirit Parish with diaconal faculties ... preach and assist at Mass, baptize, witness weddings, conduct prayer services, conduct prayer and communion services, teach at every possibility, and be involved in the diaconal work of charity. So I am retiring from the full-time ministry of pastoral associate. But I am not retiring from being a fruitful, worshiping member of Holy Spirit Parish.

Finally, I need to recognize and name those who have made this 49 year run the success it has been. To the pastors, associate pastors, brother deacons, and all of you, the members of Holy Spirit Parish. The real credit belongs to you for your love, support, encouragement, and willingness to give of yourselves in service to the Lord's Church. So this is not goodbye. This is

simply a necessary change in how and what I will be doing in service to and with all of you. I  
pledge to continue to love and serve you.

You see, the clock on the wall speaks.

And oh by the way...spell check tells me my spelling is prefect.

Deacon Jim Thill