



My dear parishioners:

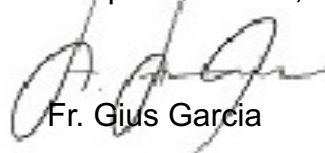
Allow me a brief introduction. I am **Fr. Gius Garcia**, your new Pastor. I have been an ordained priest for 30 years and exercised ministry in the Philippines where I was born, in Rome, Italy where I studied and here in Rockville Centre, NY. I was Pastor of Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish in Deer Park for 6 years. Before that, I was an Associate at Our Lady of Grace Church in West Babylon. I also served for many years at St. Frances de Chantal Parish in Wantagh.

When the bishop called and told me that he is assigning me to be Pastor of two parishes (St. Sylvester and Resurrection) I was quite taken aback. Running two parishes is not an easy task. But I became very hopeful as he assured me of his and the diocese's support. And I know with your cooperation and prayers, and with God's grace, we will find a way to manage.

It is a privilege and a grace from God that I am allowed to accompany and lead you as your pastor in your faith journey as individuals and as a parish family. I look forward to journeying with you, to celebrate the sacraments with you, to build with you a vibrant Church and to grow in commitment to our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am aware that there are traditions in any parish that reflect its unique identity and distinguishes it from other parishes and thus must absolutely be preserved. But at the same time, we know tradition in the Church is always dynamic. We must always be open to improvements and adjustments for the parish to be relevant to the world today. Change is never easy, and yet it is only when we open ourselves to the Spirit that we can truly deepen our knowledge and experiences of God and consequently grow and bear fruit in the living out of our Christian faith.

In Opus Ministerii,



Fr. Gius Garcia

I am very happy to be joined by a good friend, **Fr. Paul Bersamin**, who will be my Associate in running both parishes. He has served in the diocese for 4 years now and is in the process of being incardinated to the diocese. He is truly a pleasant companion, deeply spiritual, with a good sense of humor, good homilist, committed to his priesthood and a very hard worker.

