

Blessings to all my brothers and sisters in Christ,

As a member of the Blessed Sacrament Community, I wish to communicate news that will be published in the coming edition of the *Messenger* and indeed is becoming widely disseminated. I felt it important and proper that you all hear it directly from me, I know how frustrating incomplete information and rumors can be.

Spring has been a time for change and certainly my sojourn into the priesthood has been living proof of that having been changed or moved three times in the last 2 years. Change at any age is challenging enough and the idea of settling into a new assignment holds such promise and fears.

Today, I am announcing a change in assignment for me. On June 11, I will become Pastor of Saint William Parish in Williamstown and St John Mission in Dividing Ridge. As a seminarian the hope of obtaining a pastorate is a dream fulfilled. Being able to bring the Gospel, through preaching, and administering Sacraments is an inspiring dream that drives us on.

Nonetheless, the move can be filled with anxiety. There is a sense of incompleteness at times to the mission here at Blessed Sacrament, there will always be the feeling of could I have done more and have I been a good witness to the parishioners. Also, there are anxious feelings on what lies on the horizon at the new assignment, what adjustments do I need to make, how will I be received and so on.

On the other hand, with my trust fully rooted in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, these are issues that I really do not have a right to feel anxious about. We have a Shepherd in whom we trust, and we know he loves his flock we know just like the disciples on the road to Emmaus he will sojourn with us, especially when we look for the Lord in the Scriptures. We know that when the eleven who fled the scene of Jesus' Passion, who were hiding, concerned for their own personal safety are by the power of the Holy Spirit given the strength to confront those persecutors of Christ, not in hiding but very publicly from the steps of the Temple. They had given up all their anxieties, put their trust in the Risen Christ. Surely, I can persevere in my own mission at St William's and St John's through that same spirit.

I have developed a lot of good relationships here; I have received far more than I have given at this wonderful Parish community. I will bring all those wonderful experiences with me which can only bolster my ministerial presence there. My hopes and prayers are for you with the new arrival of Father Damian Hils as your Pastor and Father Augustine Aidoo as your parochial vicar. I will be ever grateful for the support from Fr Dan and Deacons Bayne and Fortner and all the staff members who make for such a pleasant experience.

Should you ever find yourself in Williamstown or should you want to reach out to me for any reason please feel free to contact me.

Fr. Benton Clift