



Father William J. Kelly, V.F., Pastor
Vicar Forane, (Dean) Deanery 5

Dear Parish Family,

For many years now I have been dealing with heart health issues. You may not know this but in 2005 I had open heart surgery—a quadruple cardiac bypass, and then again in 2018, I once again had to have my chest opened for an aortic valve surgery. Apparently, I was born with a defective aortic valve, and it was not discovered until 2018.

I arrived at this wonderful parish in June 2020 and hoped to be here for at least six years. For the last several years, my heart has, once again, been acting up, and a year ago my cardiologist recommended I retire from active ministry. I put it off and now my heart ejection fraction is low enough that I am considered to be in moderate heart failure. So, once again, my cardiologist is now strongly recommending that I retire, and I must listen to him as I now tire very easily and must manage my stress better and work on helping to increase my ejection fraction.

I brought this to the attention of Bishop Sullivan, sending him not only my letter requesting early retirement but also the letter from my cardiologist strongly recommending me to retire. Bishop Sullivan has granted this request, and I will retire from active ministry in the diocese, and as your pastor. My last day will be June 30, 2024.

I will relocate to Collegeville, PA, but you may see me around in NJ at various times.

I want to thank you all for the four years that I have been your pastor. I have tried my best and with the help of so many, things have been accomplished. My main goal was to make the parish ONE in mind and heart...as the merger still had the parish somewhat divided. I have seen major healing take place and we still have a ways to go...but we are getting there 😊. Please keep up the good work. We were also instrumental at refurbishing the inside of St. Paul Rectory, the inside and outside of Tierney Hall, the painting and flooring in the parish office, the renovations at St. Paul Church, the new rugs and outside painting at Sacred Heart, new and improved sound systems in all three churches and in Quinn Hall, and other improvements as well. I really enjoyed the parish festivities which also brought the parishioners closer to one another...the parish Christmas party, the Chosen series, Fr. O'Leary's Advent and Lenten talks, the Parish Fish Fry, the Wedding of the Sea, and so many more. All wonderful friend-raisers. And for the last several years, this parish has been first in the diocese for the Bishops/Ministries Appeal. No small feat! I want to thank you for your ongoing generosity to the parish and diocese...your time, talent, and treasure, are second to none. There is so much more I can list, especially your generosity to the less fortunate. As I have said many times before...it takes a village. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

My new mailing address as of July 1, 2024 will be:

Fr. William J. Kelly
P.O. Box 26881
Collegeville, PA 19426

I love you all!

Fr. William J. Kelly, V.F.
Pastor
St. Brendan the Navigator Parish
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