

Dear Parishioners of St. Therese Little Flower Church,

As I recently announced, I will be leaving as your priest this coming June. When I came to Little Flower, I came knowing I would be leaving in a few years to return to live and minister in the Southwest. The two places being considered are St. Ann Parish in Tubac, AZ and St. Joseph Parish in Laguna Pueblo, NM. St. Ann Parish is located between Tucson, AZ. and Nogales, AZ. which is on the border with Mexico. If I go there, I would be ministering to St. Ann Parish and three Mission Churches. Also, there is the possibility to minister along the border. With regards to St. Joseph Parish on the Laguna Pueblo Indian Reservation, which is 40 miles west of Albuquerque on I-40, there are five Mission Churches connected with St. Joseph, and I would be joining another Franciscan Friar Priest and a Franciscan Friar Brother.

Concerning St. Joseph's Church, the Franciscan Friars have been ministering there and the surrounding area since the latter part of the 17th Century. If another Franciscan Friar Priest does not come to minister in this Parish and surrounding Mission Churches, the Franciscan Friars would be leaving. This brings attention to the shortage of priests to bring the Sacraments and provide Pastoral Care to those in need and deserving of it. Hence, we need to pray for and encourage Vocations to Religious Life, Sisters and Brothers, and Ordained Ministers.

One other item concerning the Laguna Pueblo and other Pueblo Reservations is that poverty is very real, and as Franciscan Friars, we are called to be with the poor as the Sisters of Divine Providence in Madagascar are doing as their Mission.

My time with you has been one of the best assignments I have had in my 37 years as a Franciscan Friar and 31 years as a priest. I feel we have come together to bring life to our Parish, as you have brought life to me, as I hope I have done for you. Our Parish will continue to grow. I have heard who your next Associate Pastor will be, but I cannot say until the Archbishop makes the announcement. Rest assured that Little Flower's new associate is a caring and Pastoral priest.

I will be leaving with wonderful memories, but with sadness, as I will miss you. St. Therese Little Flower Church has been good to me, and you have helped me become a better Franciscan Friar Priest, which will carry me into my new assignment. Yet, it is not time to say "goodbye", as I will continue to be your priest.

Sincerely,

Fr. Dennis Bosse, O.F.M.