



To all my very dear friends at Our Lady of Mercy:

There are no words to say what is in my heart. I was overwhelmed by your show of support, affection, gratitude and good wishes at my fare well Mass and reception on Saturday.

I wish I could send thank you note to each and every one of you, but I am afraid that is impossible. Your generosity, your gifts, your kind words, your cards and notes of appreciation, your letters and E-mails have meant so much to me as I leave Our Lady of Mercy. I will always count myself fortunate to have been appointed the pastor of this wonderful parish. I have been blessed to work with a talented and professional ministerial staff: Religious Education, Parish Services and Outreach, Youth Ministry, Music Ministry and all of our choirs, the Business Office and our hard-working Maintenance staff (who seem to do the work of 20 men).

Our school has been a source of pride and satisfaction: the children and incredibly talented faculty were a joy to work with, and I have never met such a dedicated school board. I count myself truly blessed to have been able to work alongside the dedicated Sisters of Mercy: they are a true inspiration and are present at every level of parish ministry, from the rectory office, to RCIA, to school, to CYO, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, you name it and the sisters are there. I hope you all realize how fortunate we are to have such a beautiful group of sisters in our convent. I know they made my ministry here much easier!

I am so grateful to our Knights of Columbus (united and strong), our tireless Holy Name Society and the indefatigable Angels of Mercy who together ran the reception after my Farewell Mass and who are always willing and ready to work together whenever they are asked. What a resource the parish has in these three organizations as well as all the ministries of our parish.

I thank God every day that I was privileged to be your pastor for these four years. I wish it could have been more, but know that I will take Mercy with me into my new ministry with the senior priests and in the Circle of Mercy we will pray for each other. As I said at my Mass, be assured that I will remember you and all of your intentions every Monday morning at our Mass at the St Pius X Residence--each week I will offer the Mass for all of you in gratitude and intercession. Please remember me and the needs of our senior priests, especially the ill and infirm.

God bless you all--Monsignor Thom

Our Lady of Mercy, Pray for us