

## **July 8, 2018: “Thank you” from Father John Madigan**

Dear Holy Rosary Friends,

As I leave for Sacred Heart Bellevue I want to take one more opportunity to say a heartfelt THANK YOU for these past couple of years at Holy Rosary which have been such a blessing for me. Thank you for the warm welcome when I returned here after many years away; the welcome I received was just as warm as it was the first day I arrived here back in the summer of 1974. The encouragement and support that I received was as uplifting as it has always been.

I have always been happy for the priests who have been able to spend time here because I know their priesthood has been so much the better for being here and experiencing this community. Admittedly I have never been here as the pastor which would be a very different proposition when decisions have to be made that would not enjoy widespread acceptance! It has been easy to be here as both the young priest and the old priest with no responsibility. It is what I have referred to as the Fr. Nice Guy role ----- not too unlike being the grandparent when you can entertain those adorable grandkids, give them treats, play with them and send them home when you are good and ready and have had your fix!

Just over a month ago I started thinking that as a retired priest I was showing up for too many things in the Archdiocese --- much more than other retired priests. It occurred to me that it might not be good to be in front of the Archbishop this much as it serves to remind him that I am out there looking healthy and engaged. Too late! He noticed and when he needed to send someone to Bellevue I obviously came to his mind. I even made some other suggestions to him but I didn't convince him! Well, I am healthy enough and have energy for ministry ---- without having to be in charge ----- and I do have a long time investment in the church in this Archdiocese since Fr. McEnnis brought me here some 44 years ago. Also, being situated in one parish saves me from driving around from parish to parish most weekends as I have been doing. However, it was always nice to come back to Holy Rosary and Edmonds when the weekends were finished and you all know what that is like since you have chosen to live here.

Thank you to all who have made my stay during these past couple of years so wonderful. I hope and pray that the Archbishop will find another priest who needs some development time in his priesthood that he can send here to benefit from this nurturing environment as well as helping out in a parish that could certainly use a second priest.

Blessings and peace to all ---- until the next time wherever and whenever that may be.

Fr. John