

July 2018

My dear parishioners,

Wow! What a fantastic celebration of the liturgy on Sunday, June 10! The homily by Fr. Jim Greenfield and bilingual music were absolutely the best. I could not have asked for more. What a wonderful way to celebrate my 50th anniversary of ordination! Hundreds of people. So many from my former parishes as well as from the Cathedral parish. I am so grateful to all of you who were present.



Much of how I felt that day was contained in my remarks at the end of the Mass. I would like to spend my time with you in this letter by quoting from those remarks.

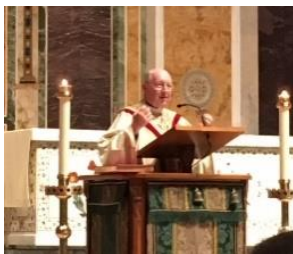
“Gracias por ser mis hermanos y hermanas.

Gracias por el amor que tienen por nuestra parroquia.

Gracias por todo lo que ustedes hacen por la Cathedral.

Gracias por compartir sus vidas y su buena comida conmigo.

Gracias, gracias a todos.

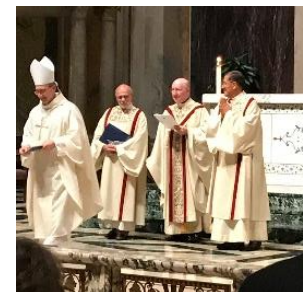


Fifty years ago, God called me to the ordained priesthood. But God calls **each** of us, **all** of us, to the grace of discipleship. **We** are called to be holy as Pope Francis said so well in his recent letter, “Rejoice and Be Glad.” And whatever is done today to celebrate my call, I hope it prompts you to celebrate and give thanks for **your** call.

Only after ministering over these years to and with you, God’s holy people, have I come to really grasp the meaning of my call. Thanks to our baptism, we are all God’s holy people. We are on our journey to God together.

One of my favorite saints is Joseph, who listened to God even when God’s message had to have been baffling and bewildering. Joseph was rooted in his faith; he opened himself to God’s mysterious design without hesitation. Joseph speaks to us of unwavering faith, humble acceptance, and openness to the God of surprises.

Over fifty years of ministry, I have met Joseph—and I continue to meet him—in more people than I could ever count. I have met him in young couples head-over-heels in love; in parents overcome with joy at the birth of a child; and in parents drowning in grief at the loss of a child. I met him last month in



wide-eyed young First Communicants! I have met him in young people struggling with their faith but holding on to it even when not so many of their friends do; and I've met him, too, in sick people who fight their illnesses bravely and try not to ask, "why me?" I have met him in empty-nesters looking for new reasons to believe, new reasons to get up in the morning; and in elderly people who refuse to let the storms of life douse their light or dampen their spirits. And I've met him in poor people who, in sometimes shocking, often gentle, and always unexpected ways, show me the face of Jesus. In these and so many others I have witnessed and continue to witness the faithfulness of Joseph, his idealism, his resilience, his quiet acceptance, his courage, his love. ...

I can't imagine making this journey without **you**. I really can't. You have **challenged** me and **changed** me, **prodded** me and **put up** with me, **loved** me and **forgiven** me, prayed **with** me and prayed **for** me. In so many ways I am what I am because of you. So, I'll say it again: I can't imagine making this journey without **you**.

My friends, today is not about me. It's about **God**, it's about the **Church**, it's about **us**, and about all the ways that, together, we get to **be** Church: the hands, the feet, the heart, and the face of the Lord Jesus.

What a great calling! How blessed we are!"

My friends, as I reflect on my call, I want to recognize and send prayerful best wishes to Fr. Andrew Clyne as he responds to his call. Fr. Clyne has served St. Matthew's well over the past two years as a seminarian from Theological College. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese at the Basilica on Saturday, June 16. Fr. Clyne celebrated his First Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral on Sunday, June 17. His first priestly assignment is as Parochial Vicar at Holy Redeemer in College Park, MD.



Let me end where I started. I have spent 34 years of my priesthood here at St. Matthew's. This is truly my home. You are really my family. Please know how grateful I am to each and every one of you.

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Ronald Jameson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector