

Farewell Letter to Friends

May 15, 2022

My Dear Friends,

Where do I begin? I can't even begin to thank all the people who have touched my life over the past 18 years. There have been a multitude of wonderful experiences that have brought me much joy, and I will carry those memories with me always.

I have thoroughly enjoyed watching the children grow in their faith through Religious Education, parish events, as well as their journeys through First Communion and Confirmation. Some of my "song children," as I affectionately refer to them, have even gone on to get married at Star of the Sea. Watching some of them begin the faith journey with their own children has been very rewarding and fulfilling for me.

"Team Gospel" has provided us with an amazing way to include our youngest parishioners and allow them to experience their faith through Gospel reenactments during Sunday Liturgies. From our 4-year old disciples to our young adult directors, Gospel reenactments were a collaborative effort and were definitely a fan favorite each week. The high school mentors would assist with direction while the "Team" would memorize their lines so they could perform the Gospel for all to see. Of course, the experience would not have been the same without Michelle Del Papa's amazing scenery and Lisa J. and Pat B.'s sewing of costumes.

The Christmas pageants were a beloved tradition that was especially treasured by our tiny shepherds and angels alike. Costumes always seemed to miraculously multiply as we added new participants over the years, and I am ever so grateful for all those who helped with such a rewarding experience. The Passion was another reenactment that many appreciated, as it allowed us to feel more connected to Christ during the Easter season...Life...Death...and Resurrection!!

The youth choir was a central part of the Family Liturgy. Their cantoring and choral singing was amazing and sometimes brought tears. Their talent was impressive to the congregation and their voices undoubtedly carried prayers to



Heaven. (Summertime cantor camps helped with this too). Thank you as well to Michele De Martinis for her brilliant assistance to the Ministry.

The "All Saints Mass" was phenomenal! First and second graders (almost 200 in all) would dress up as their favorite saint and process in the church to the song "When the Saints go Marching in" with Billy on trumpet with his arousing rendition. Their parents were more excited than they were (maybe with Covid almost behind us this will all come back).

Special thanks to Elaine Leahy for returning for special projects and the paying special attention to the Religious Education announcements and website.

Lastly I cannot forget all of the wonderful parents and volunteers that helped throughout the years in the Music Ministry and Religious Education. Without them, we would not have accomplished all that we did. Thank you to Yvonne Verrette, my second "mother," who always could find everything I would misplace and keep my music organized.

Thank you to the Rectory staff, Jean and Katherine, for all their help in EVERYTHING!!!

Thank you to Mitch, our maintenance person, who can build and fix anything...he's the man!!!

Thank you to Jonathan, for your kindness and gentleness.

Thank you so much for the gift of your children and my experience with all of you. I have great gratitude for Monsignor Moran. His knowledge and patience is a great gift to the parish.

I will miss you all terribly, and wish you all the best as I embark on my next adventure.

With blessings and love to you all,

Mary Pagliarulo

