

Connect With Us

Join Our Mailing List

Forward to a Friend

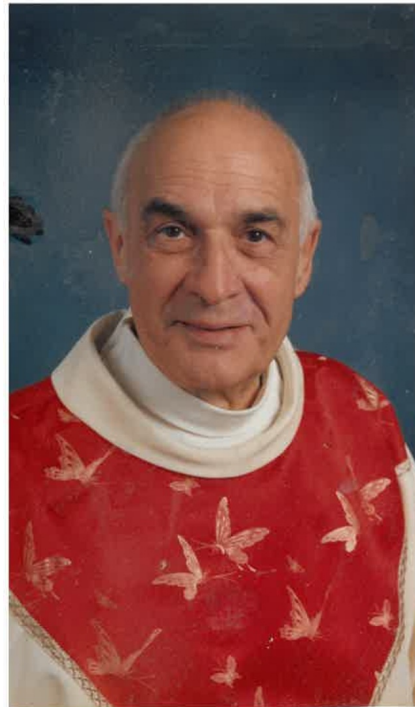


Visit Our Church Website

Parish News

July 1, 2020

A Note From Father Donald Staib



My Dear Friends,

Last Sunday I spoke about the 'slices of our lives.' I could not bring myself to talk about the last 23 years slice of my own life here at St Mary Magdalene. Too emotional. But I can write about it here in my last e-news to you.

Before I came to Apex I had spent my year sabbatical in Vietnam teaching in a seminary and other places. I knew I would have a last assignment in our Diocese that would end when I turned 75 in 2010. I wondered what my future would be.

I never could have imagined the joy and challenge of St Mary Magdalene. I am so grateful for this last slice of my life that I have experienced with you.

And I never would have guessed my experience would last until I was 85. I am grateful to our bishops who encouraged me to stay - and to all in the parish who supported me during these senior years.

What next? I will live at Springmoor Retirement Community on Creedmoor Road in Raleigh. It is about a 25 minute drive from StMM, so I hope to be back from time to time. My address there is 251 Springmoor Dr., Raleigh 27615. My email will stay the same: donfs22@aol.com.

In the days to come I also will visit these friends in Morehead City. They are a delight to be with.



They are children of a Vietnamese friend who was 7 years old when I met him and his family in the Refugee Camp for Boat People in the Philippines in 1991.

What a blessing to come from a place where the refugees had no home to a new life in the USA. God finds ways to bring us happiness we never could have planned for ourselves.

There has been a recent development I also did not expect. Sadly, the pastor of St Mildred Church in Swansboro died suddenly a month ago - just after our Bishop had made the clergy assignments for the next year.

Bishop Luis called me a few weeks ago to ask if I would offer Masses on the weekends at St Mildred after September. I was pastor there many years ago and it is a delightful small town on the coast between Morehead City and Jacksonville.

So unless there are changes before September I will be at St Mildred most weekends until the Bishop can find a permanent pastor.

One task we have been working to complete at our parish is a prayer garden next to our Columbarium. You may remember at the church dedication we had a very large crucifix that was too big for the sanctuary.

This crucifix will be placed in the garden, along with the marble angels who have been waiting inside the church.

In addition, with the support of the Knights of Columbus, there will be a shrine to children, born and unborn. This statue will be there with an inscription:

FOR THE GIFT OF OUR CHILDREN

OUR ANGELS IN HEAVEN

OUR JOY ON EARTH



In the beginning of this letter I used the metaphor of a 'slice of life.' A more favorite metaphor is one I used in a sermon in May on the feast of the Ascension.

It comes from stories written by Asheville native Thomas Wolfe. I tell this story at every Graduation talk I give. Thomas Wolfe told stories of real people in Asheville and his hometown folks were angry that he told about their eccentricities and strange ways. For a while he himself really could not 'go home again.'

He wrote a short story about a train trip he once took in Germany. The experience made him think riding a train was like living our lives. Think of our lives as being in a train car.

The time we have been together here at StMM has been a unique gathering, never to be repeated, never the same group again. On the train, when it stops, people get on and people get off. So in our lives people come into our lives and people leave.

While we were together from 1997 to 2020 - it was a good ride. During the ride we learned different lessons - we saw different views - we had unique experiences.

But best of all - we were together on the ride.

I did not say this in May, but I can now. Be careful: the engineer is getting off the train. He has something else to do.

We had a happy train ride. The best part of our train ride was we had wonderful companions. We wish, we pray: for everyone, everywhere, to have wonderful companions on all our train rides yet to come.

You are in my prayers always
Father Donald Staib

