

July 2020

*"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on."*

**Robert Frost**

Fr. Jeff mentioned in the last monthly letter that I have received my new assignment at St. Lucy, Racine/St. Sebastian, Sturtevant, beginning on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Yes, it is time for me to say Goodbye to West Allis after 12 years. This is the way for us priests; life goes on from one parish to another parish or from one mission to another.

I know this is the most difficult time to leave a parish after twelve years and to take new assignments. Everyone in the world is going through some type of dilemmas and difficulties with this pandemic. So, we have to learn to live in this new situation though it is painful. There is no other way.

I don't know if I will be able to see you in person before I leave to express my gratitude for all your love and prayers over the years and thank you. So, I am writing you these few lines.

First, I thank our Lord for the opportunity to be with you over the years and the bountiful blessings He has showered. I am really humbled.

I have a big brother, friend, guide, and mentor in Fr. Jeff. He was there for me whenever I needed him. I have gone through a lot during these years, including the loss of my mom. The love and support I have received is amazing. Even when I was the administrator for MQH for 5 years he was there - one call away. As I move forward with the responsibility of two parishes, everything I have learned from him is treasured. Twelve years of smooth working together is really a blessing. Thank you so much Fr. Jeff. I will always remember you.

I am grateful to all the staff members, deacons, trustees, Parish council, Finance council, all the other committee members, and everyone who made my ministry easier. The hard work and support from your part during the merger process is commendable. Thank you....

St. Paul writes in his letter to the Philippians 1:3 "I thank my God every time I remember you" ... Dear parishioners, I do the same whenever I remember you. You were there for me. You loved me as your own. I will not forget you. On behalf of my community I thank you for all the generous support you have given to our missions through the mission appeals.

I don't know if any of you are hurt by any means during my ministry here. If so, please forgive me.

You are welcome to Racine and Sturtevant anytime. Please don't forget to stop by me if you are in the area. I will have the same cell number.

Please continue to bless me by praying for me,  
Fr. Thomas Vathappallil