

*“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

— Romans 15: 5-6

My Dear and Precious Friends,

It was with great joy last Sunday that Father Edmond was installed as the first pastor of Saint John Neumann Parish by our Vicar, Bishop Joseph Perry. It was a very beautiful Mass, and we thank everyone who worked so hard to make the celebration so wonderful! Many thanks to Bill Rosas and our choir for their beautiful music, to all of our ministers, and to our art and environment team for their transformation of our church as we begin this holy season of Advent. The homilies by Bishop Perry and Father Edmond were

extremely powerful as they spoke to us of the important work that God has given us as we build our new parish family together under the care and protection of our new patron, Saint John Neumann.

As we begin this season of Advent, we are reminded that we need to be patient and full of joyful expectation as we undertake our work together. Change is always difficult, and it definitely takes time for us to adjust to our new reality. We will be doing our level best throughout the weeks and months ahead to keep you fully informed. To that end, our Communications Working Group held its first meeting this past Tuesday. They are as anxious to begin their work as you all are to be on the receiving end of their efforts. Here are a few items that we would like to share with you as a result of our first session:

- In order for us to get to know each other better and to help facilitate our unification process, we invite and encourage everyone to wear a name tag when you attend weekend Masses. This will help all of us feel more and more like one family as we are able to call each other by name.
- We are working to bring our parish finances into focus. Now that our parish has its new name, we can open new bank accounts in the new name of our parish, and file with the IRS for our FEIN number. Until this process is fully completed, and it may take until the spring for that to happen, please continue to make checks for your donations payable to Saint Anne, Saint Emeric, or Saint Joseph.
- We are also working to create the new online identity for our new parish. We need to secure a new domain name and, once that has been secured, we will be able to begin to create the new online presence for our parish. Please be patient as it takes time to change web sites and our various social media sites properly.
- We are in the process of collecting contact information for the members of our parish ministries. Please be aware that you may be contacted by a member of our parish staff seeking to update and verify your contact information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the rectory office. And our many thanks to Agatha for her continuing hard work keeping us all up to date through the parish bulletin. If you are going to get anything published in the bulletin during these days before Christmas, please be sure to get it to Agatha as soon as possible since publishing deadlines have been moved up because of the holiday.

One final note: as most of you are already aware, owing to my mobility issues I am living in my own home in Worth, about a 20 minute commute to our parish. My office is there, and I can always be reached by email and telephone. My direct number is 773/599-9476. I have no social life, so call me anytime!

In Awe and Wonder of the Power of God’s Love and His Divine Mercy,  
your friend and brother always,

*Father Ralph*

*Please remember to watch and subscribe to “Father Ralph’s Neighborhood” on YouTube*

