

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

6437 East Seneca Turnpike, P.O. Box 368
Jamesville, NY 13078-0368

September 17/18, 2005

Dear St. Mary's Parishioners:

The past fifteen months at St. Mary's have been very interesting and rewarding in countless ways. St. Mary's is a fine parish and is made up of wonderful people who love their parish, have deep roots and who look forward to its doors being open for many years yet to come. Father Yeazel's letter, the first insert in the bulletin this week, has some gracious words for St. Mary's and the words come from a very gracious man. Had not Father Yeazel stepped up to the plate, the ball game would simply be over and doors would have closed. As things now stand, St. Mary's is in very good hands, has a bright future and will be a place for worship for years to come.

Changes are never easy for anyone and that includes both priest and people. When one has been at the helm of one of the largest parishes in the Diocese and then moves to a parish one-fifth the size, the adjustment is almost beyond comprehension. When parishioners have known contentment and lack of change, to have one come in and "shake the trees" is really not at all easy to take. I think, after fifteen months living, working and worshipping together, things are pretty smooth and nearly everyone is pretty happy. Jesus never won the affection of all around him and those around him wished that he would just move on and let things stay static as perhaps they had always been. Life remains much the same everywhere and people remain the same as well. Hopefully, St. Mary's is a happy place, one that embraces new ideas and new ways of action. I think we all need to be challenged in all aspects of life and it is in our embracing change that we really grow a lot.

To move back to a large parish which is made up of 1,550 families presents new challenges for a priest who, at 75 years of age, ought to be enjoying a life of Reilly. However, workaholics are never happy unless they are working and pushing themselves beyond the limit. This priest told both Bishops that he will do his level best to work for another ten years. I had the privilege of establishing St. Elizabeth Ann Seton twenty years ago and never thought I would be ending my priestly work there. I'm happy about that but not happy about leaving Jamesville. For me, Jamesville has become a wonderful parish and a wonderful place to be. I will miss so many loving and gracious people and will have fond memories for the rest of my life. I take this opportunity to say thank you to all who are the special people who form the fabric of Jamesville and St. Mary's parish. I don't know of any parish which has the level of commitment and volunteerism that is much the hallmark of this fine parish and community of good and faith-filled people.

Aidan celebrates his tenth birthday on this Saturday, the 17th of September. He was three months old when I went to Whitney Point to pick him up. He spent the next nine months of his young life at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and then nine years at St. Joseph's in Camillus. Seven months in Pinehurst, North Carolina, were happy months for him and the past thirteen months in the healthy climate of Jamesville have been truly wonderful for him. Like his master, he also says thank you very much.

100 Years of Ministry
1899-1999

God Bless you all!
Father John