

April 15, 2016

Dear Parishioners:

By now you may have heard that Father Khoa Mai is leaving St. John Fisher Church. The usual term for associate pastors is 5 years, and Father Mai has served the full term. This is actually the longest time an associate pastor has stayed with us since I came here in 1999. He has come to know the people quite well over the years, and many have come to know him. I am grateful for the time he has been here and all the support he has given me. At the time of my writing this letter, I do not know to where he is being sent. The answer should come very soon.

I actually found out about his transfer in a circuitous way. The Vicar for Clergy called asked me if I would be willing to accept Father Francis Aguilar as my new associate pastor. I asked him if that meant Father Mai was being transferred. He told me that he had been here five years and that his term was up. I was pleased to accept Father Aguilar here. I know that each person has gifts to offer St. John Fisher. Since I have been here my associates have been Father Michael Rocha (1998-2002), Father Freddie Chua (2002-2004), Father Artur Gruszka (2004-2008), Father Keith Byrne (2008-2010), Monsignor Steven Zak (2010-2011), and Father Khoa Mai (2011-2016). Each has particular gifts and talents which serve the pastoral needs of our parishioners.

Father Aguilar will have his own as well. Like me he is a graduate of St. John's Seminary, Camarillo. Ordained in 2009, his first assignment was St. Pius X Church, Santa Fe Springs. Coincidentally, it was the parish where Father Mai served for 4 years before coming here and where Father Gruszka is presently the administrator. In 2013 Father Aguilar was transferred to St. James Church, Redondo Beach. When the pastor of St. Joseph Church, Long Beach, was appointed Assistant Vicar for Clergy last July, Father Aguilar was transferred there as administrator pro tem. In another confluence of coincidences, Monsignor Kevin Kostelnik, who once served here as a newly ordained priest, has been appointed pastor of St. Joseph, so Father Aguilar is ready for a permanent assignment. Hence he is now our new associate pastor.

This June we will be bidding farewell to Father Mai and thanking him for his 5 years of ministry, and on July 1 we will welcome Father Aguilar. I know that you will be as welcoming and supportive of him as you have the other priests who have served here.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork
Pastor