



SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

July 15, 2017

Dear Parishioners:

You may have noticed in the bulletin that as of July 1 Father Bernard Kalu is Associate Pastor here. Wasn't he already here? Father Kalu, a priest from Nigeria, was sent by his bishop to study for his M.A. in Philosophy at Loyola Marymount University. His assignment here was as a student resident. This meant that he was living here, but his main assignment was as a student. He was expected to celebrate Mass regularly and help out in other assignments as needed as long as it didn't interfere with his studies. Father received his M.A. this past spring and was thus no longer a student. He expressed a desire to the Archdiocese to stay here to work in a parish until his religious visa expires in March, 2019. He had the approval of his bishop. The Archdiocese has formally assigned him as Associate Pastor here. I am happy to have him with us.

Another transition that has taken place involves the Pastoral Council. It serves as my advisory board in matters involving parish activities and ministry. Every year new members are selected through a discernment process. Because the terms overlap and incumbents often choose to stay on for a second two year term, we usually have three to four new members. Every two years the Council Chair is selected by the members. The new Chair is Beverly Beatty, and the Vice Chair is Frank Lee. I am grateful for the leadership provided these past two years by the outgoing Chair, Hanan Tanios, along with this past year's Vice Chair, Mac Chapman.

The Pastoral Council is responsible for overseeing the Pastoral Plan. Although the goals of the plan are rather constant, the objectives change each year. The pastoral staff, after a two day meeting evaluating the year and looking forward to the upcoming year, has suggested to the Council five objectives for the coming year. A committee of the Council will review those objectives and consider others before presenting to the Council a recommendation of all the objectives. This will take place at the August meeting of the Pastoral Council. The objectives should be finalized by the Fall at the Council's first meeting, and our objectives for 2017-2018 will be published for all to see.

May you have a blessed, restful summer.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork
Pastor