



## SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

April 15, 2017

Dear Parishioners:

Ten years ago we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Monsignor Gilb. The Jubilee Mass took place on April 28 at the 5:00 Saturday evening Mass. He was the first pastor of St. John Fisher Church to reach that threshold. On May 3 he will celebrate the 60th anniversary of his priestly ordination, an occasion that few priests have the opportunity to attain. We are blessed that he still celebrates Mass with us regularly and enriches us with his preaching.

There will be a special celebration in the parish of his diamond jubilee. It will take place on Sunday, May 7, at the 10:45 Mass. The priests here will concelebrate with him. The Mass will be followed with a reception in Barrett Hall, where we will get a chance to reminisce his life and priestly ministry. I hope that you will come and be a part of this special day.

A man does not become a priest entirely of his own volition. It is a vocation, which means that God calls him. He called Monsignor Gilb over 70 years ago, and he answered that call. He faithfully served the Church for all these years. This celebration gives us a chance to look back on 60 years of priestly ministry in a variety of parishes and other assignments. We can't just look back. We need also to look forward. God is calling men today. However, they still must listen to the call and answer it. That we have a shortage of vocations to the priesthood is no secret. The shortage is not on God's part but on ours. We need to pray for vocations to the priesthood. We need to create a climate in our families and in our parish that enables young men to hear the call and want to respond. Families need to encourage their sons to consider it.

As we reflect on all the priests who have served St. John Fisher over the years, let us pray for those who will come here in the future. May they hear the Lord's call to priestly ministry and respond generously to serve his Church. In a world of secularism and materialism, may we create a climate that promotes the spiritual values needed to build the kingdom of God.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork  
Pastor