

**OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH**  
5371 AMBOY ROAD  
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10314  
(718) 984-0593

Dear Parish Family,

How I wish I could honor Msgr. Jeff Conway with all he has done for us and thank him and give you all my impressions, hopes and dreams for Our Lady Star of the Sea, but this seems to be the best venue to write down some thoughts and keep you informed. Little by little I am nearly totally settled in and I am delighted to share living space with Monsignor John Mc McCarthy, who just retired from Saint Patrick's Church after serving an amazing 60 years in the priesthood. On July 13<sup>th</sup> I welcomed newly ordained Father David Rider, who hails from Hyde Park, New York and has been ordained about 2 months. Father Dave is with us for the summer and needs to return to Rome to finish his studies. What a gift he is to us. I am so blessed with Father Gabe Mendy from Gambia, and Monsignor Vincent Bartley, also retired and living within our parish. These fine priests along with Monsignor Peter Smith from Scotland and Father Adalbert Kosoma from Poland and occasionally Father Chris Argano, assigned to Saint Columba in Hopewell Junction, are serving us well this summer. I'm amazed at the enormous blessings each of them bring to our parish. Although we are abundantly blessed for the summer months and I don't know what the future holds, I rejoice in the fraternity and good will of these beginning days in the rectory.

I am so aware of the blessings we have with our music ministry, our lector and Eucharistic Ministry, our ushers, our maintenance staff, and our beloved deaf community joining with us on Sunday evenings. I am thrilled with our rectory staff, and happy to see our youngest parish members enjoy summer camps and am confident that our school and religious education programs will serve them well this upcoming year. I'm aware of the outpouring of dedication to our sports teams, our sacristans, our bereavement groups, our 12 step groups and even our ministry to our Pre Cana Couples. There's hardly a dull moment and this is just the summer. Wow!

Having a pastor's eye I'd like to share with you some of the items on my "Dream List", not that they have to all come true but I would appreciate your input. First off, there's a tiny but noticeable sink hole in the parking lot driveway near the door of the rear sacristy that is being patched. I would also like to transfer the tabernacle to the center of the sanctuary where the large presider's chair is and have Christ enthroned there and let there be a smaller chair for the priest offering Mass. In the space where the tabernacle presently is; I dream of a beautiful statue of the Blessed Mother, since there is a natural niche there.

In our rectory I want to remove the bathroom next to the parlor and create a chapel in the rectory for us priests to be able to pray before the Blessed Sacrament since we are not connected to the Church. A smaller bathroom could be constructed from the shower room and a door created to the corridor providing access for the staff. I would like to enclose the car port and turn it into a garage.

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I would like to offer Mass for the Presentation Sisters at 12 Noon on Wednesdays at their Motherhouse on Woodrow Road.

If anyone has a second hand car that's in good condition, Father Adalbert and Father Dave would need access to it for their ministry here.

When I arrived at Our Lady of Pity Church last August 15<sup>th</sup> I made it my priority to visit and anoint the homebound members of our parish. I was able to discover about 35 more people who were homebound and frail and can't get to church. If there are any more in Our Lady Star of the Sea please let me know. All these homebound are powerhouses of prayer and saints for our parish, and even though they can have weekly Masses streamed into their homes; they regularly need priestly visits for confession and anointing of the Sick.

Finally many have asked me if I will be continuing Healing Masses and healing services, such as has been here on Tuesday's. The answer is yes, however I am looking to have a prayer group that can co- minister with me and so I'll be seeking to form a prayer group when I return from my vacation which is from July 29<sup>th</sup> to August 17<sup>th</sup> .

This is a wonderful parish and preparations have already begun for our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. May Jubilee graces abound. What a privilege it is for me to journey with you during these precious days. Pray for me as I do for you and know that I am happy that I can serve you. I'm discerning that Thursday's will be my day off. I need to return to you refreshed each week.

May Jesus Christ be praised in all we are and all we do for His honor and glory. And so I'll conclude with grateful affection for your loving kindness to me and your warm welcome. God bless you all,

Father Tom Devery