Preparing for a new Pastor

On January 25th and 26th, the parish began the process of transitioning to a new and 6th pastor of St. Martha’s. Msgr. Francis Caldwell will complete his second term here on June 29th. He had requested to stay an additional year or two beyond the traditional term of 12 years to complete some projects in the parish. He explained those on-going projects and the decision of the Diocese not to honor his request at the Monday evening meeting.

On Tuesday, a “well dressed and large” contingent of parishioners met in Bethany Hall to address their concerns with representatives of the Diocese. Msgr. Peter Pflom, Director of Personnel, conducted the meeting. He was accompanied by Msgr. William Koenig, Dean of the Diocesan Deanary of which St. Martha’s is a part, and Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski. The meeting was designed to allow parishioners the opportunity to discuss the strengths and needs of the parish and what attributes that they would like to see in a new pastor. The group was passionate about their love of the parish and its current pastor and definitely indicated that they would like Fr. Frank to remain.

Bishop Andrzej concluded the meeting by saying he understood their desires not to have a change, but emphasized that change was natural and provided opportunity for growth on the part of the parish and its pastor. He suggested that the parish help a new pastor develop new strengths just as they did with the current pastor.

YEAR OF MERCY. By Karleine Graham

On Thursday Dec. 3, 2015 at St. Agnes Cathedral, Auxiliary Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski gave the first of four lectures on the Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis, which began on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8, 2015) and will end on the Feast of Christ the King (Nov.20, 2016). This will also mark the closing of the 2nd Vatican Council 50 years ago.

A second lecture examining the biblical aspects of how God reveals Himself as Mercy, in both the Old and New Testaments, will be held at Holy Redeemer Parish in Freeport sometime in January/February 2016. A third lecture on the Theology of Mercy will be in Lent (March) at St. Christopher’s Parish in Baldwin. The fourth lecture dealing with the Great Messengers of Mercy (like Divine Mercy) will be held after Easter at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary in Roosevelt.

In his first lecture, Bishop Andrzej invited us to a meditation/prayer or mini retreat on Pope Francis’s Apostolic Letter, Misericordiae Vultus, issued in April 2015. Bishop Andrzej called upon the scriptures to emphasize the role God’s Mercy plays in ordinary lives. From ancient times, God the Father reveals himself to Moses as a “God merciful and gracious” (Ex.34:6). In the fullness of time, Jesus was sent to show the Father’s Mercy. Salvation depends on God’s Mercy which is the bridge which connects us to...
God, contemplating that mercy will bring us joy, serenity and peace. Therefore, the church exists to show mercy and continue Christ’s revelation to the world. There is no limit to God’s love as mercy is greater than sin.

Pope Francis opened a Door of Mercy in Rome. There are four "Doors of Mercy" spread across the Diocese of Rockville Centre: these are located at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, Our Lady of the Island in Eastport and in Southampton at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary. The faithful are encouraged to read the Apostolic Letter re Mercy on the Vatican website and to reflect on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy with the intention of incorporating them into one’s life.

During this Holy Year, pilgrimages to one of the four designated doors, where there will be opportunity to make a good confession, attend Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, and praying for the Holy Father’s intention, will take place in the Diocese.

Civil society calls for justice which is punishment/payment for wrong done. However, Jesus calls us to do more than justice: he asks that we be merciful as the heavenly Father is merciful. Bishop Andrezje asked that we follow the Virgin Mary and allow God to surprise us. Merciful love is life giving and the Church needs credible witnesses to urgently proclaim the Mercy of God to the world. He asked that we open our hearts to receive, celebrate, give and be a channel through which mercy flows.
Christmas

Outreach: “Feed the Hungry, Clothe the Naked”
A primary focus of the Year of Mercy is encouraging all to practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. The parishioners of St. Martha’s through the efforts of outreach volunteers and with the extraordinary help of nearby parishes, especially the parish of St. Anne’s in Garden City, once again heeded the "cry of the poor" and provided food and gifts of clothing as well as toys for the children for over 300 families at Christmas.

Church was “Dressed” for the Holiday in Splen-

Volunteer Party—January 3rd.
Msgr. Pablo Rodriguez
Pastor of St. Martha’s 1988-1992
Called to God on January 20, 2016
May he rest in peace.

35th Anniversary and a 65th

On January 10th, the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, Fr. Frank mentioned in his homily that he was celebrating the 35th anniversary of his ordination as a Deacon and his first assignment to St. Martha’s and incidentally his first homily to its parishioners. Also during the Mass he blessed Vincent and Joan Galiani who would celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on January 13th,

Pictured with Fr. Frank are Mr. and Mrs. Galiani, two of their daughters and a son-in-law.

Advent Mission
The Advent Mission, December 7-10, 2015, was conducted by Rev. Jordan Turano, OP who is chaplain of Molloy College in Rockville Centre.

Epiphany - Día de los Reyes
January 3, 2016

The feast, traditionally celebrated on January 6th, has many names, Little Christmas, Three Kings Day, and marks the 12th day of Christmas. The word Epiphany means a “sudden intuitive leap of understanding” and the visit of the Kings to the new born Christ Child signifies their understanding that this child indeed fulfills the scripture prophesies and is the Messiah that the Jewish people await.

Legend tells us that the Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby Jesus. The Kings arrived at St. Martha’s also bearing gifts for the children of the parish!