

Grateful- Thankful- and return to Vietnam.

Dear parishioners at Saint Patrick Parish,

It is hard to say goodbye to all of you in this beloved parish. When I was assigned to your parish, I felt strange and a little bit nervous in a new parish, new city, new land, and new environment even though I was assigned to three parishes before: Saint Ignatius of Loyola in Somersworth, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Manchester, and Sainte Marie Parish in Manchester. However, Father Von and all of you welcome me as a member of your family at Saint Patrick Parish. I am grateful for your generosity and hospitality in helping me grow in faith, love, and charity, as I learned about ministry in this parish.

My pastoral year has been so fast and every single day at Saint Parish is a grace from God. I was helped by friendly people in Pelham so I would like to borrow Psalm "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever" (Psalm 118:1). In this last bulletin article, I want to express my gratitude from bottom of my heart to Father Von, Father Kelley, the staff, and all the parishioners for all you have done for me while I lived at Saint Patrick Parish.

After Christmas and New Year, I tried my best to remember you all, especially your faces, your smiles, and your family in every Sunday Mass. Looking at your families makes me remember my family in Vietnam, how they attend Mass, and the missionaries of the Church. My pastoral assignment will end on May 31st, and then in June 1st, I am going to go back Vietnam to visit my family. I will remember all of you in my prayers. I will tell my family, my home parish, my community of my many good experiences in America. I don't know how to describe my heart in this moment, but I will always love and be grateful to all people at the Saint Patrick Parish. Through you and how you join and support this parish and the Church, I have grown in love of God and the Church every single day.

Reflection on the Gospel

In this Sunday Gospel, Jesus said to his disciples "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me" (John 14:1). Indeed, in our lives, we worry too much, but we hear Jesus' word which makes us peaceful and trust in Him. Faith is a gift from God, sometimes faith will be challenged in society. However, if we have strong faith and believe in God, we will be encouraged to witness faith and trust in God, as Saint Paul said, "for I know him in whom I have believed" (2 Timothy 1:12). In any circumstances, we are called to bring the Good News to all people and all nations so that people will recognize the love and mercy of God.

May God continue to bless your family and your parish. Please keep me in your prayers, I will remember all of you in my prayers

Goodbye all of you!

Phong Le