



October 23, 2009

To all St. Anne Parishioners:

One constant in life is everything changes; children grow, families move, jobs are uncertain. In the past eleven years change has been a constant companion to the community of Saint Anne. We have worshiped in different sites. We have been blessed with new families. We have mourned the loss of friends, and we have embraced new life. In the next year we face a new challenge - Father Don will be moving to a new position in June 2010.

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has a policy that priests' assignments are six-years in length. At one time pastors were assigned for life, but wisdom and experience showed that this practice brought complications and problems for both pastors and congregations. Term limits allow parishes the chance of growing with different pastors and they allow pastors to experience the gifts and talents of new communities. Should they desire it, pastors and congregations are given the opportunity to extend a six-year term to a maximum of twelve years. Father Don will be completing his twelfth year next June and will be assigned to another position in the Archdiocese.

Change can be hard. It is especially difficult to say good bye to Father Don, our leader for the last eleven years and a wonderful example of what it means to be a disciple of Christ. While the news of pastoral rotation comes wrapped in a bittersweet package, we must stand assured that this is indeed the work of God and an opportunity for greater growth and increased faith. This will make Saint Anne a stronger parish, and like every other change at Saint Anne, will be another marker of success for our parish. Saint Anne is known for its unconditional fellowship, unwavering faith, and time tested resiliency. This will be no different. Coming together as a community, praying together, and embracing this process will ensure a smooth transition for everyone.

Changing leadership is a process. There is a Transition Team at Saint Anne working to prepare us for our upcoming pastoral change. As we walk through the necessary steps, we ask for everyone's prayers. Our team believes that preparation is the key to a smooth transition. Our goal is to keep all parishioners informed as we move through this process. We plan to communicate through all possible channels. Please watch for our communications and talk to us about your concerns.

There is a temptation to see Father Don as an irreplaceable core of Saint Anne. However, as Father Don has constantly and consistently taught, Saint Anne is its members, their faith, their fellowship, and their love for one another. It is our mission, to embrace this pastoral change with confidence and optimism. With the challenge of a pastoral transition before us, we may wonder, "What are we going to do? What role does the parish have in selecting and welcoming a new pastor?" We will continue to pray together, believe in each other, and have faith in the Archdiocese to do what is good for our parish. We will have opportunities to share our vision of a pastor and express who we are as a community of faith.

We will honor the work that Father Don has done here by following his teaching and example of servant leadership. We will express our gratitude for the gifts he has given us by continuing to be a welcoming parish. We will welcome our new pastor, who is coming to pray with us, to learn from our experiences, and to walk together with us on our ever-changing journey with Christ.

Looking Forward,  
The St. Anne Pastoral Transition Team

**Transition Team Members**

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### ***Pastoral Transition – A Timeline***

This is an important year of transition for Saint Anne's community. Next Spring we will gain a new pastor as Father Don moves on to a new assignment. In the Archdiocese of Milwaukee the assignment of a new pastor is a year-long process.

**October 2009** – Father Don submitted notice to the Archdiocese that his 12-year term as pastor would end in June of 2010.

**January 2010** – Saint Anne's will be "open listed". Priests who are ready to transfer or who might be interested in serving here at Saint Anne are able to request a pastorate through the Priest Personnel Board.

**January 2010** – The Archdiocese will send a "Parish Profile" to our Parish Council. They will be asked to provide details about the parish (population, finances, building conditions) and to submit a "picture" of the parish's priorities, goals, and mission.

**February-March 2010** – Members of the Priest Personnel Board will host an open meeting for the parish to listen to our concerns, hopes, and priorities regarding a new pastor. They do not take "requests". Rather their task is to get a better feel for the community with the aim of making a good "fit" in recommending a new pastor.

**April-May 2010** – The new Archbishop, after considering the recommendation of the Priest Personnel Board, will announce a new pastor.

**June 13, 2010** – Father Don's last Sunday as pastor at Saint Anne.

**June 20, 2010** – We welcome our new pastor.