

St. Edward, St. George, St. Paul, & St. Peter Parishes

June 17, 2016

My Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

I know there have been a lot of changes happening lately and I wanted to make sure that you were all apprised of what was and what will be happening in our parish communities. First, with open hearts and big smiles, we welcome the parishioners of St. Peter into our family. Last Sunday, we had a very fruitful meeting with the leaders of the groups and ministries at St. Peter. We are looking forward to walking side-by-side with you on our spiritual journey. We are all sad to see Linda leave, but we know that she deserves a break after her many years of dedicated service. Thank you Linda for your love and commitment to St. Peter!

I am aware that many of you have been involved in the Deanery planning process where we (the 17 parishes in the South Deanery) have been asked to share our insights on how to best plan and prepare for our future. We do not know what the future will bring, but we can face it together. Maybe the future will hold more parish clusters just like us or maybe not, but the important thing is that the Archdiocese wants us involved in the process.

In light of this process of planning for the future, I, along with the advice of our pastoral council leaders, have decided that we needed to take a look at the status of each of our individual parishes. We know that we already have many blessings in each of our communities, but we also see the need to bring those blessings together to grow into stronger families of faith. To help start to make this goal a reality, I, along with our pastoral and finance council members, have been meeting with the leaders of all our various parish groups. We are coming together, as a family, to decide together, as a family, what we want for the future of our parish families. Our main vision is to make each of our parish communities a warm, active, welcoming, and vibrant place for all our members where we can celebrate and worship together as a family. We also want to insure that our school families are our necessary and intimate partners in this building of our communities. Of course, now that they are in our fold, the parishioners of St. Peter are invited to be involved in this process too.

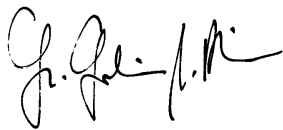
As we move forward, the framework of our efforts is **stewardship** as a way of life. It is a journey of each one and for each one where Jesus Christ is the

foundation. With Jesus as the capstone, there are certain elements that need to be in place within the parish structure, which enable parishioners to convert to a stewardship of life through the giving of self in time, talent and treasure. These basic elements are the four pillars of stewardship, namely, **hospitality, prayer, formation and service**. True stewardship parishes practice all four of these pillars, with Jesus Christ as the model and the foundation from which the pillars arise.

To help facilitate our ongoing growth as communities of faith, I have implemented some immediate changes. First, upon reflection, prayer, and feedback from parishioners, I have determined that there was a desire for and a need of a pastoral priest-presence at each of our parishes during the week. Therefore, I have assigned Fr. Vu to St. Peter, Fr. Alex to St. Paul, Fr. Negusse to St. George, and I will be at St. Edward. We will each be on our parish campus as much as possible during the week. The Mass rotation schedule of the priests remains the same. Another change I have made is to invite the leaders of all our parish groups to our monthly pastoral council meetings. The leaders or their representatives will augment the present members of the parish councils as consultative bodies to the pastor. This will help to expedite communication and planning as we move forward along our path. I think that this is also a good time for us to have new parish directories for each of our communities. So, we will be scheduling the taking of pictures for sometime this Fall.

As always, I keep each and every one of you in my prayers and in my thoughts. Please continue to pray for us, priests, as we meet the challenges of ministering to our parishes. Blessings!

Your Brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Felino S. Paulino'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Fr. Felino S. Paulino