

2019 Easter Greetings from Father LeBlanc and Pastoral Changes

Dear Parishioners:

On that first Easter Sunday morning, the disciples of Jesus journeyed from grief, despair and confusion, to faith, hope and joy during a week which **would** alter human history and have eternal ramifications. For when news broke forth that Jesus had risen from the dead on what we now celebrate as Easter Sunday, humanity would be forever changed – bringing hope out of despair, light out of darkness and inexpressible joy and promise to humanity's ultimate destiny.

'This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it' Psalm 118 proclaims. For it was on Easter Sunday that Christianity began with the joyful news that Jesus who was crucified had risen from the dead. We are the inheritors of this *'Good News'* with its revelation that death does not have the last word, since it has been conquered by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ – giving hope & promise of eternal life for all who believe and follow Him. For Jesus suffered and died on the Cross for us all and rose again to bring hope to humanity, meaning to our lives, and joy and peace to us in the promise of unending life to come with Him and our departed loved ones one day.

And having accomplished His mission of love here on earth, Jesus now commissions us through Baptism to be His disciples, to be heralds of the *'Good News'* of salvation, won for us through His victory of the Cross and His Resurrection. Therefore, **we** must now **'be'** Jesus for **'others'** – extending His love to family, friends and all we encounter on our life's journey, who need to experience the *'Good News of Easter'* with its joyful message of faith, hope and love through us as faithful disciples of our Risen Lord.

Such has been the lived reality of our faith community of Saint Timothy for over **60** years now – our faith passed on to us from prior generations and now given to us to **'live and pass on'** to the next generation through our witness and love for Jesus – sharing the *'Good News'* and the hope and meaning which the Lord Jesus gives to our lives.

For years now, we have all experienced a wonderful model of this Christian love and witness in our own faith community in the faithful discipleship and dedicated pastoral ministry of **Pat Piano**, our Pastoral Associate for over 16 years now. As we have learned in recent weeks, Pat will be retiring from her position as Pastoral Associate next weekend to spend more time with her husband Dan and their family. We are so grateful to Pat for her dedicated, faithful and loving pastoral ministry for us for so many years and will miss her daily presence among us which will take time to process. **But before then, we want to appropriately honor Pat next weekend at the 10:30 Mass on April 28th, followed by a Reception for her in O'Connell Hall.** We invite all to come next weekend to thank Pat for the blessing she has been for our faith community all of these many years, wishing her blessings in the years to come and grateful that she and Dan will continue as members of our faith family in the years ahead. (over >)

And while ‘change’ is never easy, we know it is reality in our lives as individuals and as a faith community. Yet the Lord’s work and our call to continue to build God’s kingdom in our midst goes on – each of us in our given time and place called to share our gifts and build on the works of faith of those who have come before us, to ensure that our parish family of Saint Timothy continues to be a vibrant, loving and just community of faith as Jesus would always have us be.

To that end, to ensure a smooth transition after Pat’s retirement as Pastoral Associate, I am pleased to announce that in mid-May, *Sister Ann Kane, C.S.J.*, (a Sister of Saint Joseph), will become our *new* Pastoral Associate for the years ahead. Sister Ann will be a fitting successor to Pat and compliment Pat’s vision for our community in the years to come. Sister Ann, whom I have known for some time, was herself Pastoral Associate for Fr. Henry Frascadore at Saint Dominic Parish, Southington some years ago. Sr. Ann brings many similar gifts to Pat’s dedicated ministry, including a respectful vision of Vatican II’s call to servant ministry and shared pastoral ministry by all God’s faithful. In the coming weeks, I will share other aspects of Sister Ann’s background and prior ministerial services as she prepares to join our faith family here at Saint Timothy’s.

On this **Easter Sunday**, with thanksgiving for all that the Lord Jesus has accomplished for us through His life, death and Resurrection, (and knowing that He is with us *always*), let us give ‘thanks’ on this great festival day for our shared faith, love and service as a parish family here at Saint Timothy’s, with loving gratitude for our community’s past **60** years and praying for God’s blessings upon us in the years to come

On behalf of our Pastoral Staff, I wish each of you and yours a blessed **Easter celebration** with renewed joy in our **Risen Lord Jesus!**

Your brother in faith,

Father Alvin J. LeBlanc