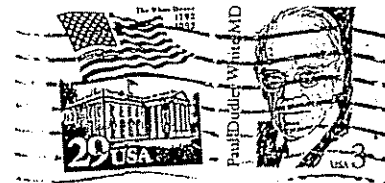


St. Timothy Church
10300 Lower River Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40272

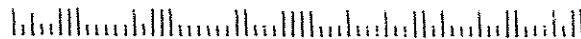


LOUISVILLE KY 400 PM #4 01/18/95

CHANCERY OFFICE
Rev. Dale Cieslik, Chancellor
PO Box 1073
Louisville, KY 40201

DAR 05713

40201-1073



St. Timothy Church
10300 Lower River Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40272

F.Y.I.

January 17, 1995

Dear Parish Member,

I will be leaving on a 3-month sabbatical in Rome on Feb. 5, so I thought I would take this opportunity to explain a little bit what this means for me and for you while I am away. A sabbatical (like Sabbath) is basically a time of renewal and rest. The Archdiocese began the sabbatical program about ten years ago and they allow four priests each year to go on sabbatical, from three months up to one year. Most are granted only three months. Why didn't I ask for more????

Rome is one of several locations from which the priest can choose. I chose Rome because of good reports from other priests who had taken their sabbatical there. I will be living at North American College overlooking St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City with 30 other priests from throughout the United States. I will be attending The Institute for Continuing Theological Education. We will be attending classes each morning on weekdays for updating in theology, Scripture, and other areas. Besides formal learning, the sabbatical also offers the opportunity to interrelate with priests of many gifts and ministries. We will also have the opportunity to con-celebrate early-morning Eucharist with Pope John Paul II at the chapel in his Vatican residence. The sabbatical also includes a 10-day trip to the Holy Land in Mid-March. And, last, but not least, REST!

I applied for this sabbatical about two years ago and was given permission about a year ago. I am looking forward with excitement for this great opportunity.

Now I want to outline how St. Timothy will be affected while I am away. I have arranged for three priests to celebrate Mass on weekends up through April 30. They are Fathers Joseph Hamilton, Bob Ray, and Eugene Zoeller. Fr. Hamilton will be here on about half of those weekends. There will be no weekday Masses during this time except for Ash Wednesday (March 1) and on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Hopefully, many will be able to attend weekday Mass at St. Clement or a neighboring parish. Deacon Dave McGinty will conduct a Word & Communion Service on Wed. evenings at 7:00 PM, beginning Feb. 8,, and also on Feb. 3 for the Blessing of Throats. He will also conduct the Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent. Our Parish Council and Committee meetings will continue as usual at their regular times.

In cases of emergency or for other needs that would require a priest, please call the rectory on weekdays or Deacon

DAR 05714

McGinty at other times and arrangements will be made to serve your needs.

Now for some bad news, at least for a few. Beginning on January 29, the 8 o'clock Sunday Mass will be discontinued. This decision has been made with consultation from many over the past couple years, and the reasons for it are varied. The first and perhaps most important reason is that the Archdiocese has directed parishes that they should have no more Masses on the weekend than are needed to reasonably accomodate the people. Secondly, it is very likely that in the not too distant future there will be an increasing number of parishes that will be "clustered," that is, two or more parishes served by one priest. This, of course, will necessitate a rearrangement of Mass schedules. Discontinuing the 8 o'clock Mass at this time will offer a gradual rather than abrupt adjustment to what must come anyway reasonably soon.

I am aware that this discontinuance will be a disappointment to some, especially to those for whom this time is very dear; however, I hope that your attachment to St. Timothy will allow you to attend either the Saturday evening or later Sunday Mass. If and when a clustering does occur, the entire schedule will have to be reexamined.

Although I will not be leaving for Rome until Feb. 5, I will be out of town between Jan. 23 and Feb. 5 except for a couple of days. From Jan. 23-29 I will be in Orlando, Fla. representing the Archdiocese at the National Catholic Conference on Alcoholism. From Jan. 30 - Feb. 4, I will be in Odessa, TX visiting a priest classmate and friend from years back.

Two other items of information before I close. Next Saturday, Jan. 21, at 6:30, all parishioners are invited to our Festival of Ministries, which will include a delicious Pancake Supper along with some good entertainment. Also, later this month each of you will receive in the mail a statement of your Treasure contribution for 1994. This is a new requirement from the Archdiocese.

While in Rome, if I need to be contacted by phone or FAX, the parish secretary and the deacon have information for that procedure.

Let us remember one another in prayer during the months ahead. While in Rome, I will offer the weekly "Mass for the People" of St. Timothy.

Sincerely,



(Rev.) Thomas R. Clark, Pastor

Address in Rome: Rev. Thomas R. Clark
Institute for Continuing Theological Education
North American College
00120 Vatican City State
(EUROPE)

DAR 05715