



Holy Spirit Church

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DERBY DAY 1981

Dear Parish Member and Friend,

Before any true or false rumors come to you, I would like to share something very personal with you firsthand. Outside of my immediate family, I share this with you first, because you are the most important. What I want to share is that my ministry in the Church will take a new turn beginning this summer. The result of this is that after eight years Holy Spirit and Good Shepherd will be getting a new pastor this summer.

After much thought, reflection, and prayer, I have discerned what I interpret as a new call in my life at this time. I have received permission as well as encouragement from Archbishop McDonough to enter a candidacy program for the Missionary Brothers of Charity, who for the Western Hemisphere and Europe are headquartered in Los Angeles. The Missionary Brothers of Charity are a relatively small group of Brothers, including a few priests, whose essential work and ministry is with the unwanted and "the poorest of the poor." Part of my discernment process included an 8-day visit with the Brothers in Los Angeles this past February.

I hope that no one of you will interpret my decision as a sign of any dissatisfaction with my ministry here or as any kind of rejection of you. Nothing could be further from the truth. As a matter of fact, I am and will be saddened at leaving this area and its people. My years here, though not without some pain, have been the happiest of my life and the source of great personal growth. I would like very much to continue my ministry here, but there comes a time when a person must go beyond one's wishes.

And so, although I will experience some sorrow and disappointment, I am also looking forward with excitement and anticipation to what lies ahead.

I am also excited about the new opportunities for the parish as a new pastor arrives sometime in June to work to continue the growth of the local church. At the present time, I anticipate leaving here around mid-June, and for California around mid-July.

I trust that this letter will at the present time serve as a suitable vehicle for communicating this message to you. Trusting in your continuing prayers and with assurance of my prayers for you, I remain

Sincerely,

Father Clark

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