

Remarks for the Thanksgiving to the Sisters of Saint Joseph

July 1, 2018

Since the first days of Our Lady of Grace the Sisters of Saint Joseph have prayed, worked, lived, and served in our parish communion. Generations of our young people have learned to know and love God through their work in faith formation. Many of the needy who live among us know their kindness through Parish Outreach. You have seen a small fraction of their service here, in liturgical ministries and in the pews, as they – whether their ministry was in the parish or not – prayed with us and brought the witness and blessings of consecrated life to our parish.

Today, as changing times in our culture and our church demand, the sisters who now live with us – Sister Alice, Sister Ginny, and Sister Rosalie – now look forward to new opportunities to serve in a different setting. With their departure the presence of the Sisters of Saint Joseph here comes to an end. I, and, speaking for parishioners we, wish you could stay; but God and circumstances and your own sense of mission draw you away. We will miss you, and will pray for you. Our parish life will be poorer without you; but we have learned from your dedication and example and will carry on the work you and so many sisters of your congregation have so well begun and sustained here for over fifty years.

So in the name of everyone whose life and faith you have enriched, and for myself, I say: Thank you! May God continue to bless you in your new home, and please continue to pray for us as well.

And to all: I invite you to thank the sisters personally over simple refreshments in Shanahan Hall after Mass, hosted by our Knights of Columbus.

So to all the sisters here, and to those who have gone before: Thank you again, and may what you have planted here over half a century continue to grow and blossom; and may we prove worthy of your sacrificing love. Thank you! Amen!

[Delivered at the 10am Mass on July 1, 2018]