



Summer News

June 2015

This past Sunday's celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi – the Body & Blood of Jesus – brought back memories of my First Mass 34 years ago at St. Bernard's Church in Worcester. June is the month when many priests in our diocese celebrate their anniversary of ordination. This month also marks the time of year when retirements take place, when the newly ordained receive their first assignments and when associates are named to their first parish as pastors. It is often a time of change and transition for parishes as it will be for us at St. Mary's this year.

Fr. Marcin will join the ranks of previous associate pastors who are now serving as pastors in parishes in the diocese. He has been appointed the new pastor of Holy Cross Parish in East Templeton and St. Martin Mission in Otter River. We wish him well and will pray for him as he prepares to embark on this new adventure in ministry.

Back in the "old days" a priest would have several assignments as an associate before his first pastorate. In my first 12 years of priesthood I had three assignments before being named pastor at St. James Church in South Grafton. In more recent years both Father Manny Clavijo and Father Adam Reid were named pastors after two assignments. And now Father Marcin has been named a pastor after his first assignment of four years. Following this pattern we can anticipate that our next newly ordained associate will also become a pastor after only one assignment.

Bishop McManus has appointed Deacon Juan Escudero as our new associate pastor. Deacon Juan will be ordained a priest at St. Paul's Cathedral on June 20th. After celebrating his First Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Patrick's Church in Rutland, he will return to his native Colombia to celebrate a Mass in his home parish. We pray for Deacon and "soon to be Father" Juan as he prepares for his priestly ordination and First Mass celebrations. We look forward to welcoming him to St. Mary's on August 1st.

Where are they now?

Former associate pastors of St. Mary's now serving as pastors in the Diocese of Worcester:

- Fr. Adam Reid - Sacred Heart, Webster
- Fr. Manny Clavijo - St. Mary of the Hills, Boylston
- Fr. Dennis O'Brien - Our Lady of the Lake, Leominster
- Fr. Brian O'Toole - Our Lady of Lourdes, Worcester
- Fr. Michael Broderick - St. Patrick, Rutland
- Fr. Joseph Jurgelonis - Annunciation, Gardner
- Fr. William Sanders - St. Louis, Webster
- Fr. Michael Roy - St. Roch, Oxford