



## Reflections from Fr. Don Cambe

As I write this, during my last days of my assignment as Associate Pastor at St. Mary of the Annunciation, I ask “Where did the time go?”. It feels like only yesterday that I was told I’d be transferred to St. Mary in Fremont Center. I remember feeling excited for this new assignment, for I would have the opportunity to build new relationships in my faith journey with

this wonderful community. And now here I am, and as the last few pebbles of sand flow into the hourglass, I marvel at how three years have flowed by so fast, and I relish every single moment of it. I am filled with so much gratitude as I reflect on my three years here.

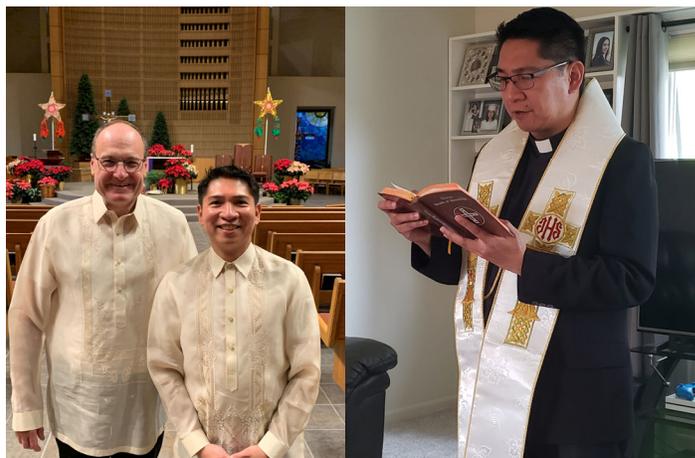
On May 28, 2019, I got my official appointment to St. Mary while I was traveling in Poland with my parents who were celebrating their anniversary. A month earlier, as I drove to Mundelein for an initial meeting with Father Jerry, I fell in love with the natural setting. It was completely different from the hustle and bustle of the city. The surroundings were so peaceful and so quiet that I had asked Father Jerry, “Where are our neighbors, our parishioners?”. At first, the vast church campus overwhelmed me. Back in the Philippines and for most of my life, I’ve lived in city settings and got so used to the noise that I had a hard time adjusting to the quiet. A parishioner recommended I play city sounds on Alexa and keep the lights on at night. It worked! This helpful advice from a parishioner was the first advice of many that I have received during my stay.

As days passed, I met more and more wonderful parishioners. I found everyone I encountered so welcoming, friendly, supportive, and loving to me. The luxury of silence on campus gave me more time for prayer and allowed me to savor every single connection I’ve made. Even though Covid hit a few months after my arrival, I never felt alone nor isolated. Notes of love and support poured in as well as food! I felt so blessed! As the church reopened, the dedication of volunteers in welcoming people inspired me tremendously. As a result, I felt more zeal in my ministry.

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, I transition to my new assignment: Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago. I take with me wonderful memories from all of you as well as the wisdom you imparted to me during my stay. Your unconditional love for me, this immigrant priest, will always be cherished. As a parish community, you exude a welcoming spirit. Keep it up! Be Christ’s presence to the world. Please say a prayer for me and for all the other priests undergoing transitions. I’ve been through this moving process several times, but I never get used to saying goodbye. All I can say is that I am filled with so much gratitude. I know I always have a home here at St. Mary.

Some parting thoughts:

Pray for an increase of vocations, especially to the priesthood and the religious life. In this present day, the demands of the priesthood are challenging. To be God’s instrument in communicating His love for others, to be trusted and welcomed into people’s lives, to be allowed to share in their joys and sorrows – these are consolations and reasons enough to embrace this life. Come and see! Grace abounds. Encourage someone you know to consider the priesthood. Extend the same encouragement to all to share their



talents and gifts with the Church. Begin in the home, cultivate that vocation.

Special thanks to Father Jerry for his constant support, especially during my incardination process. To the Deacons and Staff, to our Pastoral Council and Finance Council, to our church ministers and volunteers, to the faculty and students at Frassati Catholic Academy, to all parishioners-- I thank you all!

My heart is full of varied emotions as I leave St. Mary. Every single day at St. Mary was grace-filled. With the Blessed Mother as my model and our patron, I remain obedient to God to wherever He leads me.

God bless you all always.

In gratitude and thanksgiving,  
Father Don Einar Cambe

*PS: My new address is 730 N Wabash Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611  
The office number is 312-787-8040. Holy Name Cathedral is only 43.7 miles from St. Mary of the Annunciation Church via I-94. It's not that far! So, if you happen to be in the area, please stop by. Keep in touch!*