

Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011

My Dear Friends,

HAPPY EASTER TO EVERYONE!

First and foremost I want to thank Most Reverend Michael R. Cote, Bishop of Norwich, for giving me the chance to serve the people of Tolland and Preston. I have learned a lot and I will always cherish and remember my stay here in the Diocese of Norwich.

As you know, I spent the beginning of my ministry here in the United States working with Father Jim Carini, who held fond memories of St. Catherine of Siena Parish. Because of this, I looked forward to joining your faith family and working with you as an Administrator. I have been at St. Catherine for approximately a year and a half—and it has been a busy time, indeed: a time of learning and a time of growing. I can honestly say I am proud of my accomplishments. A lot of projects have been completed, i.e. the front door was refurbished, the large Crucifix was re-installed over the altar after many long years of storage, and the drive way repaired, just to name of a few. Although I was not able to bring to fruition my dream of a path to the Memorial Prayer Garden and a dream of a outdoor statue of St. Mary, Our Blessed Mother, at the site of the Time Capsule, I will always hold dear in my heart two very special memories: the 50th Anniversary of the Parish and the creation of the Time Capsule. These two projects create a bridge for St. Catherine of Siena Parish. The 50th Anniversary was a joyful time of honoring the memory of those who built our Parish and the Time Capsule is reaching out to the future generations of St. Catherine Parishioners. How humbling it is to realize that we are the bridge.

My dear friends, as I move on to NY, and meeting new friends, you at St. Catherine will begin a new journey, also. You have the important task of melding the faith communities of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Thomas. I realize, from knowing you, that you will make this a strong connection through your prayers, your hard work, and your faith.

I hope that you will continue to keep in touch with me by email (fatherjoe1954@aol.com) and I ask that you remember me in your prayers, as I will remember you in mine.

With Prayerful Wishes and Gratitude,

Fr. Joe T. Chacko.

“Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said” Mt.28:5-6