

July 2022

Dear Parishioners,

I want to begin by thanking you all for the warm welcome that I have received in my few weeks here at Mount Carmel. I have had the pleasure and privilege of serving in inner city Los Angeles and in Northern New Jersey but now God has called me here to be your new pastor.

As Fr. Fred so rightly said in his farewell letter to you all, I did indeed have those same thoughts as he did on arriving at the parish, “Am I up for it?” “How can I best serve these people?” To a large extent though, whilst I DO have those concerns, I have faith and trust that it is God, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, who has called me to this new ministry, and so I will receive those gifts and graces I need to serve you as God wants me to serve you.

Ultimately, as Fr. Fred said in his farewell homily, he is passing on the mantle to me. But thanks to Fr. Fred’s pastorship here, I hope to be CONTINUING the great work that Fr. Fred has achieved in his time here, not doing something radically different. Yes, as Fr. Fred acknowledged in his farewell letter, our visions for the parish may differ in some respects but, fundamentally, I very much see myself as continuing to build on the foundations that Fr. Fred and the other Carmelite pastors before him have laid. And, if I can achieve as much as Fr. Fred has at the end of my time as your pastor, I will be well pleased!

It has become clear to me in my brief time here so far that two of Fr. Fred’s key achievements were bringing you all closer to God through the Faith Formation programs (something which our Faith Formation reports in this bulletin show were very well attended), and in bringing you all closer to one another through the many social gatherings of the parish such as Carmelfest or today’s celebration for Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Those are two dimensions of Fr. Fred’s vision for the parish that will certainly be central to my vision for the parish, too, as I seek to build on what all my predecessors have achieved.

Ultimately, I look forward to getting to know you all over the coming years as we seek to grow closer to God and to one another. Be assured of my prayers for all of you and as I begin my ministry here with you, I would ask for your prayers for me that I may grow to be the pastor that God wants me to be.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us!

Fr. Anthony, O.Carm.