

Dear Parishioners;

You can't imagine how thrilled I am about coming "home" to Pleasantville. Holy Innocents and Our Lady of Pompeii were the cradles of my Faith, while I must say that I think that my earliest experience of Faith came from my parents and especially my mother, Concetta P. Scordo. She always had an image of our Lady of Mt. Carmel on her dresser, and there were prints of St. Therese of Lisieux (the Little Flower) and Jesus adorning the walls. I believe all of this had a profound effect on me.

I received my early Sacraments in Holy Innocents, but I believe I received my call to priesthood in Our Lady of Pompeii. That call never went away—through grade school, through high school, through college, and through seminary. I only knew two things deep in my heart: 1. I was to be a priest and 2. I was to be a Dominican.

This coming June I will celebrate 50 years of being a priest and about 56 years in Vows as a Dominican. I don't regret any of it. I've been a Prior (religious superior), a Pastor, an Assistant (Parochial Vicar), a Navy Chaplain, a Treasurer of our major seminary. It wasn't always easy, but I knew in my heart of hearts that if I kept my vow of Obedience, God would take care of me—and He did!

Now I have come home to you to be one of your priests, to love and care for you, and most especially to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Him Crucified to you. St Paul knew the need for that, and so did St. Dominic—that's why he founded the Order of Preachers (Dominicans).

I am proud to be a Dominican and proud to be a son of Holy Innocents/Our Lady of Pompeii. Please pray for Fr. Bernard Timothy and me that our ministry there will be fruitful and will lead us all to heaven.

Fr. Joseph A. Scordo, O.P.