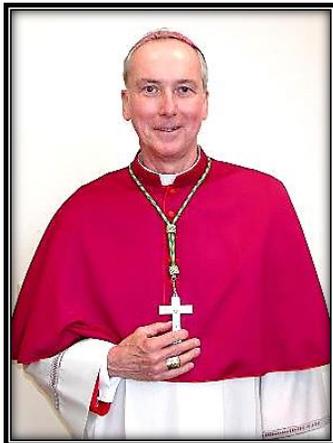




With the approach and arrival of 18 October 2015 (traditionally the Feast of Saint Luke, Evangelist), come thoughts of the Most Reverend Paul H. Walsh who passed away on 18 October 2014. Bishop Walsh was (as you may know) the Pastor of Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Smithtown, New York (1990 – 2003) where I spent my first five years (1998 – 2003) as a Priest. The gratitude with which I recall those years, filled as they were with so many Priestly-firsts (Baptism, Funeral, Wedding, etc.), is due in no small part to this man who during those years was known to many as Father Paul.



Father Paul and I both left Saint Patrick's on 25 June 2003. He left as a recently consecrated Bishop (29 May 2003) to serve as Vicar of the Western Vicariate of the Diocese of Rockville Centre and Pastor of Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Roosevelt, and yours truly left to serve as an Associate Pastor at Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish in Hicksville. (It was there by the way, that I met Father Jose Quilcate Paz whom this past week was told that he needs to obtain permission from his Diocesan Bishop in Peru (the country of his birth and Ordination) to continue labouring as a Priest outside of his Diocese. Father Jose will be available in Sumner Hall after the 1:00 P.M. Mass to receive anyone who wishes to say goodbye and perhaps: "Thank you Father Jose for providing the Good Shepherd's care to so many members of His flock both within and outside our home in Freeport. Please remember "Our Holy Redeemer where *coming home* is what it's all about" and come home when you can. You will be missed.") During those years (2003 – 2008), Bishop Walsh and I spoke often about our time together in the past and the possibility of time together in the future. Well, by God's grace, that future arrived in 2010 when Bishop Murphy gave him permission to reside at Our Holy Redeemer where two years earlier I was sent to become the Pastor.



The four years that Bishop Walsh called 37 South Ocean "home" were distinguished by the same Priestly service that could be found in all of the forty-four years that preceded them; whether as a Dominican Father at Providence College in Rhode Island, the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., the Roman Catholic Church of Saint Vincent Ferrer in Manhattan, or as a Priest and Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Priestly service that distinguished not simply by its longevity (48 years), but mainly by the humility that was at its foundation (not to mention a great sense of humour as well).



Bishop Walsh's lifetime of distinguished service to our loving Father, in the footsteps of Our Holy Redeemer, inspired many people to pursue and discover Happiness in Religious Life and Priesthood. It is "Providential" therefore that on the anniversary of his death, the Diocese of Rockville Centre that he loved so much, will be honouring Rev. Monsignor Donald Beckmann with the Immaculate Conception Medal in recognition of his lifetime of distinguished Priestly service. It is even more "Providential" that at the same time our own recently Ordained Priest, Rev. Father Alessandro da Luz, along with Rev. Father James Hansen and their three classmates, will be acknowledged for successfully completing the requirements for Priestly formation.

Please pray for our Seminarians and Priests; pray for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life; and together let us pray for Bishop Walsh: "It was You, O God, Who made Your servant Paul a successor to the Apostles by raising him to the Episcopal Order. May he also be associated with them forever. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen."