



FATHER ALESSANDRO AND SERVICE WITH A SMILE

Mass-goers at Our Holy Redeemer who remained in church until the *Final Blessing* and the *Rite of Dismissal* on Sunday (19 May 2019/V Sunday of Easter), heard the following Message from Father Arcoleo:

“In June of 2015, less than one year after the death of our beloved Bishop Walsh, our Parish was sent a newly ordained Priest: Father Alessandro da Luz. Last week, just one month shy of Father Alessandro’s 4th anniversary as a Priest, I was informed that this coming June, Father was being reassigned to Saint Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre.

As much as a surprise as that announcement is to you, so it was to me. And while we are understandably saddened that Father Alessandro will not be able to complete his five-year term with us, we can find joy in knowing that his share in the Priesthood of Jesus Christ will now be put at the service of the larger Church on Long Island, and that his time with us in Freeport during the past four years has helped prepare him for that service.

More details concerning Father’s departure will be forthcoming. Until then, please pray for him. Pray too in thanksgiving for the many ways he not only helped to make our church and our parish absolutely beautiful, but how he helped make *coming home what it’s all about.*”

Last Sunday (26 May 2019/VI Sunday of Easter), Mass-goers who remained until the *Final Blessing* and the *Rite of Dismissal* heard the following Message from Father Arcoleo:



“Last Sunday, many of you were present for my Message before the Final Blessing and the Rite of Dismissal. That message you may recall, announced the unexpected reassignment of Father Alessandro to the Cathedral Parish of Saint Agnes in Rockville Centre.

Today’s “Message from Father Arcoleo” speaks not of a Priest’s departure but of a Priest’s arrival. While I am still saddened by the unexpected news about Father Alessandro, I am happy to report that Our Holy Redeemer Parish will be receiving Father John Victor. Father Victor is currently assigned as an Associate Pastor in



the Parish of Corpus Christi, Mineola. He is expected to arrive on 26 June 2019. As we hear in the Old Testament Book of Job: “the LORD giveth and the LORD taketh away; blessed be the Name of the Lord!”



Mass-goers who *came home* for Father Alessandro’s farewell Sunday Mass at 5:00 P.M. (**2 June 2019/VII Sunday of Easter**) and remained until the *Final Blessing and Rite of Dismissal* heard the *following Message from Father Arcoleo*:

Ever since my arrival on 25 June 2008 as the Parish of Our Holy Redeemer’s tenth Pastor, (“Thank you all who annually help the Parish commemorate that anniversary with an increase of *25 Cents More* in your weekly Offering.), the Parish has regularly prayed for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood. Over these eleven years, those prayers have brought us more than just *25 Cents More* a week and the many things that it pays for; those prayers have brought *home Seminarians* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Jacob Onyumba), from Uganda (Vian Ntegerej’Imana), from Franklin Square (James Hansen), and from Manhasset (John Wachowicz): all of whom (thanks be to God) went on to become Priests. Those prayers brought us **Priests** from out-of-country places such as Malta (Father Francis Mifsud), Ghana (Father Jerome Ackah), and Nigeria (Father Anthony Chidi Osuagwu). Those prayers brought us a **Bishop** (Bishop Walsh from my first assignment: Saint Patrick/Smithtown) and a **Monsignor** (Monsignor Bennett from my second assignment: Saint Ignatius Loyola/Hicksville). And those prayers for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood, at “high noon” on 24 June 2015, brought us a newly Ordained Priest from Commack: Father Alessandro da Luz!



Father Alessandro’s first assignment commenced on 24 June 2015 and was scheduled to end in June of 2020, but as we were reminded in last Sunday’s “following message from Father Arcoleo”: “the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away.

On 12 July 2015, less than four weeks after Father Alessandro’s arrival in Freeport, “A Message From The Pastor” in our Sunday bulletin asked its readers to “**please pray that the joy of being a Priest will remain with him long after he celebrates all his “firsts”** (his first Mass offered at Our Holy Redeemer; his first Confession heard at Our Holy Redeemer, his first anointing of a dying person at Our Holy Redeemer, his first day “on Duty” at Our Holy Redeemer, his first appearance on the Nautical Mile

as a Priest of Our Holy Redeemer, ...), **and that the smile with which he has begun his service will last**”. Well thanks be to God, after witnessing four years of his firsts, seconds, thirds, and more, all of us can say that his **service with a smile** is something that will last as he prepares for a new round of first, seconds, thirds, and more at the Cathedral Parish of Saint Agnes in Rockville Centre.