

July 12, 2020

Dear parishioners,

Recently we celebrated the priestly ordination of Rev. Jaime Maldonado and the diaconal ordination of Rev. Mr. Matthew Collins and Rev. Mr. Joseph MacNeill. The Mass of Ordination was celebrated by Archbishop Blair at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford. It was a truly wonderful occasion for all our community. For me personally it was a special blessing to be able to be physically present in the sanctuary and concelebrate the Mass. All of the necessary guidelines and protocols were followed. Even in the midst of these new realities, the goodness of God and the joy of doing His will overcame any challenges. His saving grace was felt and experienced by everyone in attendance.

Being in the sanctuary of the Cathedral for the Ordination Mass each year always brings back my own memories of those profound moments of prayer and celebration that marked the culmination of my own journey of discernment and formation for the priesthood. There are many emotions, rooted in a sense of brotherhood and manifested through service, which come to the fore.

Three good and faithful men, for years progressing toward the sacrament of Holy Orders, with broad smiles and open hearts responded generously yet again to God's call to proclaim the Gospel and serve the Church. I have known and collaborated with each of them in the ministry. As each candidate came forward to the altar and the traditional prayers were offered and the ancient rituals performed, I felt a genuine sense of hope and peace.

There were similar sentiments expressed as we gathered together again for the public celebration of Sunday Mass in our churches. I am grateful to everyone for your cooperation and support throughout this challenging period. We are a people of faith and the Lord Jesus will guide us on the journey. He will give us the strength and courage to remain united and hopeful. We find our fulfillment through the sacrifice of the Mass and our relationship with God.

Please remember that all our Archdiocesan guidelines are being followed, and that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been lifted by the Archbishop until September. If you are not feeling well please refrain from attending Mass in person. The elderly, those with pre-existing conditions, those who may have concerns or responsibilities as a caretaker, need not be concerned if they miss Mass. The televised and online options for participating in Mass remain in place.

We continue to pray for the needs of our society and the ongoing conversion of hearts toward God's holy will. All the way – to God's embrace.

Sincerely, Father Lavorgna