



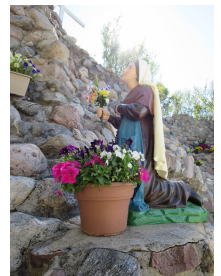
# Reflections of the Pastor

## St. Ignatius Parish August, 2024

August 17<sup>th</sup> will be my last day as your Pastor. Fr. Daryl Miranda, S.J. will be your new Pastor on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

These last seven months have slipped by so quickly. There were so many wonderful celebrations: Lent came and went, as did the entire Easter Season beginning with the vigil Holy Saturday's Baptisms and Confirmations. Then there were the 'sacrament months' with two First Communion and First Reconciliation liturgies, and also our welcoming Archbishop Richard for the sacrament of Confirmation in May. And there was our Corpus Christi procession on June 2<sup>nd</sup>! Throughout there were Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals. But other celebrations also happened. Who can forget the fun St Valentine's fundraising dinner organized by our Filipino community in February and the wonderful fundraising farewell dinner coordinated by our Knights for Father Con and me in June? All these are beautiful memories for me of our St Ignatius Parish community. Perhaps one reason all this time has passed so quickly is because I've been trying to hold on to you, knowing my departure was approaching. Another reason is that in these, my elder years, time just seems to evaporate.

Has it been over nine and a half years? Please know that my role as your pastor has been a blessing for me. It has been a privilege to serve you. I came to you an old man from an academic background. I am grateful for your patience in teaching me something new. I think that only now, as I am leaving, do I begin to have an idea of what a pastor should be. It is true I leave you as a much older man but one greatly enriched by these years with you. Thank you.



My one regret is leaving the parish without a final plan for the debt incurred as a consequence of contributions lost during the COVID and post-COVID years. We are significantly below our pre-COVID annual contribution efforts. Certainly, your spirit has been shown again in this era by the two fundraising efforts noted above and by the remarkable response to the Window Project initiated by our Operations Manager, Bob Pistawka. Our finance committee has commented to me that if every single person in the parish would contribute an extra toonie each week, we would be able to operate 'in the black'. Another suggested approach for the viability of our parish was that each current donor be invited to increase their financial support by 12%. I am confident that you will sort this out and that God will provide.

Once again thank you for your prayers and support. Blessings on all.



*R. Frank Albright S.J.*



*St. Ignatius Parish*