



DIocese of METUCHEN

St. John Neumann Pastoral Center • P.O. Box 191, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840-0191
P: 732.562.2458 • F: 732.562.1427 • E: bishop@diometuchen.org

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 3, 2022

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As we celebrate our 40th anniversary as a diocese, we pause to reflect on the many blessings we have received over the years. I know you will agree that one of those blessings has been our faithful and generous priests who have and are serving the Church of Metuchen. Hundreds of priests have served in our parishes, schools, hospitals, nursing homes and in diocesan ministries during these 40 years. As I think back on my own life, I see my own faith has been shaped by the priests who ministered to my family and me while growing up. Good, holy and faithful priests bring joy to our people and to the Church.

Currently, the Diocese of Metuchen has 32 retired priests, 10 living at our Maria Regina Residence for retired priests while others live in rectories or in private homes or apartments which they or their family and friends have arranged. Just imagine how many Masses, baptisms and confessions these priests have celebrated. They have blessed us, mourned with us, and ministered to us, selflessly offering decades of service to God and the faithful of our diocese. Even in retirement, those who are able continue to celebrate Mass and assist with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They bring Christ's love to the sick and serve as spiritual leaders, counselors, and teachers, giving freely of their time to assist our parishes. The retired priests, who for health reasons can no longer minister in our parishes, also continue to support our local Church through their prayers and example.

On Palm Sunday weekend, April 9 and 10, the faithful of our diocese will have the opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the priests who have faithfully served our diocese by responding to the ***Annual Collection for our Retired Diocesan Priests***. All funds raised through this collection will be used exclusively to assist our retired priests, subsidizing the Maria Regina Residence.

Your generous response to next week's special collection is a practical way to convey your personal appreciation to our retired priests for their many years of service as well as make it possible for us to continue to properly care for them. Please keep all of our priests in your daily prayers. We depend on your prayerful support in order to accomplish the work of the Gospel in our challenging times.

With renewed best wishes, I remain

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen