



ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH

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Dear Friends

A few years ago, I had a plaque in my car that said something like "Lord help me to remember that there is nothing you and I can't handle together." I have come to a time in my life where my trust in that saying is being put to the test.

For a few weeks, I have not been feeling well. I had had various medical tests. The results are showing some serious problems. I will have some biopsies and, if it is still possible, surgery. This makes me unable to serve in a pastoral capacity for the immediate future.

I was ordained to the priesthood over 40 years ago, a decision that I have never regretted for a single moment. I have been blessed to serve in a variety of parishes – from tiny rural settings to mega parishes such as this. I was given the joyful task of founding a new parish as well as the sad task of having to twin and close some parishes. Almost without fail, I celebrated daily Mass through those forty plus years. You have invited me to officiate at your marriages and baptisms. I have been able to baptize probably over a thousand children and administer First Communion to even more children. Faithfully, you have come to me for confessions and called me minister to you in illness. I have loved and treasured every moment of the priestly life. I thank you for your prayerful participation in parish life and pray that you will continue to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

Now it is time for me to take a step back and take some time for whatever God sends to me next. My hope was for a quiet retirement at Villa Vianney. Now, I will see what God has in store for me. I ask for your prayers as I begin this very different stage in my life. I assure you that you will also be in my thoughts and prayers. Wherever my journey takes me, I am confident that the Lord is by my side.

Fr. Mitch Fidyka

"I die the king's good servant, but God's first."

—St. Thomas More