



Pastor's Column

St. Peter Catholic Church

October 14, 2018, Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Greeters Needed!

By now, we have probably all heard from Fr. George Haspedis that he is stepping down from regular ministry here at St. Peter parish. As he now enters the next phase of his retirement, we keep him prayer with our many thanks for all that he has done for the parish and for the diocese his entire life.

One of his ideas that he brought forward for our consideration in recent months is for the parish to establish a new parish Guild. He proposes a St. Philip Neri Greeters Guild. And in honor of Fr. Haspedis and his many years of devoted service to our parish, the time is now to launch this guild – and we need your help!

The 16th-Century priest St. Philip Neri was renowned for his attractive joy, his hospitality to all in the streets of Rome, and his fidelity to Jesus Christ and His Church. It is in this same spirit of joy, hospitality, and faith that Fr. Haspedis and I have been planning the St. Philip Neri Greeters Guild.

The Greeters Guild would basically function as greeters for the weekend Masses. As folks are entering the church for Mass, the Greeters would be present in the narthex to greet them, say hello to them, and help them to feel right at home. If the Greeters greet someone whom they do not already know, they would exchange names and help our guests know their way around. If the folks coming for Mass are regular parishioners, the Greeters would simply greet them as friends do one another.

The Guild ministry would comprise of two or three Greeters per Mass per weekend. If we have enough Greeters regularly participating in this Guild ministry, the workload could be as little as one or two Masses per year for any given Greeter.

The “job requirements” amount to no more than simply arriving for Mass fifteen minutes before Mass begins, and the Greeter need only to attend the Mass that he or she regularly attends anyway. Then as the Processional Hymn begins, the Greeters would then take their seats in their pews.

All of this is very in keeping with the beautiful ministry of greeting that Fr. Haspedis himself has been showing us for a long time. One cannot help but feel totally at home when he greets folks in the narthex as they enter the church. In his honor, then, we would like to start up a whole parish Guild for precisely this much-needed ministry of greeting folks for Mass.

If you are interested, please contact the parish office, and hopefully we will be able to begin this new Guild very soon.

Thank you, Fr. Haspedis, for this wonderful inspiration! And thank you all for all that you do for St. Peter parish!

- Fr. Lewis