

June 25, 2008

DEAR LOVING FRIENDS,

Parting is bittersweet!

Memories flood our minds and hearts! It's human.

It was wonderful to be here with you all in the Rectory and the parish. My heart, though it pains whenever I become conscious that I am leaving you, is full of thanks for you. The amount of brotherly love, respect, concern, support, encouragement and acceptance that I received from you goes beyond words and my gratefulness to all of you, for what you have been (and are) to me, goes beyond the horizons.....! The vacuum (being away from my co-friars, seminary students, home land, father and siblings) that came to my life when I left India got vanished in no time when I began to be part of St. Joseph's Family here in Garden City.



Dear Parishioners, you are so lucky to be under the “man of quality”- Pastor Joseph M. Schlafer (Joe). I too was fortunate to experience the fatherly/brotherly/friendly love of him.

Thank you Father JOE for everything. You are a wonderful priest. From the day I joined here, you, along with the ever-service-minded Fr. Brian Ingram, Msgr. Charles, Mr. Dominick (seminarian) and the Staff (I mean all who serve the community), wonderfully guided me to get integrated into the Occidental Tradition. I, without losing my Oriental religious identity, have been shaped and formed in many ways during my seven month's life here from November 26, 2007 to June 25, 2008. I was lucky to have been touched so personally by your example of humility, love and kindness. THANKX to the LORD! THANKX to ALL!

As I leave now for Blessed Sacrament Church, Valley Stream, I carry you all in my heart with all my happy experiences, with which I can cherish my sweet memories when I think of St. Joseph Family. In my spiritual journey, let your prayers strengthen me to fulfill my vocation in its fullness as the Lord wills. I assure you all my humble prayers. Let our love remain without any blemish and that will be our strength during the pilgrimage to the Heavenly Jerusalem!

MAY GOD BLESS US ALL!

Love and prayers,

Fr. Antony Cherian Padipurackal, O.I.C

P.S: My mailing address remains the same for official purpose.

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