

### ***From the Bulletin - Fr. Allen's Letter***

While this will come as a surprise to many people, and it certainly was an unplanned matter on my part, it is with mixed emotions that I announce I will be retiring as Pastor from St. Jane at the end of June of this year. The decision was not made lightly. At times I've considered moving on, but had always given the matter much prayer and have stayed.

But when I finally received a diagnosis of vertigo and double vision resulting from a traumatic brain injury (concussion), I realized that the time I need to fully move on, from the accident that brought about that diagnosis, is too much time to fully engage in the work of pastoring the Parish. As it is I am very behind in all of my work. The prospect of continuing my work here amidst the challenges we're facing in the big picture is a daunting one to me given the limitations I am currently dealing with. (I am certainly open to that diagnosis changing as time goes on!)

It's been a difficult decision. One of the most rewarding aspects of being a priest here is the relationships with all of you, your families, the community here, and at large. I will miss these relationships most of all, and will miss praying with all of you so very often. Too, the location is beautiful both here and in Bush. It has been my greatest honor to serve as Pastor here.

In another surprising development, Fr. Adoga and Fr. Guzman will also be moving on. So you will have a new pastor, and a new parochial vicar who will be part time between the Parish and the Hispanic Apostolate. Those will be announced this week in the Clarion Herald. I am very thankful to Fr. Adoga for his ministry here, the many visits to the sick he has undertaken, as well as the many weekday Masses he has helped with when I have been unable to do them. Fr. Alex has also been a great help to our Parish in his time here; he will be a Pastor in New Orleans come July 1.

In my research I discovered that the average tenure of a Pastor at St. Jane is about 10 years - so, I am one of the longest serving Pastors.

It is a complex assignment, given the large territory, the tiny churches, the number of Masses we need to have, *et cetera*. But it is a great assignment, and I move on with great memories. But, I simply have to move on, with hope and faith that the Lord is leading and guiding me, and us all, during this odd time of life.

I wish I had the time and opportunity to tell so many more of you prior to writing this up in the bulletin. And, while I have been able to tell some people so that this would not be an enormous surprise, I realize that not everyone has known prior.

All blessings during the coming week. +

*Fr. Kenneth Allen*