



ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Dear Patricia Heavilin:

April 21, 2021

I write this letter to you on the occasion of your retirement from the position of Director of Religious Education, Coordinator of Ministries and Safe Environment. I want to acknowledge honestly that you have served St. Mary Parish for over 25 years with commitment and dedication. It is a quarter of a lifetime. Indeed, it is a remarkable time of service. During these years of service countless hours were spent and countless people were served because of your generous spirit. You have given the best of yourself. You are gifted in many ways and you have brought your gifts to the ministry for the benefit of the St. Mary Community. I can say with certitude that so many people have benefitted because of your gifts and service.

As a Director of Religious Education, you with your team of teachers have mastered the art of educating the community in faith. You have spent so many hours in educating the children year after year. Just recall how many children were prepared for the Sacraments over the years and how many families you have touched with your kindness. You were instrumental in forming children in faith. What better gift can you give to children than forming them in faith? As a director you have also formed adults in faith through the R.C.I.A. program.

As a Coordinator of the Ministries, you have reached out to the community and empowered people in their ministries. You have your footprints in every ministry in the parish. You acted as a bridge between the ministries and made them an integral part of parish life. You are gifted in pulling resourceful people from the community and engaging them in ministries. You encouraged and supported them in their gifts for the benefit of the community.

As a Coordinator of Safe Environment, you made the parish a safe place for both the children and adults. You made sure that everyone who is engaged in the ministries is compliant so that others are safe. You also made sure that your priests are safe by putting physical safety measures on the campus. You have put so many hours into it. You were diligent and you persevered.

Along with these ministries there were so many other activities, more than I can mention here. A few of them were planning of liturgical events, Parish celebrations and preparing parents for their children's baptisms that you have carried out joyfully for the benefit of the community. You have given your time and talent without counting the cost. One cannot do these things unless one has deep faith in the Lord. I can say with certitude that you have served the community because of your faith in the Lord. Because of your faith you have served the community not as a job but as a ministry. You did it not for any material benefit but for the Lord. That is why you never counted your hours of work. Your ministry had become your life. St. Mary has become your second family. That is where you spent your second half of your life. I am the last beneficiary of your service and the best has gone before me. Unfortunately, I could only benefit during these last few years of your service. Though you are retired technically, you are not retired being active in the Community. You can still engage in ministries of your liking and share your experience with the community.

Dear Pat: I want to say a big thank you on behalf of the St. Mary Community and Myself for all the services you have rendered to the St. Mary Community for over 25 years. You will be missed but you are remembered by all of us. We want to wish you a happy and restful retirement. Please know that we are here for you. Thanking you again and asking God to bless you for your service

Sincerely in Christ:

Fr. Francis Gayam

Fr. Francis Gayam, Pastor of St. Mary Church