

A Farewell letter from Fr. Gus Ignasi

With great thanksgiving, we would like to ask our parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul to extend a warm welcome to our **new Parish Administrator Rev. Fr. Daniel Scanlan**. He is an excellent leader, preacher and also a very handsome and a smart priest. I would like to thank our pastor **Rev. Fr. Gordon Zanetti** for his guidance, support and leadership. He made me a wonderful home in Saints Peter and Paul Parish, and made me feel the same way I feel when with my family and friends in India and Canada. And also, I want thank our former pastor **Rev. Fr. Mark Heuberger** for his friendship and encouragement. He showed me what real brotherhood is. He taught me, by example, that priests should always take care of the sick, just like the Good Shepherd who cares for every sheep in His flock, strong or weak, faithful or lost. I value his counsel. **Fr. Dan Laurent and other retired priests:** I always enjoyed the time you've been here. Your help has been most valuable.

My friends of Saints Peter and Paul Parish, You are all my best friends. As you know, I have been appointed as a Parochial Vicar of St. Agnes Parish, Naples. Right after the Sunday Masses on October 18th (11.30am - Bishop Emilio's Mass) and the reception at the Moretti Centre I will move to Naples and Fr. Daniel Scanlan will move to Bradenton. How time flies! It seems like it was only yesterday Bishop sent me, to you. With the warm welcome, this parish quickly became my family and together we experienced the joy of Baptisms, first Communions, Confirmations, and celebrations of the Eucharist as well as the sadness of praying by the bedside of a loved one, anointing them with the soothing oil of God's tenderness, and the indescribable grief at the prayer service in the funeral home, yet filled with hope for eternal life. United in faith and love for Christ, we went through many different things together, in smooth and rough waters. In the end, we became closer to one another as a parish family. I leave with the great treasure of your trust in sharing your lives with me and the precious memories of our togetherness. Your faith and love inspired and challenged me to become a better priest and a better person. Over more than two years and five months, I have learned how to be a friend for you. I have learned to be a priest for the quiet, active, cheerful and indifferent parishioners. Thank you for inspiring me so much. While I am leaving you, there is someone who will remain. I came to meet that person here, in Bradenton's area. He is Jesus Christ. Please keep His company and let His mission inspire you always. **I GIVE MY HEARTFELT THANKS TO EVERYONE.** Our parish staff always welcomed me with a big smile. **Jeanne Lindberg**, Parish Business Manager: You are such a very charming, delightful,

caring, kind and very supportive person. You always helped me with my priestly ministry and financial issues. **Lori Martin**, Director of Music Ministry: I always enjoyed your music selection. Your singing and the choirs enhance the celebration of the Eucharist. The amazing singers, you help the congregation lift up their hearts with your singing. **Sherree Parker, sacristans' head and bulletin manager:** you always amazed me with your computer technique and talent the way you prepared the bulletin and with your awesome kindness and support. Parish Secretary **Linda Flood**, you always helped me, attending phone calls and giving the guidance for my fruitful ministry. You never failed to inform me whenever our parishioners were in spiritual need. You always gave me messages about a meeting with parishioners and sick people. **Ossie** (maintenance Man), you are always taking care of our church buildings and helping me and our parishioners in different ways. Our Parish sacristans: I appreciate your valuable ministry and talent. **Catechism teachers** you helped our young people gain more knowledge of our faith. **Altar Servers:** You all did a great job! I appreciate your service at Holy Mass. I'm grateful also to the lectors and extraordinary ministers and ushers. My **Knights of Columbus friends, Bible Study group friends, CWA group friends, Vincent De Paul Society friends**, you showed me how to be truly humble and how to be truly lovable and prayerful. I appreciate your valuable ministry and help.

My friends, if I inadvertently left out someone in the list above, if there was anything I did that displeased you please forgive me. There was never any intention to offend. I apologize. You know, my lovely parish family, that you will always hold a special place in my heart and that no matter where the Lord might call me to serve in the years ahead, I will always remember you and your loved ones in my prayers. You inspired me to be a Parochial Vicar "trying to do ordinary things in an extraordinary way." You helped me appreciate more the gift of laughter. Less uptight. More Smiling and Joking. I enjoyed your laugh and your smile for my jokes. I will be forever grateful that you respected my service during the celebration of Holy Mass. I am thankful for your patience, understanding, faith and above all...love. Please always remember the immense value of the Sacrifice of the Mass. Receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Penance) and the Eucharist as well as Eucharistic Adoration and praying the rosary are most pleasing to God who gives us true peace and joy. Let us praise, worship and thank God each day of our lives!

God is good all the time; all the time God is good!

Fr. Gus (Augustine Ignasi) – Parochial Vicar