

The following "Welcome" was presented on June 30 by Sister Mary Rose Noonan, CSJ at the Eucharistic Liturgy, celebrating the 50th anniversary of St. Joseph's Provincial House.

On behalf of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet of the Albany Province, it is my joy and privilege to welcome all of you to the 50th Anniversary of St. Joseph's Provincial House!

We are honored to have seven priest friends join us as celebrants in today's Eucharistic Liturgy:

Father Paul Tartaglia, a priest of the Albany Diocese, who was the first chaplain of the Provincial House, and who was an integral part of the Mass of Dedication in this very chapel 50 years ago this month;

Father Geoffrey Burke, also a priest of the Albany Diocese, who is pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish here in Latham, and who has also been serving us faithfully and valiantly as chaplain of the Provincial House for the past 20-plus years;

Bishop Matthew Clark, recently retired bishop of the Rochester Diocese, and a native of Waterford, NY. Bishop Clark is a graduate of Catholic Central High School in Troy where he was taught by many Sisters of St. Joseph;

Bishop Thomas Costello, retired bishop of the Syracuse Diocese, and a native of Rome, NY, where he graduated from St. Aloysius Academy and Bishop Costello, too, was taught by Sisters of St. Joseph;

Bishop Robert Cunningham, bishop of the Syracuse Diocese, and while I believe Bishop Cunningham was taught by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur in Kenmore, NY, in the Buffalo Diocese, he is presently the spiritual leader of 50 of our Sisters and hundreds of our family members; (As an aside, one of Bishop Cunningham's predecessors in the Syracuse Diocese by the same name, Bishop David Cunningham, preached the homily at the Mass of Dedication in this chapel 50 years ago.)

And *Bishop Howard Hubbard*, bishop of the Albany Diocese, with whom we have been so blessed to have as our bishop for the past 36 years. Bishop Hubbard was also taught by Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Patrick's School in Troy! (As another aside, one of Bishop Hubbard's predecessors in the Albany Diocese, Bishop William Scully, celebrated the Mass of Dedication in this chapel 50 years ago.)

All of you honor us with your presence today. We thank you for your pastoral leadership and your faithful service to our Church and for your prayers, support and friendship to us throughout the years.

We are also delighted and honored to welcome all of you: our family, our friends, our former members, our associates, our colleagues, our students and our partners in ministry. Your support and your friendship have helped us tremendously in our mission to bring God's unifying love to all we meet--here at St. Joseph's Provincial House and throughout the world. We thank all of you, and we thank your loved ones who have gone before us.



As the committee began a year ago to plan today's festivities, we knew that we wanted this day not to be the remembrance of a *building* but rather a joyful celebration of *relationships*: of our covenant relationship with God who sustains us with a love beyond our comprehension; of our faithful relationship with one another in community which strengthens us in our love and service of God's people; and of our relationship with all of you which keeps us grounded and hopeful! And so, as we begin our Eucharistic Liturgy, we give thanks with all our hearts to *God* and to *you*!