

From the Pastor's Desk,



Moving forward as a Community of “One Body and One Faith”!



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

From the past three months of my life experience here in this parish, I could understand the beauty and worth of this parish as a Catholic community in Lawrenceville, Georgia. We have many reasons to thank God, as we have a wonderful parish with wonderful people; and it is the first and the best blessing of our community. I want to thank each and every member of this parish for being who you are and being part of this parish. We have some salient features that make our community different from other communities.

First and foremost, our community is a **Eucharistic Community** where people can come as Catholics and adore and worship the Eucharistic Lord any time; without the exception of day or night, as per their convenience. It is indeed a great blessing and a wonderful privilege for any Catholic who wants to pray and worship anytime. Our community is a **Community of Unity and Diversity**. We have parishioners here in this parish from about 40 countries (*people from 33 countries have already signed up for our upcoming International Festival which falls on Saturday, October 7, 2017*). We are all united as a Catholic community (single body) in faith and worship in the midst of these cultural and ethnic differences and diversities. It is a special privilege that we are blessed with such a wonderful diversity. Certainly, it is the true face of the Universal/Catholic church that we experience in this parish in our own time. Our parish is a **Volunteer Community**. We are a community that upholds the value of volunteering for others especially for their Church and church activities. Many of us spend our time, talents, and treasure as volunteers for this parish to make it as an active parish where they can live their faith in love and joy.

I am glad to be here now as the 4th Pastor of St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic Church. I will certainly do my best in my responsibilities as the pastor with God's blessings to move forward as a Catholic community of “one body and one faith”. We are **One in Faith, One in Worship, One in Spirit, and One in Life** which is our trademark as Catholic Christians.

All that I ask of you today is to pray for me that I will have enough Grace and Strength to do my duties and responsibilities the way the Lord wants me to do. I need the gifts of the Holy Spirit such as Wisdom, Understanding, Fear of God, Piety, Knowledge, Fortitude and Counsel that I can be a true Pastor and Shepherd to the people entrusted to my care. I assure everyone of you my prayers, support, and love.

My special thanks to Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta for having come over here to install me as the 4th pastor of St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic Church. My thanks to Fr. James Harrison the former pastor of our parish for his leadership and guidance. Thanks to Fr. Mendes, Fr. Berdowicz, and Deacons Rev. George, Rev. Albert, Rev. Jack, and Rev. Kapya for their commitment and dedication to this parish.

Thanks to all the parishioners and different ministries, especially the Knights of Columbus and Martha's Ministry for their hard work and valuable services. Thanks to all the visiting priests, especially my brother priests from Fransalian family. Thanks to all those who are visiting us today especially my family members from New Jersey and Boston. May God bless you all!

Lovingly Your Pastor,

Fr. Tomy Puliyanampattayil Joseph, MSFS