



INCARNATION CHURCH

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To the People of Incarnation,

I am writing this letter to all of you to inform you of a decision that I have made. Over the past number of years I have been wrestling with a difficult decision. I have struggled and prayed over this decision. The decision is whether or not to continue in my ministry as a priest. The time has come for me to concentrate much deeper on my future. In order to do so, I have requested and received a leave of absence from the Archdiocese.

What that means, practically, is that I will no longer be here at Incarnation. I will be moving elsewhere in order to be able to seriously think and pray over my future. I have not lost my faith. I still believe strongly in the Church and the Sacraments. However, I have reached a point where I feel that God may be calling me to another path in life. In order to really know what God is calling me to, I need to spend a lot more time listening to Him. The Archdiocese has given me the opportunity to do this and I am going to take advantage of it. During my 15 years of priesthood, I often preached on the importance of being open to God's call no matter what changes that meant in our lives. It's time for me to listen to myself.

I want to thank the people of Incarnation for being so welcoming and supportive of me during my time here. I have enjoyed my time with all of you. You will always be a part of me no matter what the future holds in store. My faith has grown stronger because you were willing to share your faith with me. Thank you for that.

And, as I enter this uncertain time in my life, I ask one favor of all of you. I ask that you continue to keep me in your prayers. As people of faith, we know how important prayer is in uncertain times. Your prayers will help me tremendously. I will continue to keep all of you in my prayers.

During my leave I will not be ministering as a priest. In fact, it was recommended that I find employment and see what life outside of ministry is like. That will allow me to see the practical side of this decision as well. That means I will also be attending Mass on Sunday. Not here at Incarnation, but at the church near to where I am moving. (I sure hope they have 45 minute masses.)

So, again, let me just say "thank you" to everyone here at Incarnation. This is a wonderful parish with very faith filled people. Continue doing the great work that you do here. Continue to be a source of faith for each other. Continue to be the presence of God in the community. I will miss all of you. And, if you should see me around at the movies, malls, Sox games, Packer games, etc. please don't hesitate to say Hi. Friendly faces are always a nice thing.

God Bless,

FR. BILL