

March 17, 2009

Dear Friends,

Last year during the annual meeting I announced that I would consider retirement at the age of 62. Well, 62 happened two months ago and after careful consideration I have decided to retire this June. Originally my thoughts were to remain until December, but the idea of saying “Goodbye.” and “Merry Christmas.” in the same breath felt confusing. Abbie and I consider our 17 years at Saint Mary’s a wonderful blessing and it will be hard enough for us to leave in the Summer. Before talking with Paul, Mary, our staff and Bishop Cederholm, a June farewell seemed like better timing. June ends our program year and Saint Mary’s can have a fresh start in the Fall.

Our plan is to move to Vermont and Abbie will continue with Delta until she can retire. As many of you know, Gaelan now lives in San Diego. Benjamin has one more year in college and my goal is to supplement my retirement income doing supply work in pastoral counseling until the student loan is paid off. This may include assisting with the Mission to Seafarers in Dubai while the senior chaplain is on vacation this July and August. I began as a counselor to sailors in San Diego in 1972 and this feels full circle. I will keep you posted during the next 2 months through the “Good News” and parish website.

Our family moved into the rectory in August 1992 and you have all touched and enriched our lives in so many ways. I have said that the greatest growth in my Christian faith and life has come through the people of Saint Mary’s who have taught me what it means to belong to a community of character and true spirituality. I will miss you all, and especially the support I have received from Kirsten and Denise over the years. We know that there will many promising years ahead for St. Mary's because this is such a wonderful place.

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you.

Peter, Abbie, Gaelan and Benjamin