



From the Desk of Father Peter

Grateful ~ Thankful ~ Blessed

I find it challenging to find the words that best express my gratitude for what I experienced on Sunday, June 9, 2024, but I will give it the best try that I can. At the time I am writing this, a few days after my celebration, I am still on an emotional “high”. I never expected to feel this way but our good and gracious God has gifted me with a very special time in my life and to have so many of you a part of it means the world to me especially with the numerous cards with your thoughtful words to me. You=AWESOME; Me=Grateful.



By now, after 12 years as your Pastor here at St. John the Evangelist Church, Greece, NY, many of you are well-versed on my journey from my homeland of Ghana, West Africa, to this land of opportunity we all know as the United

States of America. My journey has seen its fair share of ups and downs and through it all, God has carried me through—for this I am eternally **GRATEFUL**.

The planning of my celebration consisted of many details to be worked out for Mass and I am grateful for Tod and Marcia’s help with many of these details. I am very grateful for Bishop Matano’s presence along with Fr. White. They are very busy indeed and making time to share my celebration was special. Heading up the brunch details was Christine Paoletti and oh, how nice it is to have her back with us at St. John’s! She tackled so many details surrounding the planning, reservations, venue particulars, hotel accommodations for my family, and so much more to round out a beautiful day of celebration—I am truly grateful! Carol Napierala was instrumental in spending time with me and taking meticulous notes of all that I shared with her about my history and leading up to the present time as I serve as Pastor of our beloved St. John the Evangelist Church. Carol captured it all so well for the picture boards displayed at Church and at the reception.



Thank you Consuelo for preparing the celebration booklet. Thank you to Bob Gotham, Chip Lacure, John Lacey, Rick Paoletti and Deacon Ed

Knauf who shared very special words in my honor; they each touched my heart so much. God is good and I am very **THANKFUL**.



Lastly, but certainly not least, I thank the various ministries—Consuelo and all the Choir members and Cantors for their beautiful music

and wow, what a delight to have learned so well the Ghanaian song much to my delight and the pleasant surprise of my family and brother Ghanaian priests! The Art and Environment Ministry team, led by Patty Hoag and Marianne Katz did a wonderful job decorating the altar and tending to some house-cleaning details. Thank you to Marcia and Eileen Zegarelli from the Fatima Women’s Prayer Ministry for bringing together a very beautiful Marian Shrine—I have expressed many times how much our Blessed Mother has been there for me and I certainly wanted her honored on this special occasion.



I wish to thank my faithful Altar Servers; Tony Muscato, Ryan Buda, Mateo Tifone, Evan Maher, as well as Samantha and Sarah Muscato. It was a joy to have each of them serve at the altar on this very special day and a wonderful job they all did.



Thank you to the Lectors, Jonathan Verdun, Rich Jacobs, and Marianne Katz



To the many Ushers, Greeters, and Security team, too numerous to name, who came together from our three Masses to tend to the various details before and during Mass, keeping everything running smoothly and maintaining safety. A special thank you to Chris Muscato for your support. I would be



remiss if I did not extend my gratitude to Joe Petrella who tended to a variety of details surrounding the week or two leading up to this occasion. Joe is always there to help me whenever I call upon him no matter the day or hour—no matter the need, he steps up graciously to help.

For EACH and EVERY ONE of YOU—I am truly **BLESSED**.

I look forward to these next 5 years as your Pastor and together, let us work to build up God’s kingdom here on earth!



Fr. Peter