



December 31, 2017

A note from Monsignor Ginty...

As the New Year is about to begin, we pause to give thanks to Almighty God for the abundant blessings he has bestowed upon us in the past and we look forward in joyful hope for all the many graces that await us in the year to come. I pray that this coming New Year 2018 will be filled with much happiness and continued good health for us all. Let us all pray for peace in our world, peace within our community, peace within our families and within our hearts.

This past year saw the priestly ordination and the celebration of the First Mass of Thanksgiving for Father Glen Dmytryszyn, a transitional deacon for the Archdiocese of Hartford, assigned to us for his diaconate assignment. Father Glen has settled in well in his new assignment as Parochial Vicar at St. John Bosco Parish in Branford. This summer we welcomed Joe MacNeill a seminarian of the Archdiocese of Hartford who was assigned to St. Matthew for his formation assignment. Joe did a wonderful job and is now studying at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. We keep Joe along with John Gancarz in our prayers. In May, Matthew Collins, a graduate of St. Matthew School and St. Paul Catholic High School graduated from St. Charles Seminary in Philadelphia and began his graduate work at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. We are so proud of Matt and of his commitment to his vocation.

In October, Archbishop Blair assigned Michael Young to St. Matthew Parish for a year of discernment. Michael, a former Police Officer hails from North Carolina and has been active in all aspects of parish life and with our school since his arrival. St. Matthew School continues to flourish under the extraordinary leadership of our principal, Mrs. Helen Treacy. She is doing a wonderful job and I am pleased to be able to work with her so closely in the governance of the school. In October I was honored to receive the Distinguished Pastor of the Year Award from the Archdiocese in recognition of all the work that has been done here at St. Matthew to make our school a place where hearts and minds do matter. I could not do any of this without the support of Mrs. Treacy, the dedicated teachers, parents and students.

As we begin this New Year, I would like to thank all those who in many ways make our parish such a wonderful place to be. Your dedicated work and many acts of kindness are deeply appreciated. Your concern for and outreach to the poor and less fortunate here in the Bristol area has become a hallmark for our parish. I would like to thank Deacons Jim McCluskey and Ken Bangs for their valued assistance with the Christmas Liturgies and for all they do throughout the year. To Monsignor Bevins and Father Montgomery for their assistance and for the priestly example they give. To Sally Kish, the members of our choir and the instrumentalists we offer our sincere appreciation for a job well done. To those who helped decorate the church this Christmas, thank you for your dedicated assistance. To the many parishioners who sent Christmas cards and warm holiday wishes, I thank you.

May God bless you and your families always. A happy and peace-filled New Year to all!