



## 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH, MISSISSAUGA 1971-2021

On September 8, 1971, Archbishop Philip Pocock established the Parish of St. Francis of Assisi, in Mississauga, and entrusted the care of souls to Reverend Mark Wildgen, the founding pastor.

I am thankful to Fr. Wildgen and his successors for their tremendous efforts in building up the parish and helping to transform St. Francis of Assisi into the vibrant Catholic community it is today. I am also profoundly grateful for the contributions of time, talent and treasure made by so many dedicated parishioners over the past five decades. St. Francis of Assisi continues to be a very generous, caring, committed and spiritually gifted parish.

As we emerge from the pandemic, we face many challenges, but we will face them together. Now is the time for strengthening existing relationships and for making new connections. As we move forward, we can choose to embrace this “season of grace” as an opportunity for the renewal and rejuvenation of our entire parish.

St. Francis of Assisi said, ***“We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way.”*** Inspired by the gospel, strengthened by the Sacraments and encouraged by one another, we will put our faith into action and make the words of St. Francis a reality.

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, will mark a significant milestone – the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our parish! The last 17 months have been hard on all of us, so it is a blessing that we have something special to celebrate. Even though pandemic restrictions will not allow for an elaborate social gathering or a reception in the parish hall, I am truly grateful that Bishop Ivan Camilleri has graciously agreed to preside and preach at the 7:00pm Mass on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

On the universal Church calendar, September 8<sup>th</sup> is also the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this very special occasion, let us ask our Blessed Mother for her continued protection and for the grace to faithfully serve her Son, Jesus Christ, as we embark on a new and exciting segment of our faith journey.

Yours in Christ,

Reverend Damian S. Ali, Pastor