

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My name is Father Charles Mangano and I am ordained 30 years. I grew up in Dix Hills and I am the youngest of four children. Two years ago (*after being a pastor for 14 years*), I asked Bishop Barres if I could take one year off from full-time parish ministry to help take care of my elderly parents (96 and 98 years old). He graciously agreed but wanted me to remain connected to a parish during that time. I moved in with my parents to begin full-time care (*along with the help of my older sisters and brother who are married and have been a wonderful support. I could not have done it without their help*). It has been a joy to care for my Mom and Dad, but I had no idea just how much work it would be -- it's 24/7. Our Lord and Our Lady have and continue to give us the grace to do this. As a family we are committed to trying to keep our parents in their own home and keep life as normal as possible for them. Some families may find this impossible to do and God understands that. Each day that Mom and Dad are with us is a real gift.

After several months, while still caring for my parents, I was assigned part-time to The Church of the Resurrection in Farmingville. The parish was wonderful, and the staff and parishioners were very welcoming and loving. I could feel the Spirit of God present among them. I have already begun to experience the same here at Our Lady of Lourdes.

After one year, Bishop Barres mercifully honored my two additional requests for more time. He has been more than generous with me these past two years, especially given the fact he needed me in full-time ministry.

This past June, Bishop Barres assigned me full-time to Our Lady of Lourdes. Our Lady has always held a special place in my heart and so I am extremely happy to now be in a parish under her Patronage. My sister Laurie has been a parishioner for the past 30 years and used to be a cantor and teach religious education. As a result, I have heard many good things about the parish through the years. While I am happy to return to full-time ministry, it is bittersweet to leave the care of my parents in the hands of others, but I trust in the Lord's Providence.

I am grateful to God that we have a good Pastor in Msgr. Brian McNamara. When I met with him a while ago, we had a good talk and I learned a lot about the parish. I am extremely appreciative of his understanding and support of my continued care of my parents; and being an Associate Pastor affords me the opportunity to do this. I have already seen how our Pastor has a merciful heart and I look forward to working with him, the Deacons and Staff as we serve you.

Please pray for me and know that I have been praying for you every day -- even long before I met you. The Lord placed it on my heart many years ago to pray every day for all my parishioners: past, present and future.

May we together fall in love with our God who is in love with us so we can do the unthinkable, unimaginable and forgive what we think is unforgivable. May our Lord Jesus grant us the grace to love His Mother Mary like He does and with Her help evangelize the world.

Peace and blessings,

Fr. Charles Mangano
Associate Pastor