

*In honor of the retirement of
Rev. Michael J. German - Parochial Vicar*

Special Edition

February 2013

The Net Worker

A black and white illustration of a fisherman with a beard, wearing a simple tunic and sandals, sitting on a wooden crate. He is focused on mending a large fishing net that is spread out on the ground in front of him. To his left, a large wooden barrel sits on a small cart. The background is plain, emphasizing the fisherman and his work.

BON VOYAGE

A stylized, light gray illustration of a sailboat on the water. The boat has a single mast with a large, triangular sail. The hull is simple and curved. Below the boat, there are wavy lines representing the water. The text 'BON VOYAGE' is written in a large, bold, serif font, with 'BON' in all caps and 'VOYAGE' in a mix of caps and cursive.

Father Michael German

retires this month after 18 years at St. Peter's. He has served our parish faithfully over that time, and been a vital part of our community. He was part of the first Cornerstone weekend at St. Peter's, after attending the original (with Monsignor Slipe) at The Church of the Presentation in Upper Saddle River. He has seen the benefit of Cornerstone many times over, as more and more parishioners experience that weekend and deepen their involvement with St. Peter's and its parishioners.

Father German was ordained May 25, 1968, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Newark, NJ. Interestingly, his last year at the Seminary was Msgr. Slipe's first year there. While Fr. German was at the Seminary, he worked as an orderly at St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic, and later, two weeks after his ordination, he replaced the chaplain on vacation for a week. Two years after that he was made Chaplain at Bayonne Hospital, even though the rule at the time was to hold such a position one needed to have been ordained for five years.

He served at many Bergen County Institutions, including Bergen County Pines. During this

time, Fr. Mike was an Apostolate and served one day a week at that hospital. Fr. German came to St. Peter's January 25, 1995, after his 1994 sabbatical at the North American College in Rome.

Fr. German met Pope John Paul II many times. A friend of his was good friends with the Pope's secretary; and back when Pope John Paul was still a Cardinal, the friend arranged a meeting and they all had tea in Krakow, Poland where John Paul was serving as Cardinal. Thereafter, whenever Fr. German and his friend went to Rome, they would write in advance to see if they could say Mass with the Pope. They would be told to wait for the call, literally, and then would receive a phone call around 10 p.m. the night before with instructions on where to go. In this way, Fr. German was able to say Mass with the Pope four or five times, and once afterward he took the Blessed Sacrament back to the Pope's private quarters.

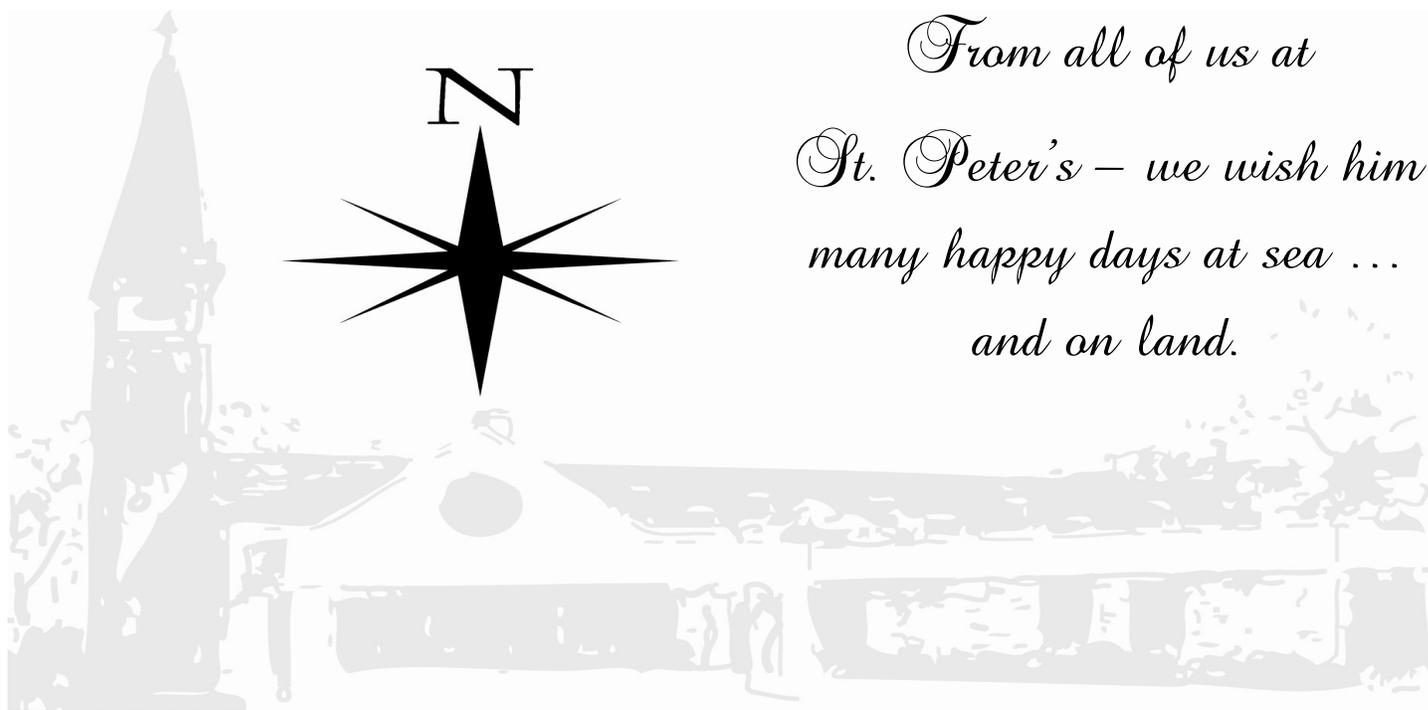
In February, 1969, Fr. German took his first cruise. He traveled as a chaplain on a 14-day round trip to the Caribbean. He was hooked. He has been on a total of 103 cruises on 71 different ships.

In the beginning, without any cell phones, TV or internet aboard, he found it to be an ideal way to relax. He began serving as chaplain on other cruises, but as cruising became popular, the ships would bump the chaplain in order to book the rooms with paying customers. After he got bumped three times, he began travelling simply as a passenger. In 1972, he experienced a "rogue wave." On February 14, at 4:35 in the afternoon, an 80 ft. wave hit his ship. They were three degrees from capsizing, and one person was killed. The wave happened in the dead center of the Bermuda Triangle, which made Fr. German a firm believer in the Triangle phenomenon. Nevertheless, he continued cruising.

He went on several cruises with St. Peter's and the travel clubs, and he treats each of his nieces and nephews to a cruise as a high school graduation present.

His plans for retirement include, of course, more cruising. Already on his schedule for this year: Hawaii (Princess), New England/Canada/Iceland (Crystal), Transatlantic/Norway (Queen Mary), and the maiden voyage of the Royal Princess from Venice to Ft. Lauderdale (Princess). Crystal is his favorite cruise line.

*From all of us at
St. Peter's – we wish him
many happy days at sea ...
and on land.*



Thanks for the memories...

Fr. German,
All our gratitude for your spiritual Leadership over these many
18 years. We'll miss your wonderful, thought provoking
sermons. Best wishes, as you sail into the sunset, that your
retirement be all you hoped for.
You remain in our prayers... David & Chris Ashley

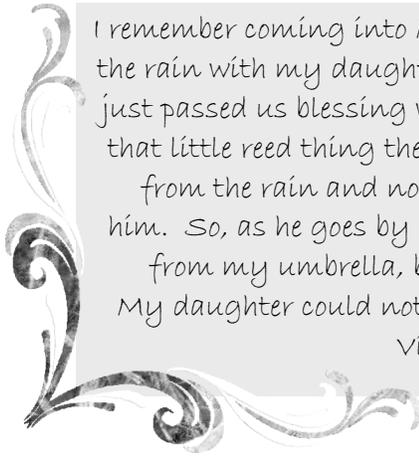


Bis dann

Adios

Au Revoir

I remember coming into Mass one morning from
the rain with my daughter. Father German had
just passed us blessing with the Holy water with
that little reed thing they use. I'm already wet
from the rain and now this dousing from
him. So, as he goes by I hit him with the excess
from my umbrella, blessing him as well.
My daughter could not control her laughing.
Vincent Gagliostro



I will never forget the time Father German
complimented me on a very personal article I
had written for the Networker in 2008. The
article dealt with how I had been in a spiritual
crisis at one point in my life, as a result of my
parents' deaths and some serious health
problems, and how through healing prayer and
Masses offered by two Catholic charismatic
priests and books on spiritual healing by
Catholic charismatic priests, I was on a healing
journey that was bringing me closer to God. I
did not know what people would think of the
article or if it would be well received at all. I
was really nervous. The day the article came
out Father German came up to me before Mass
and complimented me on the article. By doing
so, he let me know I made the right choice in
taking a chance and writing the article. I will
always remember his kind words. -
Steve Citarella

Buona sera

Fr. German,
Thank you for all of your time and
dedication that you devoted to the St.
Peter's Respect Life Committee for
eighteen years. You are an
inspiration to all of us in your
championship of the defenseless pre-
born and their right to life. Thank
you,
The Respect Life Committee

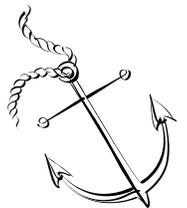
Shalom

CHAO

As we approach Fr. German's retirement we would
like to express our appreciation especially for his
consistent concern for our deceased mother and
grandmother, Frances Cali. During the years prior
to her death Fr. German visited our home to provide
prayers and comfort to Mom, after Masses always
asking how she was feeling. We were honored with
his presence as we celebrated her 100th birthday in
September 2010. He will always be remembered as
our caring, supportive priest. We wish him peace,
joy, health, and happy traveling during his
upcoming retirement years.
The Sadloch Family

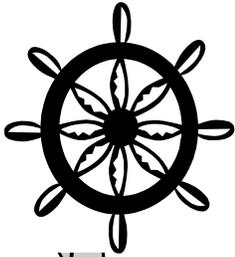
Paradise

There are too many memories to list them all in
such a small space. Each and every one of them
special and cherished. Thank you for all the laughs,
the great discussions and for your
friendship! You will be missed! May
the journey ahead be filled with love,
laughter, good health, and happiness!
And may you always remember you
can drop anchor at our home, any time!
Love always,
Ana and Tony DiBisceglie



MEMORIES

ZAI JIAN



I'm at Men's Cornerstone and my mind is focused on what is going on during the evening. Father German stops by and gives me some basketball scores from the NCAA Basketball Tournament for College Basketball. It took me a couple of seconds to realize what he meant because I was very focused that evening and temporarily forgot the tournament was being played. - Pat Rice

As a two timer of breast cancer, Father German visited my house many times to give me Holy Communion and give me support as I recovered from my deadly disease. He made my journey and the fear of death a little easier. I thank him and wish Father Michael German the very best and healthy years ahead! - Diane van Miert

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DO VSTRECHI

I would simply like to say that I have always thought of Fr. German, as a quiet presence, he would just show up at the hospital when my husband was sick with prayers/ Eucharist/a blessing, and if the patient might be asleep, he would just leave a note saying he was there and said a prayer over you. I'll never forget that. Judy Strand

Stan

My family will miss seeing Fr. German before and after Mass on Saturday evenings. He always gave us a nice "hello" and would regularly ask what the girls were up to. We would talk about travel and although it was usually brief, it meant a lot to us. He trained our daughters to be altar servers and they continued that through high school - it was either his spiritual example or his persuasive nature - who knows?! As moderator of the Rosary Society - a perfect position for him - he gave a beautiful Lenten reflection each year. I will miss that. We wish Father the best of luck in all his future travels - whether it be on the high seas or wherever the road takes him. Diane and Arthur Montemurro

Fr. German celebrated my son's First Communion, and heard a number of our confessions. He will always be a part of our family memories. We always loved talking to him after Mass about his latest travels or the Broadway shows he had seen. His peaceful presence, his soothing smile, along with his delightful, mischievous laugh, will be missed.

Bon Voyage!
The Lobley Family

If you'd like to write to Father German:
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THE NET WORKER

The Newsletter of St. Peter the Apostle Parish, River Edge, New Jersey

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