

St. Theresa Parish Grateful for Kindness of Those Throughout Diocese

St. Theresa Church would like to express our gratitude to the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama for the support we received as well as the love shown to our dear pastor, priest and friend, Fr. Jim Naughton.

For the past three months, Fr. Jim Naughton has been suffering with cancer. During this time, people throughout the diocese have called to offer prayers, food and assistance. Many, many people visited our beloved pastor. During these visits, not only was he shown love, but those who visited also showed their concern and offered support to his caregivers.

We thank our bishop, Bishop Baker for his support and prayer as well as for celebrating the beautiful funeral mass he offered for Fr. Jim.

Fr. Joe Lody expressed his love for Fr. Jim in a wonderful eulogy at the wake. We thank him for sharing his memories and love for Fr. Jim with us.

Our deep gratitude is offered to the priests of the diocese as well as to our Bishop Emeritus, Bishop Foley, for their visits to Fr. Jim, their concern for our parish and for their participation in Father's funeral mass.

We would especially like to thank Fr. Joe Culotta for his frequent contact with our caregivers, for making certain that the pastoral needs of our parish were met, for his concern for Fr. Jim and of course, for his warm reception of our parish at St. Mark's.

The parish of St. Mark the Evangelist's hospitality was astounding. They not only opened their magnificent church to us, but they also gave willingly of their time and talent. We thank the Bereavement Committee, altar servers, Liturgy Committee, Music Ministry, Hospitality Committee and office staff. You helped bring beauty out of our time of grief.

We thank the Salesians of Don Bosco for their support of our parish throughout the years and especially at this difficult time. The fraternity exhibited to our beloved priest will never be forgotten.

Fr. Jim had asked that a collection be taken up at his funeral for the Food Pantry at Holy Rosary Church. He said, "That is what I am about, feeding the poor." To those who contributed we thank you for your generosity. The need for those in Gate City is great and we appreciate your concern for the hungry.

May God bless this diocese for the abundant love shown to a parish and priest during a time of suffering. Thank you.