



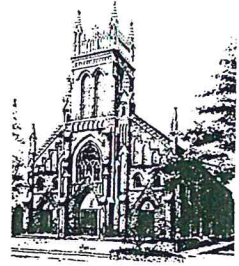
*A Eucharistic Community Since 1728*

## ST. MARY OF FALSE RIVER



ST. FRANCIS CHAPEL • POINTE COUPÉE

348 West Main Street – New Roads, Louisiana 70760  
Church Office 225-638-9665 • FAX 225-638-6346



November 20, 2020

My Beloved,

It has been an honor to serve alongside you as a laborer in the vineyard. God's Grace has mercifully afforded me the opportunity to get to know and commune with so many of you. For these blessings I am grateful to Our Lord and you, His faithful.

I have informed Bishop Duca that I am leaving active priesthood to enter into an unspecified period of discernment regarding my future. This period will begin on December 1, 2020.

There is no scandal,  
I have not lost my faith,  
nor am I in poor health.  
My decision is based entirely on my commitment to celibacy for the rest of my life.

What this means is that after having prayed, sought counsel through spiritual direction, psychological counselors, trusted sources within and outside of the church since January 2020, I have decided to explore life outside of the confines of priesthood and its specific requirements in life.

Deacon Danny will remain here in the parish with you at least until December 31, 2020. The Bishop will address his assignment thereafter.

Bishop Duca will appoint an administrator and sacramental minister over the parish once I depart. We trust in The Spirit of Our Lord, the wisdom of our Bishop and those with whom he consults to prudently appoint those who will continue to lead this flock with vision and charity for ALL in its journey.

We have laughed, cried, discussed and accomplished much together. You retain excellent staff members who are authorized, trained and poised to serve Our Lord through His Church and people under the guidance of those appointed to govern. Please pray for and support them as you together move forward through the joys and challenges of life.

You will remain in my prayers and I humbly ask for yours as WE enter into yet another phase of our journeys...

I will be reachable through my parish email [frpat@stmarysfr.org](mailto:frpat@stmarysfr.org) for a time and will leave forwarding contact information with the staff. You are and will always be my family and I love you.

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Pat Broussard  
Pastor