

Dear Mark

My heart is full and overflowing. Thanks to you and my St. Francis family, I experienced a small taste of Heaven yesterday. I must admit that I knew I was appreciated, but I truly did not know how much I was loved.

My years at St. Francis have been a blessing to me, my family, relatives and friends who were fortunate enough to visit with us. From the moment I enter the grounds of St. Francis, I am enveloped with a sense of peace, and everyone whom I have invited speak of the love they feel when they enter the Church and are so warmly greeted by everyone.

I would like to take a minute to thank everyone who have made my years at St. Francis so memorable, but must make special mention of Debra (Vicar), Margie, Cathy, Betsy (and Patsy – may God keep her in his eternal light) who took me under their wings from the moment I first arrived.

To our Prayer Shawl team, who keeps me grounded and on solid footing as we prayerfully knit and crochet blankets and shawls, scarves and hats to distribute to those who need them.

To those who have showed unwavering support to OUR ministry in St. Kitts and Nevis. I thank you, and I hope that many of you would be able to make the trip with me at least once over the next few years.

To Jim, Richard and Frank, THANK YOU. Yesterday's tears were joyful tears because I knew that we were not supposed to have a choir, but you took the time to come and wish me God speed.

To Linda, my friend, I am grateful for everything you have done, and to everyone who contributed to yesterday's celebration, thank you. I can go on and on and would not be done until I have named every single person at St. Francis because you are all special to me.

Finally, before I end, Mark, I would like to wish you the continued grace to lead God's people. May he continue to bless you, keep you, and give you wisdom to do the work he has called you to do, which you do so wonderfully.

My brothers and sisters, I am indeed fortunate to have served you. I will forever cherish the memories I have of you. Please keep loving and trusting God to lead you along right pathways as you welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, speak up for the marginalized and the disenfranchised, living up to your mission statement. "Diversity, because it was God's idea".

Love
Edrice