

The Rev. Richard C. Little

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Dear Advent sisters and brothers in Christ,

What an honor and privilege to have been with you on Sunday, March 3rd to celebrate your 50th anniversary. Thank you for a wonderful celebration! I cannot fully comprehend all the time, energy, and effort that so many of you are expending to make this truly a Jubilee year.

Thank you also for the very special gifts you gave me. I have always wanted a replica of the reredos as it says "ADVENT" so powerfully from the time it was first installed in the sanctuary. I will treasure the pendant as a regular reminder of my 22 years in which I shared in your history. I also appreciate the picture of the church buildings, remembering and realizing how much we all gave to finally reach the place where we had adequate facilities for the ministries to which God was calling us.

You are a significant part of my life and so much of my heart is with you all. It was so wonderful and exhilarating to be with you again, including those who came back from distances, both in time and in geography. I must confess it was a bit frustrating for me as there was so much I wanted to hear from each of you, . . . but there just wasn't the time! One thing was clear - God's LOVE is still so very evident among you, and I felt it. I will forever remember and deeply appreciate the years we shared together.

Throughout these 50 years, you have always sought to be a faithful people, "Loving God and Serving Neighbor" and remembering that all we are and have is from God, given as God's gifts both to sustain us and to share with others. What a wonderful foundation you have in place for your next 50 years! May God continue to bless you with strong leadership and with faithful disciples to bear witness to God's love and to "BE" God's love to each other, out into the community, and throughout the world!

SHALOM!

Dick