

To our Family in Christ at St. Mary's Church:

Fr. Ron found much joy in partnership with Fr. Charlie and all of you, our family, bound together in faith and purpose.

In today's world, investigation into ancestry awakens one's curiosity. Have you ever wondered how your lineage led you to be part of the Body of Christ, as Jesus portrayed it in the parable of the vine and branches? Here's Fr. Ron's story:

Fr. Ron's mother was born and raised in Brooklyn. Her family belonged to the Swedish Lutheran Church. (The Swedish Church is the one closest to the Anglican Communion in worship and tradition). When the family moved to Carle Place, a small village in Nassau County, there was only one church in the community! This small, Tudor style church was St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Fr. Ron's mother became very active in the church, along with the entire extended family.

As a boy on the way to school, he would practice the organ alone in St. Mary's and imagining his future, practice the priest's parts in the liturgy. He was somewhat of a child prodigy on the organ. His mentor and role model at St. Mary's was Fr. Bill. By the age of 13 he was St. Mary's organist and choir director! This is how his decades of a life in service to God's people began!

His mastery of the organ and his sharing of that skill always had three dimensions: teaching music, choirs and recitals, and the holy ministry.

In the 1980's he returned to St. Mary's, Carle Place, to give a recital for the dedication of its new pipe organ and in 1999 to preside and preach at his mother's funeral.

Fr. Ron touched many lives throughout our region as teacher, pastor, church community organizer, facilities developer, and with congregational expansion. You have witnessed this on the North Fork and Shelter Island.

As you are probably aware, St. Mary's Carle Place has closed, due to its declining membership. There were strong feelings for its members. Fr. Ron was very sad. These are different and difficult times for congregations.

There is a great need for the wisdom of the Gospel and for our gifts to be used to bring others to the treasure we share in Christ and his Church.

You are all a blessing to us and we are truly grateful to be part of the priesthood and music at St. Mary's.!

Although we have all experienced a great loss with Fr. Ron's passing, we know there is "joy in the morning!" Our beloved FR. Ron now dwell in the House of the Lord, praising the King of Kings with choirs of angels.

May God's peace be with you each day!

With love and prayers

Eleanor Wickey.