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A new chapter and a new home

After Monsignor Ralph Chieffo, often known simply as Father Chieffo, wrapped up his 50 years of service with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, he moved into a new home: A one-bedroom apartment at White Horse Village.

Father Chieffo moved with his family from Italy when he was 8 years old. As a student at St. James Catholic High School in Chester, he already knew he wanted to study at seminary. He went on to serve at six different churches over the years.

His most recent post was at St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Media. Known for his support and kindness for parishioners, Father Chieffo has made many friends throughout the region and got a grand sendoff at his retirement.

In his work for the church, Father Chieffo had visited residents at a number of different retirement communities in the area, so he was familiar with White Horse Village. When his own retirement arrived in June, he wanted to live here. It was close to family members, and he also appreciated the overall quality and the kindness and compassion of team members here.

Wherever he goes, he tries to care for people, he says—and allow people to care for him. He feels that spirit here in the welcoming atmosphere, and has already connected with fellow residents, some of whom are former parishioners. He lives on his own in his apartment, but has plenty of friends to spend time with.

When he can use a hand, the team has been quick to respond. "I feel very safe here," he says.



"The facilities here are excellent," Father Chieffo says. He appreciates the pool and the Wellness Center, and also, of course, the food. "There's always plenty of desserts," he says, showing his dry sense of humor.

He used to have a condo at the New Jersey shore, and his apartment home, with plenty of room and a beautiful deck, has a similar feel. "I feel just like I'm on vacation," he says.