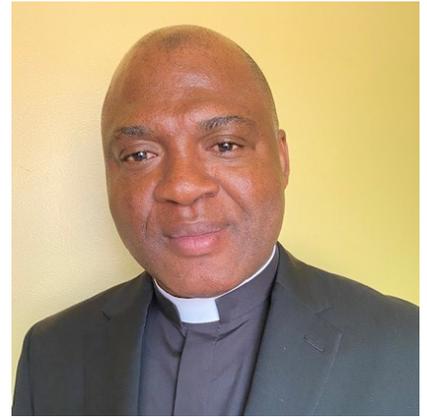


## *From the desk of the Pastor*

*It is said, "Finding serenity in the process is accepting that things won't go as planned and will unfold in their own time and that the greatest gifts in life will be the ones worth waiting for."*



My dear people of God,

I am very much aware of the excitement and the anxiety about the long-awaited naming of the new pastor (Rev Jean-Philippe Lokpo) and the associate (Rev. Jose Manuel Ortiz) to the parishes of St. Mary and St. Nicholas and for the slow start of the process of the unification of our two parishes and the revitalization of our pastoral activities.

Due to some bureaucratic red tape, the process took longer than expected before being finalized to have your pastor and his associate being officially named. You have a right to feel anxious about the apparent silence regarding the whole process concerning the life of the parish. We get it! And, we really appreciate your patience and especially your wonderful welcome that has been expressed in many ways toward us.

Now that everything is in the right place, we are ready to hit the ground running, to start the process of unification and moving forward pastorally in these beautiful parishes, St. Mary and St. Nicholas. We are all in this together and we will succeed by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*"A holy moment is a single moment in which you open yourself to God. You make yourself available to Him. You set aside personal preference and self-interest, and for one moment you do what you prayerfully believe God is calling you to do" (Holy Moments; Matthew Kelly, p 35-36 )*

This is our Holy Moment in St. Mary and St. Nicholas!

God bless you all!

Rev. Jean-Philippe Lokpo, Pastor