



*Pastor's Pen*

*May 26, 2019*

- Fr. Tom Wilson, Pastor

## **FR. CHAD VANHOOSE**

Two years ago, Archbishop Hebda assigned Fr. Chad to All Saints. While I did not know him personally at the time, he had a reputation at the seminary of being capable, talented, hard-working and organized. I knew he would be a good fit at All Saints, and it has turned out to be exactly that. In two short years, he has blended well into our parish family, shown himself to be an organized and very hard worker, and has been well received by our parishioners.

While not a fan of the Kentucky Wildcats, part of me can appreciate Fr. Chad's deep love for the state of his birth and his never-ending loyalty to all things Kentucky. Whether it's UK basketball, football, the Kentucky Derby, or the famous Kentucky Bourbon Trail, he takes pride in his roots. The Blue Grass State has a lot to be proud of, and Fr. Chad is not bashful in sharing that with us.

The externals and culture of Kentucky are important to him, but the most important part of his heritage is not the landscape nor the sports, but his family. From the moment he was assigned to All Saints, his love for his family and their love for him, was clear. On the night of his ordination, his grandmother announced very matter-of-factly to a group of priests, "We knew he was special all along." That was confirmed in short order. His parents made a visit to our grounds and the house to ensure its adequacy. Fr. Chad prioritized family when scheduling his time away and has returned multiple times for family gatherings. The run-up to the Final Four in Minneapolis and looking forward to the real possibility of seeing the Wildcats there with his dad and brother-in-laws kept him enthusiastic right up to the end. Despite not having their team in the Final Four, he and his family had a wonderful time enjoying the games and the riches of Lakeville and Minnesota culture. It was clear that their bonds were deeper than a common piece of real estate but were rooted in authentic Christ-centered faith and love.

Fr. Chad's impact on All Saints is deep and long-lasting. His presence among our school students and other youth showed his care and enthusiastic willingness to share Jesus with them. His willingness to work with a team of parishioners to address the insidious problem of pornography in adults and youth and the establishment of the Hope for Purity movement has helped countless numbers of families already and will do so for years to come. His attention to detail and organizing of our internal clergy schedules kept us organized and anticipating needs, rather than reacting to them. He certainly has what it takes to manage a parish.

As a priest, Fr. Chad values community with other priests. He is a natural leader, and he frequently brought together other Companions of Christ and neighbor priests to our parish house for Saturday night dinners and spent time with them at other places on alternate weekends. He didn't just want community. He was willing to sacrifice and work for it. It is a trait that will make him a future leader among the priests of our archdiocese.

It is a gift to All Saints that we so often enjoy the early years of priesthood of newly ordained priests. I am told frequently how much people here have appreciated the talented and prayerful men who have served here as associates and the gift of seeing them grow in their time here. The flip side of that, of course, is relatively short stays. It is a testament to our parish family that Archbishop Hebda continues to see us a place of good preparation for future pastors. But seeing them leave is always bittersweet.

Most of you reading this know that Fr. Chad has been re-assigned by Archbishop Hebda to be the pastor of St. Jude of the Lake in Mahtomedi beginning in early July. Because of a previously planned family pilgrimage, his last weekend with us will be next weekend, June 1/2. We hope many of you will be able to greet him from Noon-2:00 pm on Sunday, June 2, and offer him your best wishes and thank to him for his dedication to us at All Saints for the last two years.

Fr. Chad has been a blessing to All Saints, for which we are grateful. Despite the sadness in seeing him move on, we can live in gratitude and keep praying as he grows in his priestly service to God's people.