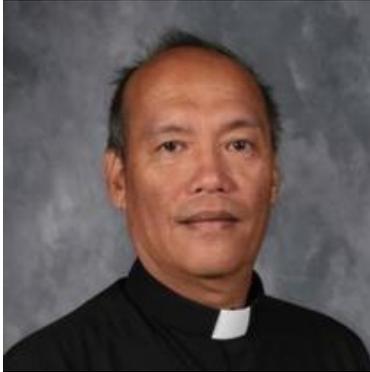


## WELCOME FR. TONY VERA



My name is Fr. Tony Vera, a native of the Philippines. I came here on August 23, 1999, when Bishop Hoffman invited me to serve in this great Diocese.

I belong to a big family – 9 siblings, 6 boys and 3 girls. I have a twin brother who is my Xerox copy and another younger brother who belongs to the Diocese of Tampa. He has already retired due to health reasons.

I entered the Seminary at a very young age - after elementary, then high school in the Seminary, then 4 years of Bachelor of Arts major in Philosophy, then another 4 years in Theology straight – no rest – just study, study and study. In 1985, I was ordained as a priest together with my twin brother.

In 1999, I was invited by Bishop Hoffman to work in this great Diocese and on August 23, he picked me up at the Detroit Airport. Surprise to me.... Because I didn't know he was my Bishop. I thought he was in charge of the priests or one of the priests, but I was wrong.

He assigned me to Mansfield, Ohio at St. Peters and Fr. Dan Frazer picked me up at the Cathedral Rectory. He was also a newly ordained priest, but before that he was a deacon. I stayed in Mansfield for 5 years, then transferred to St. Joe's in Sylvania for another 5 years, then I took up my CPE to study how to be a hospital chaplain for more than 1 year. I don't know what happened after I finished my CPE – they gave me a break and assigned me as Assistant Pastor in St. Patrick in Toledo, Ohio ... you know who was the Pastor...Fr. Dennis.

After 5 years, I was transferred to Epiphany of the Lord across the bridge and I stayed for 3 years until at the last minute on June 11, I got my appointment from the Bishop and July 1, I was here...My feeling I'm back to Sender after 4 years.

My hobbies include, tennis, pingpong, volleyball, not as a pro, but just for fun and good exercise. I love to walk too. Know that while I'm here, you will see me walking around the church perimeter and the streets, during Mass or maybe in the grocery store or hospitals.

Thank you very much to all of you for welcoming me as the "New Guy" in the parish.

Thank you again, and May God bless you all.