

Father Fred Parke's 40th Anniversary
Comments by Bishop Felipe J. Estévez
Assumption Catholic Church, Jacksonville
May 16, 2015

Father Fred has asked that no speech be given — however, may I respectfully ask for an exception to share some very brief comments on behalf of the entire Diocese?

Immediately after the Holy Mass, there will be a groundbreaking of a new initiative reflective of Father Fred's fatherly care for the needs of our families.

Serving the people of God for 40 years, his fruits, his deeds are there in full evidence for us to celebrate: a magnificent life as a priest, full of fruits which have enriched thousands of thousands *in nomine domine*, the Lord who called him for this abundant harvest.

When a priest is admirable, priestly vocations are born. Father Frederick Parke is a father for the glory of the Eucharistic kingdom.

Let this faithful priest's name endure within us, for us, and for many generations to come; for his name honors holy Mother Church as a shepherd with the "odor of sheep," as a splendid reflection of the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the flock.