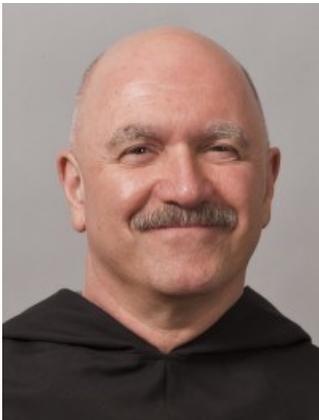


## *A Note from Fr. Joe.....*

It gives me great pleasure to share with you the news that Archbishop Chaput has approved the nomination from our Provincial, Fr. Michael DiGregorio, O.S.A., for the new pastor of St. Thomas of Villanova. In a memo dated May 19, 2017, the Archbishop announced that Fr. Joseph A. Genito, O.S.A. would be assigned here and assume his position, effective December 3, 2017 (the first Sunday of Advent and beginning of the new Church year.) Fr. Joe likely will arrive around mid-November. In the meantime, I reached out to him, asking if he could provide me with a short bio to include in my note. So here it is:

Fr. Joe Genito was born in the Bronx, NY and raised in Carthage, NY, where he met the Augustinians and joined the Order in 1967. A graduate of Villanova, he was ordained a priest in 1975 and has ministered in various Augustinian parishes and schools in New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Florida. He also has had two assignments as Director of the Formation Program in Washington, DC and Chicago. Fr. Joe was most recently the Pastor and Shrine Director at St. Rita Shrine in South Philadelphia, where he has served since 2008.

So as I mentioned a couple weeks ago, you will be getting a very good, very seasoned Augustinian as your new pastor. Plus, we thought we'd make it easier by ensuring that it was another Fr. Joe! In one of his assignments as Director of Formation, Fr. Joe had me as a student in my final three years, at Augustinian College in Washington, DC, from 2002-2005. This was an important time for me, as I had just lost both of my parents – and was preparing for solemn vows and ultimately ordination to the priesthood. Fr. Joe was a great help on that journey and I learned a lot from him along the way. In fact, I still vividly remember some of our practice sessions for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, with an emphasis on being pastoral and compassionate.



Fr. Joe and I already have met for dinner and I've promised him any assistance he might need in the transition. Fr. Michael, our Parochial Vicar, will administer the parish, along with the help of another Augustinian – Fr. John Deary, O.S.A. from Our Mother of Good Counsel, and our very capable Parish Staff. This will be the case from the time I begin my sabbatical on July 10th until Fr. Joe arrives later in the year.

Best wishes to you for a Happy Memorial Day! Amidst the picnics, trips to the beach, and fireworks, let's not forget those men and women who died in service to our country and to pray for peace in our world. Also, please remember the following loved ones of Staff members who recently passed: Sheila Margaret Fairfield (mother of Brian Fairfield); John (Jack) McDevitt (father of Alice Obarski); and Jim Murphy (brother-in-law of Anne Murphy). Mass on Memorial Day will be at 9:00am in the Rosemont Chapel; the Parish Office and the Preschool will be closed.

God Bless!  
Fr. Joe