

The time has come to say farewell
to a man and his family who has served us well...
Four wonderful years have quickly passed,
but our memories of Jesse will last and last.
An amazing man, an amazing spirit.
Who could ask for more from a curate?

Jesse came at a time of uncertainty and change...
his Jesus- like appearance was both comforting and strange.
We all knew things would be different...a renovated church with no rector
but Jesse had talents as a writer and lector.
His deep faith and commitment carved out an interesting path for his life..
From friar ...to fiancé ...to Father Lebus, complete with daughters and wife!

Jesse was here to welcome Gideon and Sue Waiter ,in turn
He had things to teach them ...and he had much to still learn.
A new team , a new beginning...the work in a Parish never ends
But it never seems like work when you do it with friends.

Jesse led us in a Sunday School
that taught much more than the Golden Rule.
His love of creation, the wonders of the earth...
is equaled in his calling to see **in every person** their worth.
He helped our children flourish in the years he spent here
and shared his **own** daughters with us ...whom we hold especially dear.

Games and activities and creative plans,
turned us all into Lebus fans!
He worked tirelessly in the garden ,
growing abundant crops from mere seeds.
He led the teams of volunteers back...
when it was time to pull weeds.

A man close to the waters
be they calm or rapid flowing.
Devoted to the life within them
and its prosperous growing.
Who would have thought a man, once at home in the Cloisters
Would create a initiative of replenishing oysters?!

A Pied Piper of children , those in Spirit ...or in years...
He has been with us, and led us, through laughter and tears.
Holding hands at bedsides , Holding hearts in heavenly appeals
He is so easy to like because he is the “real deal”.
Jesse has been a teacher, and a listener, and a real friend who cares.
And we now send him forth with our love and our prayers.

Saint John's has been, and always will be, a transitional place.

People come and go through this most sacred space.

It is like a foretaste of death when one of our fold must move on.

But as in the promise of the resurrection out of sight doesn't mean gone.

We are all so very glad that Sea Cliff is right around the bend

And that our shared journey and friendship will not, by distance, need to end.

So farewell , Pax et bonum, God has prepared your new way

And all of our gratitude..... for all you did during your stay.

by Nelson Demarest

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