

May 11, 2020

Rev. Thomas E. Konopka  
Church of St. Mary  
163 Columbia Turnpike  
Rensselaer, New York 12144

Dear Father Konopka,

It is with great joy that I write to you as you prepare to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your ordination to the sacred priesthood.

Once you received the promised grace of the presbyteral order on June 2, 1990 you immediately set off on a ministry of compassion, mercy, faith and loving service. For these many years you have faithfully and prayerfully offered the holy Mass for the many people of our diocese; you have received delighted souls into the full life of our Catholic faith; you have warmly received penitents and shared with them God's compassionate mercy; you have witnessed and supported couples in the sacred bond of matrimony; you have consoled the sorrowful with anointing by your holy hands; and you have allowed families the consolation of the truth when the dead have been offered back to the Lord and His promise of resurrection.

Father, for all of these kindnesses, for all of your holy efforts, for all that you had ever hoped for, I am humbled to offer you my sincere gratitude for your priesthood. May your future years continue to bear much fruit and grant you great joy.

Extending prayerful best wishes and beseeching Our Lord Jesus Christ to share with you His rich blessings, I remain,

Edward B. Scharfenberger, DD  
Bishop of Albany