

**Funeral Mass for Msgr. Tom Murphy
February 7, 2017**

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” St. Matthew shares these words of our Lord with us in his Gospel, which we just heard proclaimed. They are words that comfort us. They are words which remind us that our dearly departed Msgr. Tom Murphy is with the Lord now. But they are also words that remind us of the kind of priest, the kind of Christian, and the kind of man Fr. Tom was in this world.

In his years serving the parish communities of St. Luke, St. Thomas Moore, St. Mark the Evangelist, and St. Peter Prince of the Apostles, he showed his desire to be there for all who were burdened in this life. He believed in the power of the Body of Christ, the community of believers, and the bonds that support us. Jesus brings us together so that our burdens do not crush us. There is strength in the Body of Christ, and Fr. Tom lived his life by the light of this truth. You can ask his brothers among the Irish priests present here in the Archdiocese. Fr. Tom relied on his brothers, and was there for his brothers in their times of need. He was a strong – and often bold – presence in the Presbyterate of San Antonio.

Msgr. looked for ways to reach out to those who were not walking with the support of Christ, the support of his Body the Church. Fr. Tom would reach out intentionally to those who were not able to make it to

Church on Sundays. He would reach out to those who needed the presence of the Church, keeping the call to mission and to prayer central in his ministry. We heard a great truth in the Book of Revelation: “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God.” Fr. Tom sought to lead as many people as he could back home to God’s dwelling, and he took seriously his call as a missionary disciple to go out to where the people were. The people in turn shared their gifts with the Church, helping us all to walk in the light of faith together.

My friends, we are here to remember the light of our brother, Tom. We are certainly here to mourn his passing. But we are also here in faith and hope. We trust in the promise that “the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God.”

May we entrust our brother and our faithful priest to the loving prayers of our Mother, Our Lady of Knock, Our Lady of Guadalupe. Through her intercession, along with St. Anthony and St. Patrick, may Msgr. Tom Murphy rest from his labor of love in this world, and find peace in the hands of our Lord whom he served faithfully. Father in heaven, receive his soul and help us to trust in your words: “Behold, I make all things new.” (Revelation).