

# **ST. ANNE'S CHURCH**

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My Ever Dearest Friends,

May the peace, joy and love of Christ be with you always! I take this opportunity to thank you for the great Farewell Party you had for me last Sunday, July 17th! It certainly brought a mixture of tears and joy in my heart! The food was superb, the presentations were exceptional, and the company was beyond compare. I thank you too for your kind words and love for me! A special thanks to all the people who organized it --- you know who you are! If I mentioned all your names and what you've done for this parish, I will run out of space...and you know that!

It's been a real joy and privilege to be able to work and journey with each of you – directly and indirectly - for these past 8 years! Your prayers, moral support, kindness, exceptional friendship and love will always be remembered! Yes, I will miss all of you for many different and wonderful reasons! I will miss working with you, for you and being with you! You have been a tremendous part and source of inspiration in my priestly ministry!

I pray that you will welcome your new pastor --- Fr. Dave de Souza --- with the same enthusiasm, warmth, friendship and love you extended towards me! I know change is not easy. We have to build again a parish family based upon the methods and traditions of the parish! I wish him all the best in his ministry here!

I will leave our parish family with a sad heart, but with a lot of great moments and exceptional memories. All these will continue to inspire and help me in my priesthood journey.

It's been said that '*Home is where your heart is*'. No matter where we are, the people you loved and cared for, will always be part of our lives...and that's truly home! On the other hand, Osoyoos will always have a special place in my heart...this will always be a home for me! I made a lot of friends and families for that matter. More so, each in your unique and particular ways has shown me what it means to a member of a bigger family, that is, our parish family! You've shown me what priesthood is really all about!

I know many of you shop, dine and visit Penticton, so please don't be a stranger! Please continue to pray for me as I do to you! May God bless us with his peace, love and mercy!

With much Love, Affection & Prayer,

Fr. Rex