



ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Office of the Archbishop

December 22, 2019

Rev. Jesus Ferras, ISP
St. Kieran Catholic Church
3605 South Miami Avenue
Miami, Fl, 33133

Dear Father Ferras:

Forty years might not seem like a long time for a Church that is almost 2,000 years old; but here in this still young Archdiocese established only in 1958, the 40th anniversary of St. Kieran's is certainly something to celebrate. I join in wishing you and your parishioners a "Happy Anniversary!"

The word, parish, is derived from the ancient Greek: *pa-roi-ki-a*; the Spanish, *parroquia*, is much closer to the original Greek than its English equivalent. It meant a sojourn in a foreign land, or a community of sojourners. And so, when the Hebrew Scriptures were first translated into Greek, *pa-roi-ki-a* was used to describe the Israelites as they journeyed through the desert on their way to the Promised Land. As Catholic Christians, we know that here on this earth we have no lasting dwelling place, for our citizenship is in heaven, our true Promised Land. Our parishes, where the community of sojourners meet, are then like way stations along our pilgrim way. But Saint Kieran is called to be more than just a simple way station or rest stop: it is called to be an oasis, an oasis of faith, hope and love in a world that increasingly seems like a barren, lifeless desert.

For 40 years, this parish has welcomed God's pilgrim people. We remember to the Lord those pioneers – both priests and laity – who were here at the beginning and have already gone home to the Lord.

As you celebrate this milestone, I pray that you and all the parishioners remember the past with gratitude, embrace the present with enthusiasm and look forward to the future with confidence.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas Wenski
Archbishop of Miami