

TRINITY NEWS

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*F*or those who don't know me ...

I don't remember the date exactly, but I do remember the occasion of my first service here at Holy Trinity. It was late July 1989 and I had only arrived in Manila the previous Wednesday. At about 9:00 Sunday morning, Fr. Gabriel Dimanche picked me up in front of my apartment across from Ultra to take me to church. I remember being quite impressed by the preacher/presider, Fr. Brian Allan, and feeling very much at home, since I had been raised in the Anglican/Episcopal Church of St. Mary, in Caracas, Venezuela, a parish very much like Holy Trinity in many ways, from the verdant tropical setting, to the international congregation and even, at that time, the Canadian priest.

I came to Manila to head the English Department at Brent School, soon switched to Head of Modern Languages and finally Director for Academic Affairs. I became deeply involved in school chapel and for a while in the early 90's, stopped attending Holy Trinity – figured daily morning prayer and weekly communion in the school chapel entitled me to a sleep-in Sunday mornings – but when my mother returned to the Philippines in 1995 after a 40+ year absence, we became regular, and she now rests in the columbarium. In 2003 I was ordained deacon here by Bishop Ben Botengan and served here for the next two years or so. In 2006 I was ordained priest in Brent chapel and really haven't been back to Holy Trinity except for special occasions, since then as I took charge of what was to become Holy Family parish at Brent and a stint as rector at Holy Spirit, Taguig.

This summer I retired from Brent (officially on July 31); my bags and books were packed, my ticket purchased, my living arrangements on Cape Cod all ready to go when Bishop Rex asked me to lend a hand here – after a bit of hesitation, I said yes. It seems a fitting place to end my career in this country, after all – full circle.

How long I'll be here is not clear yet: there are several details still to be worked out. But whether it's one month or three, three or six, I'm happy to be here and look forward to renewing old friendships, and making a lot of new ones.

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