

Fr. Ugo's Address – Our Lady of Grace Anniversary Mass

Your Excellency, my brother priests, honoured guests, and all our parishioners. **What a wonderful day!** I really thank you for being here to celebrate our historical milestone with us.

Some of you may not know this, but Our Lady of Grace was born 25 years ago as a result of the amalgamation of 2 separate parishes --- the Italian Parish of St. Andrea and the English Parish of St. Clements. Out of curiosity, with a show of hands, how many present here today came from St. Clements? How many came from St. Andrea? See what a beautiful union; **see what great faith!**

In these 25 years we have grown as one family. In fact, I am one of the last to have joined this community. I came only 3 years ago to serve as Pastor and I came from a big parish in Toronto. But I can tell you, I never want to leave Our Lady of Grace. I am so happy to be here to serve amongst you all. I love the people of our Parish, I love the beautiful Church you have built and maintained over the years, and I pray that through the Grace of God, Bishop Henry, and my Superiors, that I can remain a part of this family of faith.

To all of you today, I thank you for the many ways you have made this celebration of Thanksgiving special. To you Your Excellency, my Fellow Brothers, and the various dignitaries - - - thank you for coming to honour and thank the Lord with us as a community. To the Knights of Columbus - the 4th Degree and the Decorating Committee, thank you for beautifying the Church in a special way for our Celebration. Thank you to the lectors, choirs, and musicians who used their gifts to faithfully enrich our liturgy. Thank you to the Pictorial Book Committee for creating such beautiful tokens to commemorate our 25 years, such as the pictorial book, the prayer cards, and the newspaper you will receive on the way out. **And to the numerous people who through their humility, always faithfully serve our Community, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.**

In particular, Your Excellency, we would like to thank you for your support of Our Lady of Grace . Over the years, many shepherds have served and cared for our parishioners at Our Lady of Grace. We know you are concerned about the lack of care for our elderly priests and those who experience ill-health. This is why you have worked so hard with the Diocese to search for a compassionate and respectful solution. As a Parish, Our Lady of Grace is willingly responding to your appeal and we have our humble contribution to offer you today. Please accept our donation as a special way we have chosen to commemorate our 25 years of blessings. May God continue to help you with this important initiative.

In closing, thank you to the City View Society for all their preparations for our reception which will follow our liturgical celebration. I invite and welcome you all to join us for refreshments in our main church hall.

Let us continue our celebration in prayer and thanks. May God and Our Mother Mary bless you and your families.