

Live + Jesus

# Our Mother of Consolation Parish

9 E. Chestnut Hill Ave ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19118  
215.247.0430 ♦ [www.omcparish.com](http://www.omcparish.com)

Established 1855



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*“Growing in mission.... to be the presence of Christ in our world”*

Dear Friends,

How does it feel to be a part of history of an institution that is 167 years old? In my years of ministry as an Oblate and a priest, the last seventeen years at OMC have been my longest assignment - perhaps too long for some. However, considering the history of our parish, and some of our parish families who go back to the 1855, my ministry at OMC has been but a moment in time.

When I came to OMC in July 2005, many were unsure of what the new Oblate pastor would bring. Nevertheless, as a parish that had already loved the Oblates, you opened your hearts and helped me to grow as a person, an Oblate, a priest, and a pastor.

As a person, you have embraced my giftedness and shortcomings, and you have challenged me to do the same for others and for myself. As an Oblate, you have shown me what it means to grow in holiness by your faithfulness to the state in life to which God has called you. As a priest, you have shared with me your families' most sacred moments: baptizing your children, witnessing the marriage of your sons and daughters, celebrating reconciliation, bringing comfort to the sick, and burying your loved ones. As a pastor, you have worked with me to en flesh a vision of what we are called to be as Church – the presence of Christ in our world.

Over the years, amid the ups and downs of life, we have accomplished much together and have reinvigorated our parish community. We have welcomed new members; celebrated the Mass and Sacraments with full, conscious, and active participation; expanded our faith formation programs; increased our ministry opportunities; established a culture of justice and service to those in need; developed our youth ministry; revitalized our parish school; improved our facilities; and have been faithful stewards of our financial resources.

During my first year at OMC, we celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our parish community. On November 11 (the date of consecration of the Church by then Bishop John Neumann in 1855), we planted a tree in front of the Oblate Residence. Over the years, the tree has grown strong and has flourished, but it still has much growth potential, as it reaches its branches to the heavens. So, too, our Parish Community.

As I prepare to complete my ministry as your pastor on June 30<sup>th</sup>, I remember the words of St. Francis de Sales: “A part of us that stays must go, and a part of us that goes must stay.” Please know that my love for you and our parish will be with me throughout my life and that I leave a part of me with you.

Thank you for your love and support, and for allowing me to be a part of your life as I take my place in the history of Our Mother of Consolation Parish.

In de Sales,  
Fr. Bob

**Administered by the Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales and the Sisters of Saint Joseph**  
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