

## Introductory Message

It is wonderful to be back at the Cathedral! My name is Msgr. Geno Sylva, and I was assigned here as a seminarian in 1989 and then, through the graciousness of Msgr. Mark, I ran a program for teens called Young Prophets here at St. John's from 2001-2004. Recently, I returned from the Vatican, having worked for 6 years for the Holy Father on the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. While it was a wonderful honor, it is nice to be back home in the Diocese of Paterson and, especially here with all of you at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

This week, Bishop Arthur Serratelli has named me the **Vicar for Diocesan Projects and the Cathedral**. While Msgr. Mark will remain the Rector, I will now be responsible for sharing more broadly this beautiful Cathedral that is a home for all people of the Diocese of Paterson. Working closely with Bishop—as well as the priests, deacons, staff, and all of you, the faithful of this Cathedral Parish—I will work to see that people from near and far can experience this special community of faith and awe inspiring Cathedral from which the teaching of the Bishop spreads.

I look forward to meeting you, to living here with you, and to praying with you. I'm excited and honored to build on the great work of Msgr. Mark and those who have gone before him. Friends, this Cathedral is much more than marble, glass, and timber. It is an expression of you, the living stones who are more beautiful than the most brilliant of stained glass windows. In the work of the new evangelization, it is often said that where beauty is in decline, love also comes to be lacking and, with it, the meaning of life. Beauty needs people who are able every day to rejuvenate its face; men and women who, by their faith, wish to proclaim the beauty of the face of Jesus of Nazareth, true God and true man, the final answer to the quest for meaning and true love in this life.