

Retirement Gathering – Father Wayne Gubbels
St. John's Adel
Sunday, June 28, 2015
Remarks
Bishop Richard Pates

I am very happy to be here today with Father Gubbels

I recently had vocal chord surgery and in its aftermath you lose your voice temporarily. They assure me, however, that I will find it soon. Thus, I thank the one providing my “voice” today.

I wanted to be here in a special way, on behalf of my predecessors and myself to extend heartfelt thanks to Father Wayne Gubbels as he enters into retirement.

What you have experienced here in the past few years during which Father Wayne has been your pastor is characteristic of his ministry in the 40 plus years of his priesthood. He is open, he is upbeat, he translates the saving Word of God in a way that we can understand and which positively affects our life. Moreover he generates within the community unity and a generous spirit.

Father Wayne you have made a difference. You have been a lasting influence for the good of those you have served. Thank you!

As you move to Harlan and the West, know of our prayers and best wishes. We know that without administration and the daily grind you will continue to minister to our diocese and its parishes. Also, there will be time for travel, card games and lots of recreation.

I am aware Father Remi Okere very much looks forward to joining this community of St. John. I am confident he will experience a warm Adel welcome and continue where Father Wayne leaves off.

Thank you.