

# Children of the Prairie

Your seasonal newsletter from St. Joseph's Indian School

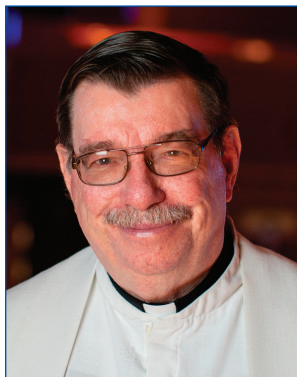
Fall 2021

*“Thank you  
for donating to  
St. Joseph’s Indian School.  
I love your kindness  
and generosity.”*

— Tywin, St. Joseph’s student



## Letter from Fr. Anthony



Fr. Anthony, Chaplain

of St. Joseph's forward with strength and care.

As I look at my 55 years of service, St. Joseph's will forever hold a special place in my heart. I first came to St. Joseph's in 1997. I later worked with Dehonian ministries in Eagle Butte, South Dakota, and retirement communities in Wisconsin and Florida before returning in 2009 as chaplain.

St. Joseph's has a great staff who go the extra mile, which in turn, made me do the same. I will miss the kids greatly. I will miss seeing their bright faces in church on Sundays and during prayer times in the homes. I will miss

It feels quite strange to say, but this will be my last *Children of the Prairie* letter to you. After 55 years of service, I am retiring. In future correspondence from St. Joseph's Indian School, you'll find a new name and signature. Fr. Gregory Schill is now the new chaplain. We have full confidence Fr. Gregory will continue moving the mission

refereeing the occasional basketball game and helping with school activities. I will miss making connections with the students ... but I will cherish all of these moments forever.

I'll look back on it all fondly. It has meant a great deal to me to help the Lakota (Sioux) boys and girls grow closer to God.

Goodbyes can be difficult, and this is one of the hardest goodbyes I've ever had to say. I look to the future as I retire to the Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake retirement community. The key is to not focus on the door that closes, but rather look around for other doors that may be open.

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*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."* — Ecclesiastes 3:1

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God bless you all,

Fr. J. Anthony Kluckman, SCJ  
Chaplain

## SPOTLIGHT STORY: WELCOME FR. GREGORY SCHILL



Fr. Gregory, Chaplain

"Ten years ago, shortly after being ordained to the priesthood, I was assigned to a then cluster of four parishes in northwest Mississippi," wrote Fr. Gregory. "Much has changed, including the expansion of responsibilities that

St. Joseph's Indian School warmly welcomes our new chaplain to campus, as we introduce you to Fr. Gregory Schill, SCJ.

Before coming to St. Joseph's, Fr. Gregory served in six Mississippi parishes for a decade's time.

now finds the pastoral team in a cluster of six parishes since 2016. The changes have been a challenge. The challenges have also been a blessing for myself as I have had much time to adapt, grow and learn from my confreres, parish staff and parishioners."

"Ten years is a long time for a priest from a religious order to be assigned to one place. With that being said, after ten years I will be finding myself facing the challenge of a new transition."

You'll learn more about Fr. Gregory in future correspondence. May his work at St. Joseph's be blessed!

## A Farewell to Father Anthony Kluckman

The year was 2009 when a priest with twinkling eyes, a soft smile and steady voice arrived at St. Joseph's Indian School for a second time. He arrived to inspire faith and spirituality in the lives of hundreds of Native American children from a wide array of backgrounds.

And now, our beloved Fr. Anthony will reap the rewards of his devoted work, as he retires to the Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake retirement community.

Fr. Anthony completes his St. Joseph's tenure with many victories — big and small. Under his second tenure as chaplain, many wondrous things were accomplished.

**2009:** Fr. Anthony returned to St. Joseph's as chaplain for the second time after serving a parish on the Lower Brule Indian Reservation.

**2013:** The Aktá Lakota Museum addition of the Medicine Wheel Garden was constructed. This serene place on campus allows people to come and pray.

**2015:** St. Joseph's high school senior home opened, giving students in 12th grade a chance to learn independent living skills they'll need upon graduation.

A new and improved playground also took shape. It remains a favorite outdoor spot on campus.

**2016:** The 40th annual **wačhípi** — *powwow* — was held on campus.

**2017:** The new Health and Family Services Center opened on campus to provide care to Native American students and their families. This

*(over, please)*



health center performs approximately 2,700 appointments each year.

**2019:** Construction broke ground on the Sacred Heart Family Safe Shelter, a domestic violence shelter on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

**2020:** The Coronavirus pandemic began, but Fr. Anthony was determined to continue Mass and Prayer services. Services went virtual, with students, staff and families joining together online.

**2021:** Construction broke ground on the Equine Therapy Complex on St. Joseph's campus.

To view more photos and highlights of Fr. Anthony, please visit [stjo.org/FatherAnthony](http://stjo.org/FatherAnthony).

We hope you'll join us in a heartfelt

**philámayaye** — *thank you* — to Fr. Anthony! He has exemplified the true spirit of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart in support of our mission.





# BLESS OUR LAKOTA CHILDREN

What will you miss most about  
Fr. Anthony?



*“He was very funny  
and he gave out fun  
gold coins.”*  
— Dallas



*“I liked when he  
played with us on  
the playground.”*  
— Alarice



*“He was a great  
Father for  
St. Joseph’s!”*  
— Alex

Do you have a question to ask the Lakota children? Email it to [saintjosephs@stjo.org](mailto:saintjosephs@stjo.org).



## Earn Income for Life

Are you looking for attractive income rates? A St. Joseph’s charitable gift annuity offers wonderful rates and at the same time helps provide a brighter future for the Lakota children in our care.

Here are three easy ways to request additional information on charitable gift annuities:

1. Fill out the included form and return it in the enclosed envelope.
2. Visit online at [stjo.org/annuity](https://stjo.org/annuity).
3. Call toll-free at 1-800-584-9200 or email Denise Hyland at [dhyland@stjo.org](mailto:dhyland@stjo.org).

To establish an annuity, you must have your check, money order or securities postmarked by December 31, 2021 to receive a tax deduction for tax year 2021.



**THANK YOU**  
FOR MAKING A  
**DIFFERENCE!**

