

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

P. O. Box 269

Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

(518) 686-5064 ~ Fax: (518) 686-1625

immconcept@roadrunner.com

September 17, 2010

My fellow parishioner,

*"Welcome to Hoosick Falls! We're glad you're here,"* were the first words I heard when I arrived at Immaculate Conception Church. These terrific words of hospitality were generously given by a group of Hoosick Falls High School students standing on the rectory porch, eagerly offering to help me move in. They made me feel so at home with their kindness, understanding and genuine joyfulness. And I am happy to be here as your Pastor.

So let me introduce myself. I am Tom Zelker, son of John and Jennie, brother to Barb, and cousin and nephew to a large family in the Albany area. I graduated from Bethlehem Central, SUNY College of Forestry, and the Catholic University of America. I was ordained to serve the people as a parish priest in 1983. I have served in Albany, Valatie, Schenectady, Cobleskill and Granville.

As I was so wonderfully welcomed into the community of the Immaculate Conception Church, I want to let you know that you are most and always welcome to be a part of this great parish. All are welcome, celebrating our diversity and giftedness in so many unique and special ways. No one will ever be told they are not good enough, don't fit in, or are unwelcome. As St. Paul reminds us, as a community of faith, we need each other for support, enthusiasm and love so that we might really grow together as the people of Christ. And there is a lot of work to do. If you have been here all along ... Thank You and please continue your discipleship. If you have not been here frequently, please consider joining us weekly for Mass and perhaps even more involvement. If you have not been around for awhile for whatever reasons, please know the door is now always open for you.

We exist to boldly, yet humbly witness to God's abundant over-whelming love for each person as revealed in Jesus. Our Church is here for you and is dedicated to serving the whole community. We can indeed be home for each other. God is home for all of earth's children. God embraces each and every person without exclusion; how can we not be the same? So, let us begin a new day here at Immaculate Conception Church. We celebrate Christ among us as he sends us out to love, share, and bring hope to the world. If there is anything I can ever do for you, stop in - the door is open for you. Call anytime, or gather with us at church.

Respectfully,

Fr. Tom Zelker

Mass - Saturday, 4pm ~ Sunday, 9am

P.S. Our Parish Prayer Service to install me as pastor is Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at 7pm in our church. Refreshments will be served at 7:30pm. Please come and pray for and with me and for our whole faith community.

*A Christian Community in the Roman Catholic Tradition*