

Today, as we inaugurate the Monsignor Strenski Award, we are delighted to name its first recipient, Mr. Walter Piatek.



He is simply the perfect candidate for this award: generous, unassuming, kind, dedicated to others. He served on a host of committees and organizations at St. Joseph's for decades. He is quiet and always willing to help others. When talking about St. Joseph's, Walt always uses the first-person plural "we, us, our," encouraging everyone to be involved

Walt moved to Berlin in 1967 and has remained a faithful and active parishioner of St. Joseph's. He once said that even though he moved, he never left St. Joseph's, a connection that's cultural and spiritual. Through the years, Walt has served as an active officer and participant in the various parish organizations. He served as an usher, was totally involved in the Holy Name Society, Blessed Sacrament Society, lantern bearer at solemn Masses, Forty Hours, processions, and Parish Council.

When Walt had knee replacement surgery, or his arthritic back would cause health problems, he always followed through when he had commitments to St. Joseph's. A perfect example of how dedicated he was to Parish Council: his wife, Muff, was having major health problems. Walt would bring her to the meetings because he didn't want to leave her home alone, and by doing so, he maintained his duty and dedication to St. Joseph's.



Mr. Piatek is truly the elder statesman of St. Joseph's Church and Apostolate. He is in the twilight years of his service to God and others, and we feel blessed to honor him with this special recognition as the first recipient of the Monsignor Strenski Award.

Congratulations, Walt!