

## **Thank You at Installation Mass given by Father Protack**

Dear Bishop Saltarelli,

On behalf of all those gathered here today and all our parishioners, I want to thank you for your leadership, insight and vision. I want to thank you for today.

On a personal note, I want to thank you for your confidence and trust in me to serve the people of this parish.

I was a 20 year old college seminarian at Seton Hall University and was assigned to serve at a special Mass on July 30, 1990 at the then Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newark, New Jersey; it was your ordination Mass in which you were being consecrated a Bishop.

You spent a lot of time with us as college seminarians serving as a spiritual director and friend. And we have many great memories and shared friendships from our days together at Seton Hall and St. Andrew's Seminary.

On May 22, 1992, you presided at our Graduation Mass and assured each of us men of your continued friendship.

On November 21, 1995, you were appointed bishop of Wilmington and I was honored to serve as Deacon at your installation Mass on January 23, 1996.

On October 26, 1996, you ordained me a priest. I promised obedience and respect to you and your successors.

Today, On October 7, 2007; you have installed me pastor of Saint John Neumann Parish. You have bestowed upon me a great honor.

I hope and pray, that the pattern of our sharing the important moments of our priesthood in our lives continues. I hope and pray even harder that the friendship that began long ago in the hallowed halls of Saint Andrew's seminary deepens as each of us begins another chapter in the lives of our priestly service to God's People.

And lastly, I assure you of my continued respect, obedience and friendship. Thank You!