

I was honored several years ago to help at Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer. I accepted to share the spiritual duties of the house on an interim basis but with a hope to have a greater involvement from other priests, deacons and religious of our diocese. My wish to have others involved has not changed but I did accept the role of Spiritual advisor of the house this year.

My story of being connected to the house began a much longer time ago. I was ordained a priest in 1985 and my first assignment was at Notre Dame in Malone. It was a place that I will always hold in my heart. Another priest and I heard of this Prayer House not far away. We decided to pay a visit to Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer one day. It sounded exciting to have a place like this close by to us. I remember our first visit to the house. It was explained to us the rules of the house and what would be expected of us when we came to the house for prayer and reflection. I had known several priests who had been connected with Madonna House in Canada and had also been connected with this place of prayer. I found the idea to be very exciting.

As ministry goes, I found myself volunteering to go to our Diocese Mission in Mollendo, Peru. Upon my return to our diocese in 1993, I became busy with some short time assignments before I settled into the prison chaplaincy for the next fifteen years. I probably forgot about this jewel of our diocese that is always open to helping people and praying for them on their spiritual journey. As I finished my assignment in the prison system, I was invited to come to the house and share in some talks or presentations. My eyes were opened once again to the beauty of the House of Prayer.

Now I find myself accepting the role of Spiritual Advisor but also with a renewed hope that soon we will be back to normal. We have worked hard to try and keep things operating in a limited way during the pandemic. I feel an energy starting in our northern New York area and a desire to be back together with our friends and neighbors. This is going to be an exciting year at Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer as we explore how we can best meet the spiritual needs of the people of our area.

We are Church and together we can build our community on the teachings of Jesus who gives life and always ask for the intercession of Our Mother Mary.

Fr. Bill Edwards

