

Goodbye, Father Carosella

"The Boca Grande Preschool will miss Father Carosella immensely. He has been an unfaltering supporter of the preschool, and his wisdom and encouragement have been invaluable. We are hopeful to keep him involved for years to come."

- Kellene Carpenter, Director, Boca Grande Preschool, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc.

Father Carosella, you have played a very important part in our Boca Grande life.

Your sermons on how to live a Christian life were so great. I want to record them to play to our children, if you recall. Your care for Joan, bringing her communion with encouraging comments, were greatly appreciated.

The Hillenbrands wish you a wonderful and healthy retirement!!

- Joan & John Hillenbrand

Fr. Carosella was one of the first people I met after moving to Boca Grande. His warm welcome was a foretaste of what the next eleven of shared ministry would be like.

Fr. C's steadfast commitment, unwavering faith and compassionate spirit have been a guiding light, leading three decades of souls closer to God and fostering a sense of unity and love among us all. Though small and unassuming in stature, Fr. C is a spiritual and pastoral giant - offering solace in times of sorrow, inspiration in moments of doubt, and encouragement in the face of adversity. With each sacrament celebrated, each homily shared, and each act of kindness extended, he exemplified the true essence of a servant of God. I pray that Fr. C, my friend and spiritual companion, may find joy, peace, and fulfillment as he embarks on this new chapter, knowing that his legacy will endure in the hearts of so many and within the fabric of the Boca Grande community.

"His lord said unto him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'" (Matthew 25:23)...And the people said, "Amen!"

- Mother Michelle Robertshaw, Boca Grande Episcopal Church

Of all the sermons I have listened to in my long life in many countries and several languages, yours were head and shoulder above all of them and you have no idea how much they will be missed by me!!! My prayers and best wishes go with you into your retirement!

- Hildegard Messenbaugh

You are one of the all-time best. Your sermons are always informative and delightful, you are a beacon of light on Boca Grande, and you will be a tough act to follow!

- Rick Hermann

Without you we could not have raised the money for the parish life center. It is your legacy. We are so proud to have known you and been able to work with you.

- Lou and Corie Fusz

One of the great joys of my life has been having Father Carosella as the pastor of Our Lady of Mercy. He is an inspiration to me in so many ways - his faith, his kindness, his humor, his literary and artistic knowledge, and his friendship are enormous blessings. I thank God regularly for them. He is a true Renaissance man.

- Vicky Winterer

Father Carosella has made a significant impact on our island community during his decades of service. He has been an integral part of the Woman's Club annual Christmas Tree Lighting. He also led the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday and participated in the Easter Sunrise Service at the Gasparilla Island State Park beach. He has been a vital component to so many island traditions which contribute to our special island lifestyle. His presence will be missed, and he is wished a peaceful and well-deserved retirement.

- The Reeher family

Photos by Judy Pounds and submitted





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