

# Father Siby Poonoose

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**(continued)**

In the year 2001 I was invited to work in the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa. I worked 7 years as associate pastor at Holy Spirit Church in Carrol, Iowa. Then I was transferred to Our Lady of Good Council Church, Fonda and St. Columbkille Church in Varina Iowa as Pastor and I worked there for 7 years. At the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> year I was transferred to Highway 60 Catholic Cluster of St. Patrick Church in Sheldon, St Mary Church in Ashton (where Sherry Nilles, our present National Regent is from) and St. Andrew's Church Sibley Iowa.

This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year as Pastor in this cluster. Besides taking care of the pastoral needs of these churches, I also have a grade school up to 8th and a Spanish Community. So far life has been good to me and I can say GOD IS GOOD. I am happy and excited to be the Priest Chaplin for the Catholic Daughters Americas.

2020 has been a difficult year for all of us because of the CORONA virus, Covid 19 pandemic. Everything seems to be unreal, Facemasks in the church, no shaking hands or greeting, no sign of peace, no holy water available at the entrances of the church, no Precious Blood offered to the people, because of the social distancing limited attendance in our Eucharistic celebrations, no big social gatherings after Mass etc. etc.

Even in our public life there are lots of restrictions. We need to wear masks if you visit public places, we need to answer many questions before we enter into a facility. Even though these are in place for our safety and good health, we can very well feel that we are not free as we were before. Why is it this way? And there is no perfect answer. And when is it going to end? And we have no answer. My prayer for you all during this difficult time is "Take courage, it is I: do not be afraid" which we heard on the 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday from the Gospel of Matthew.

God bless you all,

Fr. Siby Punnoose