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GOCA would like to recognize Father Thomas (Tom) Kalita of Saint Peter's Parish for leadership he has provided the Greater Olney Community.

Father Kalita became the pastor of Saint Peter's Parish on June 1, 1994. He celebrated 45 years as a priest on May 18, 2019, all of which he served in the Archdiocese of Washington in Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties.

Father Kalita has impacted the greater Olney community in numerous ways. His care is not only for his own congregation, but also for the larger community, and the world.

Locally his pastoral care extends to patients at MedStar Montgomery and the nine area nursing homes. He has shown care and concern for the monetarily challenged of our community by fully supporting holiday giving programs, food distributions throughout the year, school supply collections, and financial assistance for housing, medications, and other needs. This has raised the consciousness of his parishioners to care for those from the community family. This awareness of others less fortunate in our county has led the school children of St. Peter's to provide book bags filled with personal items for children in foster care as well as for community support of women in crisis pregnancies.

In the wider community, his leadership has inspired church members to be better citizens and support the needs of the poor in D.C. and in other parts of our country as well as a medical clinic in Honduras, and to serve on mission trips to the poorest of the poor.

He has been exemplary in showing his great respect for and collaboration with other Christians and with people of all faiths.

GOCA recognizes and celebrates that Olney is a diverse community and we are proud to support and acknowledge Father Kalita as he celebrates this milestone. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors for the local and wider community.