



Seated (center) Lorraine Vaccari. Standing (from left to right) Michael Vaccari, Kim Paparello Vaccari, Bishop Barres, Rosemary Vaccari Mysel, Monsignor Peter Vaccari, Dr. Maria Vaccari Loiodice, Dr. Louis Loiodice, Monsignor Andrew Vaccari



'Thankful to God for You!'

Bishop Richard Henning and I had the opportunity to celebrate last Saturday afternoon with the Vaccari family the 100th birthday of Lorraine Vaccari, a parishioner of St. Philip and James. Lorraine and her deceased husband Anthony are the parents of five children, two of whom are priests - Msgr. Peter Vaccari and Msgr. Andrew Vaccari both of the Diocese of Brooklyn. Msgr. Peter Vaccari, a Church historian and formerly the Rector of St. Joseph's Seminary, is presently the President of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association/Pontifical Mission. So many of the priests of the Diocese of Rockville Centre revere this Seminary

formator and scholar for his contemplative and evangelizing priesthood. Msgr. Andrew Vaccari is the pastor of St. Mary Mother of Jesus parish in the Diocese of Brooklyn and known for his spiritual depth and retreat work.

So much of a Catholic priest's pastoral charity flows from the heart of their mother's holiness, virtue and devotion to Our Lady. Mrs. Vaccari, thank you for Michael, Rosemary and Maria, each of whom have a great love for the Church. Thank you for Peter and Andrew, brothers like St. Peter and St. Andrew, and brother priests! They light the mission of the Church with their holiness, charity and missionary spirit! Thank you to the mothers of all priests and seminarians!

The Homily of Msgr. Andrew Vaccari - Saturday, June 5, 2021 Mom's 100th Birthday Celebration Votive Mass of the Most Holy Name of Mary

Mom, you often said to us when we were growing up, the words your father used to say to you: "The first hundred years are the hardest!" Well, if he was right, it should be easy from now on!

We have a wonderful celebration today. You are surrounded by your children — who love and adore you! And by your grandchildren — who adore and love you! In-laws, nieces, friends, neighbors, who draw inspiration from you, as do we all. But it is not just for the amazing fact of your 100 years that we are here. It is more how you have lived that brings us here today. You taught the five of us about selflessness, love, life. You showed it in taking care of us every day, taking care of Daddy for the years of his illness and you might say — "It's just what I do" but we know it is the extraordinary person you are and always have been. Your life has been about others: especially our family.

St. Paul in the first reading tells us we have been chosen in Christ. We have been chosen in Christ from all eternity. Each of us has a place in God's plan, a place in Christ. And so you were chosen to be our mother, grandmother, relative, friend; and we were chosen for you. And you love each of us fully, and uniquely. All in God's plan.

Some of you may know that when she turned 75, the 5 of us wanted to get her a special gift – perhaps travel to a special place, visiting the land of your father's German ancestry. She thought for a while and then decided: "I would like a

computer." She did not want the world to pass her by! And she learned to do very important things: send emails, google search, shop at Macy's.It is an illustration of her active mind — keeping her engaged in the world. Sometimes, after telling others that you are 100, people ask: But how is she — you know, mentally. I try to respond with an illustration: a recent one is from Mother's Day. I told her I would be coming. She was happy and said — you'll probably have a lot of traffic — but it's for a worthy cause!

The Gospel speaks of Mary visiting Elizabeth. It's a beautiful scene in which Mary reaches out to her cousin and visits her, bringing the joy of the presence of Christ. You and Dad taught us about a Catholic life that was not primarily about rules, but about Christ — knowing, loving and serving him, living in and loving a Church that brings Christ to us. And so Mary is the image of the Church, proclaiming the greatness of the Lord, and rejoicing in God our Savior.

And so we are forever thankful; thankful to God for you. The word "Eucharist" means Thanksgiving — thanks to God!

And that is why we are here today!