FAREWELL

For the past several weeks I have had the blessing of having plenty of time reflecting deeply upon the mystery of my entire life. It has been joyful and sad, inspiring and disastrous. Many thoughts have come into my mind: beautiful and ugly, lifegiving and death-bearing, silly and profound, virtuous and sinful, insight and blindness, I am grateful for all my life (80), especially for my 52 years of priesthood. God has been so good!

In spite of my sinfulness, I have lived a life totally dedicated to serving others – especially the elderly, the immigrant, the minorities and the poor. My trust in the absolute goodness, mercy and love of God remains steady, I am most grateful!!!!

Now, I am very tired, fatigued and empty. My body is falling apart, my knees are giving in, my kidneys are beginning to fail, and my eyes are fading and other complications.

How can I best be of service? At this time it is by offering my life as a final gift. I freely choose my moment and way of giving my life to others. This is not a suicide but a farewell gift. I pray that the gift of my life may bring healing to anyone that I might have hurt.

"Greater love no one has, then to lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

To anyone whom I have ever offended, I beg your forgiveness and mercy. It was never my intention to hurt anyone. My greatest pain is that I have hurt others, especially those I love the most. I am a sinner in need of forgiveness and mercy.