



Trinity Episcopal Church

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TrinityCranford.org

"To know Christ and to make the Lord known, with joy, faith, and service."



January 16, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

We write to inform you of a potential interruption in Father Andy's employment authorization in the United States. As you may know, Father Andy is currently authorized to work in the United States on a Religious Worker Visa (R-1). This visa was previously reissued one time and cannot be extended again. This visa sets to expire on February 4, 2022.

Thankfully, Father Andy applied for U.S. lawful permanent residency (commonly known as a "green card") in April 2019 with the help of Klasko Immigration Law Partners, LLP. At the time Father's Andy's green card application was submitted, it was expected that he would receive a decision on the application prior to the expiration of the R-1 visa. Unfortunately, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has an enormous backlog of cases and, as a result, have not yet issued a determination on the green card application. If USCIS does not grant his green card application before February 4, 2022, his work authorization will expire. He will, however, be permitted to continue to lawfully reside in the United States.

The good news is USCIS recently requested Fr. Andy to undergo a Medical Exam (I-693), which is the last step in the green card process. Given this recent development the lawyers are optimistic that Fr Andy's green card will be adjudicated in the near future. Although we are hopeful the green card application will be approved before February 4, 2022, it is impossible to know whether this will actually occur. As such, we have begun the process of securing the services of a supply priest so that Sunday worship may continue smoothly in case Fr Andy's green card is not adjudicated in time.

This is certainly unwelcome news. It will be a difficult and challenging time for our parish if Father Andy's work authorization were to expire. However, we have assured him that we remain steadfast in our commitment to him and his family. In turn, we know he remains thoroughly committed to our parish and exceedingly frustrated by this bureaucratic interruption to his ministry among us. Let us all pray that Fr. Andy's green card will be adjudicated before February 4, 2022 and there will be no interruption in his ministry. Let us also take a moment to reflect upon the enormous blessing it has been to have him lead our parish these past few years.

Sincerely,

John Beier (Senior Warden) & Sydney O'Hagan (Junior Warden)