

This year, like much of last year, is indeed a strange time to file a report. The entire diocesan staff juggled many extra responsibilities as we tried to navigate this bizarre season of “Covid-19” While the harried pace of change, the mountainous learning curve of digitization and the dogged and relentless information overload have become part of the “new reality”...some things haven’t changed. Priests still retired or moved on to new ministries, there were still churches in need of help, there were still conflicts in need of transformation. The shaped by faith process still moved on, with a quiet resolve and steely determination. It’s good to know that even in these strange times, the good work of the church continues.

It’s also strange for me to file this report just a few weeks before I leave Central PA. As most of you know, I will be starting my new ministry as Priest in Charge of Church of the Ascension in Munich, Germany in November. As I prepared this report, I looked back at the previous reports from 2016-2020. I am overwhelmed with gratitude as I reflect back on all that has been. For all the churches that I had the privilege of working with in transition periods, thank you for trusting me and allowing me to help guide your search process. To all the churches that I’ve walked alongside during difficult times of conflict: Thank you for the hard work you did for healing and reconciliation. To all those who have been parts of the various committees and commissions that I’ve worked with: Thank you for all the hours spent on behalf of God’s mission in the Church.

I want, however, to say a few extra ‘Thank You’s’ to the diocesan staff as I finish this report.

First, thank you to Bishop Audrey. Thank you for your leadership and your kindness. I have learned a lot working with you and I treasure your friendship. The Diocese of Central PA is blessed to have you. Thank you for the trust you’ve shown in me and for the freedom you’ve given me to work out the details of my priestly calling. Thank You!

The colleague I’ve worked closest with these last couple of years is Canon Chris Streeter. Chris, thank you for your friendship and your humor. Thank you for coming to Central PA and for all you do here. You are a treasured friend and confidant. Your skill, knowledge and candor make you a gift to the church. Thank You!

To Alexis and Faith: Thank you for all you do. You both do your jobs so well. I’ve always been impressed with your work and the spirit with which it is done. We are a better diocese and Staff because of your ministry. Thank you!

To Chad and Barb: thank you both for your diligent work in the realm of finance. I don’t think people really know just how hard you both work. Your professionalism and accuracy help the work of the diocese to prosper. I respect and admire you both so much. Thank you.

To Robyn: Thank you for your faithful leadership in the Stevenson School. You are shining example of what it means to faithfully help in the formation of leaders for the church. Your hard work and dedication are inspiring to me. Not to mention, I’ve come to know that I can

trust you implicitly when I ask for your theological reflection on an issue. Thank you for your faithful leadership.

To Carolyn and Debbie: Thank you for keeping us all sane by keeping our calendars straight! I've enjoyed working with both of you as you offer your service to Christ and the Church. Thank you, Carolyn, for suggesting office-Cats! We all know that that was a great decision. Debbie, thank you for always being willing to help when a need arises. We are a better diocesan staff because of y'all's hard work. Thank you.

It's been a great five years here in the diocese and I look forward, with great anticipation, to see how God continues to bless this place.

My peace and my prayers are with you,

Dan+

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