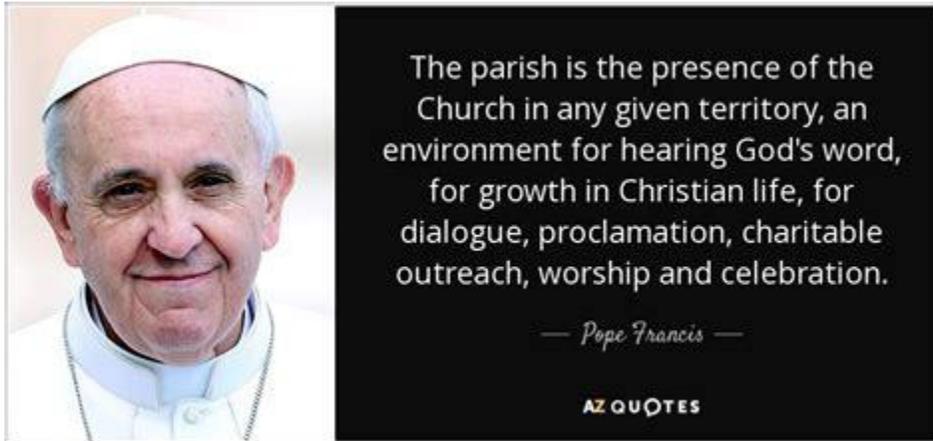


**FROM FATHER JOHN:** *“I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.”* (John 15:15 – 17)



We celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday evening with Bishop Spies as the main celebrant. We had thirty-four eighth graders and three adults receive the sacrament. I want to congratulate all our confirmandi as they receive the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is a life changing event for them as they are fully initiated into the Catholic Church and begin to explore how God is calling them to serve the Lord, the Church and their neighbor over the course of their lives. Some will be called to be wives and mothers, some will be called to be husbands and fathers, some will (hopefully) be called to be priests, deacons or religious sisters or brothers. It was joyous for me to see their excitement and to see the joy on their faces when Bishop Spies anointed them with the Holy Chrism.

I am overjoyed to let you know that Bishop Spies has assigned a second Deacon to our parish. Deacon Tony Leazzo has been assigned to St. Ann's Parish beginning immediately. He was formerly assigned to Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Aurora. Deacon Tony and his wife Jennifer moved to Channahon during the first week of January. They moved here so that Deacon Tony could pursue a new professional opportunity. He is a medical doctor and is now the Chief Medical Officer at Morris Hospital. While this role keeps him busy, he still has the time and energy to exercise his ministry as a Deacon. Please welcome Deacon Tony and his wife Jennifer to our parish! I'm sure you will have the opportunity to get to know them over the coming weeks, months and years.

I also want to let you know that I have made some staffing and organizational changes in our parish office.

Elaine Colpo-Ward retired last fall. Elaine had worked one day per week helping us with the administration of our Protecting God's Children Program. With her retirement, I decided to hire

Kristina Schrader to both replace Elaine and to take on added responsibilities. You may already know Kristina. She and her husband Brad, along with their children, are members of our parish. Kristina will continue the work that Elaine did with our Protecting God's Children Program, while at the same time, taking on the role of Religious Education Assistant helping Tom with the administration of our Religious Education Program. Please welcome Kristina to our parish office team.

Rosemary Morales' responsibilities have been changed. She is no longer working in our Religious Education Office. I have asked Rosemary to be responsible for managing our outward facing parish communications including our website, Facebook account, Instagram account, social media, email communications, etc. I feel that it is important that we have someone dedicate time to all the different ways we reach out to the community via social media and other communication avenues. She will also manage our facilities, working with our volunteers and with the contractors that we need to bring in from time to time. As our church building, offices and parish hall age, we need someone on-site who can dedicate additional resources each week to the care and maintenance of our building and grounds.

Kim Mitchell, our Business Manager, has decided to retire. I have hired Karen Boyk to be our new Business Manager. You may know Karen. She is a member of our parish as well as one of our Cantors and a member of our choir. Karen is the Business Manager at Immaculate Conception Parish in Morris and was the Business Manager at St. Mary's in Minooka some years ago. Karen's position at Immaculate Conception is full-time because they have a parish school. The position will continue to be part-time at our parish. Karen will be in the office in the evenings, on weekends and for a half-day during normal business hours once per week. She has several years of experience as a parish business manager and is familiar with all the systems, policies, procedures, etc. that are mandated by the Diocese of Joliet. The transition from Kim to Karen is on-going. They will be working together for the near future, which will allow Kim to transition all the parish specific tasks, information, procedures, etc. to Karen.

I want to welcome Deacon Tony, Kristina and Karen to our parish team and thank Rosemary for graciously accepting her new role within our parish staff. I also want to thank Kim for all the hard work, dedication and time she has given to our parish as our Business Manager. She has done an excellent job in managing our parish finances, accounting, payroll, human resources, facilities, etc. for many years. Please join me in congratulating all of them on their new positions.

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.