

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

ONE PARISH FAMILY WITH IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & CHRIST OUR HOPE

August 18, 2024

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that summer is already beginning to wind down. I hope it's been a good one for you. I'd have to say that, with the launching of our new 'family,' it's been a bit of a blur for me. A good blur, but a blur, nonetheless!


One very helpful thing for me has been my bi-weekly check-ins with the Pastoral Associates at Immaculate Conception and Christ Our Hope, Barbara Connor and Deanna Tighe. Both of them are doing a wonderful job overseeing the day-to-day life of their parishes and keeping me informed of important events and issues. I feel very blessed to work with them.

Our Family Leadership Team has also been busy. We have been meeting monthly since May to look ahead, plan, and share ideas. It's a very bright and engaged group with staff from each of the parishes. One thing is certain: there is no shortage of gifted lay leaders in this parish family!

Another helpful and happy thing was the 'Meet Your New Parish Family' event held at the Cathedral on the evening of July 25. There was a fine turnout from both Christ Our Hope and Immaculate, and a great spirit. We enjoyed a meal, prayed together, engaged in some lively table conversation, and finished off the evening with a tour of the Cathedral. **Two more of these events are planned.** The next one will be at Christ Our Hope on the evening of Thursday, August 22, followed by one at Immaculate Conception on Thursday, September 12. I do encourage you to attend and I guarantee you will enjoy it. Not only will you get to meet members of our new family, you will also get a close-up view and hear the stories of those two beautiful churches: one, the oldest in the city; the other, the newest!

And maybe this is a good time for me to remind you that these gatherings are a very intentional way of realizing the goal of the first year of Partners in the Gospel: *"this first year is all about welcoming, encountering one another in Christ, and getting to know one another with open minds at hearts."* As we move through the year, we will be looking for more opportunities to do just that. Then, as we head into years two and three, there will be plenty of time to begin discussions about how we can engage in joint planning and work together in areas like liturgical celebrations, faith formation for children and adults, and outreach ministries and advocacy.

I hope the remaining days of summer will be enjoyable ones. I'm looking forward to joining the Christ Our Hope community for the 9:30am and 7:00pm Masses on August 25, the 14th anniversary of their dedication. An important moment to celebrate!


Father Michael G. Ryan
Pastor