

# ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

ONE PARISH FAMILY WITH IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & CHRIST OUR HOPE

September 29, 2024

Dear Friends,

As I prepare to head out for my annual vacation, I want to give you an update on how things have been going in our parish family. It's been a busy summer and a bit of a whirlwind!

In July, August, and September, many of you participated in one or more of the 'Meet Your New Parish Family' events held at our three parishes. Each evening was a warm and friendly gathering which began with a shared meal and included tours of the church building. As the summer went on, these gatherings kept getting bigger and better! We gathered at the Cathedral on the evening of July 25, Christ Our Hope on August 22, and Immaculate Conception on September 12. As someone commented, our parish family among all the families in the archdiocese is unique in many ways, and one thing is certain: we have the most beautiful churches!

Our Family Leadership Team has also been meeting regularly. We connect monthly to look ahead, plan, and share ideas. I also have bi-weekly check-ins with the Pastoral Associates at Immaculate Conception and Christ Our Hope, Barbara Connor and Deanna Tighe. Both of them continue to do amazing work.

I had the opportunity to celebrate Mass at Immaculate Conception on July 14 and at Christ Our Hope on August 25. Attending the annual Lu' Au at Immaculate Conception on August 26 was a highlight of the summer. I look forward to many more opportunities to join with each community for prayer, celebration, and service in the months and years to come.

One more important event took place on Saturday, September 14, when representatives from all three parishes gathered for a retreat in the Cathedral's Pastoral Outreach Center. This gave us a wonderful opportunity to share our stories of what it means to be a parish community. We explored our experience of encountering Christ and of accompanying one another in our parish communities. One person made an interesting and worthwhile observation: "Let's not always focus on the empty seats, let's focus on the people who are here and the authenticity of what we are doing. Let's lean in to who we are, the unique charisms of each community." Another said: "The partnerships in our parish family are exciting to me. A great opportunity." All in all, it was a hopeful and inspiring morning.

In closing, let me express my gratitude to each one of you for transforming what could have been a rather uncertain and even contentious time into a very hopeful time. I am also grateful to Fathers Pablo, Hersey, Lazzeroni, and Magnano for their priestly ministry in our midst.

With Christ Our Hope always before our eyes, with the Immaculate Mother of God as our model and intercessor, and with St. James, patron of pilgrims, accompanying us on the way, we can't possibly lose. We can only move forward!

  
Father Michael G. Ryan, *Pastor*