

The Ultimate Dominican Pastor's Corner

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! It seems most appropriate that my last Pastor's Corner should be an expression of appreciation.

I was absolutely blown away by the party on June 11. A number of you commented to me that you had never seen a parish party: 1) so well done and 2) so well attended. I can easily believe that! I sincerely hope and pray that it will be the first in a new series of parish gatherings that will help you to know each other better and enjoy one another's company.

Cheers to the Transition Hospitality Team: Sharon Henthorn-Iwane, John Stewart, Mark de Souza, John Storella, Florence Wahl, Michael Walmsley, and honorary member Laura Morland (who did all of the posters, bulletin announcements, and other things I have no clue about), who envisioned and planned it, and the tireless volunteers (you know who you are!) who actually pulled it off. Rave reviews to the "Food Wizards": Sharon, Elizabeth Jacob, Lourdes Guzman, Anna Quach, George Baranowski, and Mary Jo Senica. A strong, manly pat on the back to "MAD Dog" team leader Matt Fettig and his team. And a huge "♥" to tech wizard Lisa Anthony.



Fr. Carl Schlichte, O.P.

A big "Thank you!" also goes out to Fr. David O'Rourke, OP, for preaching at the 11:00 Mass, Bishop John Cummins for representing the Diocese of Oakland at the event, School of the Madeleine Principal Ken Willers for his very educational remarks, Prof. Velma Richmond for her poignant recollections, and Fr. David again for his exhortation during the program in the Parish Hall.

A special shout-out to Oscar! Oscar was there every time I turned around June 9-11. He cleaned the church after the Baccalaureate Mass, after Graduation, after a funeral, and after the 9:00 am Sunday Mass, all the while being available to the folks preparing for The Party. He did it all the way through with his typical smile and efficiency! And he was right back at his regular duties Monday morning....

I don't know how, or if, I am going to be able to thank personally those of you who contributed to the ["Bless the Dominicans" fund](#). As you know, 70% will go to our retirement fund, with the remainder going to Fr. Cassian and me. My portion will go to help with a pilgrimage I will be doing as part of my sabbatical: going to Jerusalem from Tuesday of Holy Week through Easter Thursday with a group of other (non-Dominican) priests. I will carry your needs and petitions with me as an expression of my appreciation of your generosity.

As I conclude my time here, I want to express my gratitude to Ken Willers, Heather Skinner, Joseph Nagel, and the entire staff and faculty of the School of the Madeleine. It was a great joy to collaborate with them as the largest ministry of the parish. I took great comfort in the fact that our parish school works so well in fulfilling its mission. I realize that many a pastor has not had such a luxury. I knew how fortunate I was the day I arrived.

I want to thank Andy Canepa for being a consummate musician and a joy to work with on parish liturgies. He has the rare combination of not only producing beautiful music himself, but also helping guide our paid and volunteer choir members to produce music and singing that support a beautiful and prayerful Mass. Again, I want to thank Oscar and Ana Guillen for their combined 61 years of service to this parish. And I want to thank Carolyn Tune for her important work in consolidating and organizing our parish sacramental records (her office work) and for never missing a Sunday running the Coffee Hour (her volunteer work).

There are two groups of volunteers that most parishes have, who put in many hours of work and are often unsung heroes; that is certainly the case here at St. Mary Magdalen. Those groups are the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council. The Finance Council – Bob Kelleher, Mark Hurley, Ann Flemer, and John Rengel – not only watch over the parish budget, but make sure the parish's priorities and goals are reflected in the budget. The Pastoral Council – Katie Strausser, Ceara Brencic, Vito Fabbrizio, Leo Gaspardone, Monica Grycz, Mary Hurd, Trish Hurley, Dirk Kennedy, and Heather Skinner – provide extra ears to what's really going on in the community and sage advice on direction and priorities for the parish.

I especially want to thank Laura Morland, Pat Broemmel, Cat Nielsen, Fatima Espejo, and all those who have volunteered in the office these last seven months. The parish, Fr. Cassian, and I quite literally could not have carried on without your efforts. You need to know that they worked very hard for you and did a lot of work that you did not directly see, but that will help you move forward with a cleaner, most efficient parish office. You, Fr. Nick, and any staff he hires will be the beneficiaries of their hard work! And I know that Fr. Nick wants volunteers to still be part of the "front office" operation, so stay tuned.

Finally, I want to personally express my gratitude to you. Many of you have supported me by your prayers, kind words, understanding and support: thank you. May God bless you as you begin the next chapter of St. Mary Magdalen's history! Make it one marked with prayerfulness, faithfulness, kindness and generosity.