

The Administrator's Corner

As was announced last week, Bishop Scharfenberger has appointed Father David LeFort to be the Administrator of the Cathedral as well as Vicar General for the Diocese of Albany effective July 1, 2017. Father LeFort is currently the Pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Clinton Heights and also serves the parish of St. John the Evangelist/St. Joseph in Rensselaer. I am sure that you will all welcome Fr. LeFort as he undertakes his ministry here at the Cathedral. He is not a stranger to many of you. On occasion he has filled in for weekend Masses before I was appointed Administrator. Also, he has been here to celebrate weddings. Fr. Lefort will bring a great deal of enthusiasm to his position as Administrator. I believe you will find him to be a tireless worker and a priest committed to those who have been entrusted to his care in this great parish. He will provide stability and continuity for the parish. I am sure that everyone wishes him every blessing and joy in the many years ahead as he provides the leadership that this great parish has come to expect.

At this time I wish to offer my personal gratitude to all of you for your support and affirmation during my nearly two years as the temporary Administrator of the Cathedral Parish. I thank in particular Father Pape who has been a support for me and who received me graciously, accepting the will of our Bishop at the time of my appointment. The recent dedication of the renovated sacristies in honor of Father Pape will always stand as a reminder of the commitment that Father Pape has had not only to the physical fabric of the Cathedral building but, more importantly, to the people who worship in this special sacred space.

The staff of the Cathedral Parish is wonderful. They are hard working, devoted to all of you who come to the Cathedral, and always willing to do whatever is necessary whether it is with a parish program or one of the many times that the Cathedral hosts diocesan or other events. I thank the staff for their loyalty, their collaborative style of work and for being a support to me and to one another. They're the best!

As well, I thank the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Council, and all of those who participate in the various ministries of the parish. They always are

willing to go above and beyond what is the norm in order to respond to the many demands made on the parish simply because it is the Cathedral Parish. Those who volunteer their time and talents so that our parish can truly be the center of worship and fellowship for the Diocese of Albany deserve our respect and gratitude. I assure them that they have mine.

My time as Administrator of the Cathedral has been a special blessing in my life and priesthood. I was ordained in the Cathedral on May 18, 1968 by Bishop Edward Maginn, who was our Auxiliary Bishop and the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Albany. Each time I enter the Cathedral or celebrate Mass here I recall that important day in my life. From the day of my ordination to the present, God has been good to me in countless ways. Being assigned here is one of the many blessings for which I will always be grateful. All of you have been most affirming of my ministry here. I am grateful to you for your cooperation and for your ready response to whatever needed to be done.

One of the strengths of our parish is its diversity. We have parishioners who have worshipped here for generations and those who have come to worship here more recently and who are from a variety of cultures and nations and who speak many languages. That is a wonderful strength that needs to be tapped. Diversity brings a potential for a vibrant worship and parish life. It also has its challenges; challenges that can be translated into new approaches, and a wider evangelizing outreach. Jesus is the cornerstone of the Church, including and especially the Church on the parish level. With that realization, nothing should prevent us from engaging diversity and commending that journey to Jesus who is the Way the Truth and the Life.

I will be with you until the end of June. Father LeFort takes the helm on July 1st. For my remaining weeks here with you I assure you of my prayers, and my efforts to do all in my power to provide for a smooth transition into the future.

God's peace be with you always.

Fr. Farano