

## **Parish leadership [what's in a title?]**

Father Kelly departed Saint Matthew's some weeks ago. [And I can tell you that he is at the Dominican Prior in Denver. He is able to be with his mother, and celebrate Eucharist with her, on a regular basis. He sends his greetings to all.]

The archdiocese has appointed two priests to Saint Matthew's. One of them is the sacramental minister [Fr. Steve Adrian]; the other is the parochial administrator [Fr. Rick Banker]. One way of describing their relationship to the parish community is: a) neither of them has [or wants] any keys; b) neither of them has [or needs] an office; c) neither of them will have 'office hours.' The e-mail address for both Fr. Adrian and Fr. Banker is in the 'parish leadership' list in this bulletin.

A **Sacramental minister** is a priest who celebrates the sacraments including funerals. Father Steve will celebrate weekend Masses, 3 weekday Masses each week, the sacraments of baptism, matrimony, reconciliation, and anointing of the sick and funerals as usual or as needed. There are volunteers who have taken responsibility for opening and closing the church and preparing everything for the celebrations. The faith formation program, led by Janelle Rohr, will continue to prepare children and young people for the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, communion, and confirmation. Others will provide preparation for baptism, matrimony and funerals.

A **parochial administrator** is a priest who has the ultimate canonical responsibility for a parish. Father Rick Banker is the parochial administrator of the Catholic Community of Saint Matthew. It might be helpful to understand the difference between a *pastor* and a *parochial administrator*.

A *pastor* has received such an assignment for a specific number of years from the archbishop; the office of pastor carries responsibility and authority in the local parish. In fact, a pastor cannot be removed by the archbishop without serious cause/reason until his term is complete.

A *parochial administrator* has all the responsibilities and authority of a pastor but has not been given an assignment for a certain number of years. The archbishop may change that priest's assignment even without consultation. [You may remember that Father Kelly was assigned here as a parochial administrator; not as 'pastor.' Currently, most priests are assigned in that manner.]

Father Rick has the full responsibility of St. Edward's in Bloomington; also, he is the parochial administrator of the corporation of Saint Michael. Most of his time and attention will be given to the parish life at St. Edward's. He is in close contact with the two St Matthew's trustees: John DelVecchio and Karen Thompson and with John Riehle, the pastoral administrator. He is available to them whenever needed. Fr. Rick intends to participate in the meetings of St. Matthew's parish leadership on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, as his schedule permits.

**Pastoral administrator** is not a canonically specific title. It is the same title that was used by John Riehle when he worked here before [1996-2001; 2006-2012]. It attempts to describe the responsibilities of leading the life of this parish community on a day to day basis...a "boots on the ground" ministry. It is his responsibility to coordinate the few paid staff and the many volunteers so that Saint Matthew's parish community can continue to be 'a visible expression of God's love;' and 'the good Samaritan on the banks of the Mississippi.'