

THE PASTOR'S POINTS- August 2018

The liturgy has always been a deep love of mine – ever since I was a kid. My parents were very devout, so we went to rosary, litany and benediction every Sunday evening, and we went to mass as a family every day. Before life got so hectic in high school, we prayed the rosary every night after dinner. I admit that I was not ALWAYS enthusiastic about this much devotion! But I grew to love it. After I was ordained, my mother loved to come to celebrate the Triduum (the Three days – Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday) at the parishes I pastored. (My father died after I was home from seminary just a year, so he was unable to share in this). Mom loved being in church every minute of it. I see a big piece of my love for the liturgy coming directly from my parents.

In the other 2 large parishes I've served, we eventually discovered the need for a liturgy person on the staff – someone to help in the training, vision and execution of the weekly liturgies, and also weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. The natural pairing with this position seemed to be the catechumenate (we often call it the RCIA, but it is a RITE (R) for Christian (C) Initiation (I) of Adults (A) (which is the catechumenate for those who are unbaptized). And further we saw this person as one who helped us coordinate adult faith formation.

Some of you may have seen our advertising for such a position here at St. Andrew's. We have selected a candidate, someone I actually hired when I was pastor at All Saints in Hampstead. He is also a permanent deacon, so will bring that gift to our parish as well. We have hired Deacon Rich Mickle, who came to NC from the Archdiocese of Atlanta, where he taught in the permanent diaconate program and was a parish religious education director.

I hope that this move will be beneficial to our parish in many ways, and I ask for your welcome and support as he (and his wife Anna) get their feet on the ground. My prayer is that together this will help us all grow in our prayer life, our welcome of new Catholics, and a deeper appreciation of our Catholic faith.

Thank you for all that you do to build up the kingdom of God in our area.

Father John