



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Growing up, many of us were introduced to interests and hobbies when we were in grade school and high school. For myself, I became interested in photography in high school. I further developed that interest in college, working as a volunteer photographer for the campus newspaper. One of my photographs even found its way into the school yearbook. While I do not spend the time these days further developing this hobby, I still do enjoy taking pictures, framing the shot, and finding joy when the picture delightfully captures the scene or image as I had hoped it would.

Maybe you can remember your interests from days gone by. Maybe some give you delight today, as you share them with family members and friends. There are many resources that offer ongoing education to further develop interest from the past or find new hobbies to explore.

Earlier this spring, John Chapman shared with me that he was looking at retiring from his role of the Director of Music Ministry at St. Mary's. John and I have met over the months, working towards a retirement day. John wanted me to know, "I don't want to leave the parish without a music minister. I will stay on until you find someone." I thanked John for his support and commitment to the parish.

The day of John's retirement is fast approaching, just days away. Officially John retires at the end of this month on September 30. John will be back on the organ bench the next day, at St. Mary's, for a wedding of a parishioner. He will be going out with a festive wedding celebration.

As this weekend is the final weekend for John's full-time ministry at the Church of St. Mary, I thought it only appropriate to share some information about his tenure as a church musician. Following are some facts about John Chapman.



As a child in Evanston, John began his interest in piano and organ, developing his keyboarding skills through high school and college. In Evanston, at St. Athanasius, he began his budding career as a church musician, helping out while he was home from college break. While in college he worked at St. Margaret Mary in Neenah, Wisconsin.

John ministered at a number of parishes along the North Shore including St. Joseph's parish in Libertyville, Our Lady of the Brook in Northbrook, as well as here at St. Mary's the last decade, from where he is now concluding his career as a full-time pastoral musician.

Including the early stages of his career, he has been leading parishioners in celebration of faith for over 55 years. John and his wife are looking forward to their retirement in Gurnee, being able to stay close to their daughter Annie and her husband Philip Lecaroz who were married earlier this year. You are invited to extend your well wishes to John Chapman following Mass this weekend, the last full weekend he will be with us at St. Mary's!

Next weekend we will be welcoming Mr. Marek Rachelski to St. Mary's where he will begin his tenure as the Director of Music and Liturgy. Marek has been serving the parishioners of St. John Brebeuf in Niles prior to coming to St. Mary's. More information will be provided in next week's bulletin about Marek.

This weekend you are able to support the local scouting troops in their Popcorn Sale. Our Scouts are grateful for your support.

Calling all walkers, runners and friends and benefactors of the School of St. Mary. Next Saturday, October 1, you can participate in a 5K walk/run. Follow this link, bit.ly/Crusader5K to register for the event hosted by the Parents' Association of the School of St. Mary.

May God guide and bless us with hearts of charity and concern for our neighbor,

Fr. Mike Vacur