“Staff Recognition Day”

From time to time, someone will ask me, “Father, how can you oversee an entire Parish by yourself? You are the only priest assigned there.”

The answer is of course, “I can’t.”

We often talk about “the priest shortage,” and that we need to pray for vocations, especially to the priesthood. There is no denying that. But one of the great benefits that has arisen out of this “shortage” is the development of lay staff—men and women who assist the Pastor is the oversight of the Parish.

In past generations, there was a great reliance on “Father” to do everything. Since this can no longer be the case, we see lay men and women who are trained with a variety of skills stepping in and performing the tasks that once were reserved for “Father” or “Sister.”

This is a great blessing for our Church as more and more of the laity become directly involved in Her mission and ministry.

This Sunday, August 26, at the 10:30am Mass, we will take a moment to recognize and show a sign of appreciation and support to our St. Thomas More Staff who greatly assist me in “pastoring” this Parish.

After Mass, my sister-in-law, Mary Ratajczak, and her family will be hosting and serving a brunch for our staff at her home. It is meant to be a small token of appreciation and a source of strength as we begin our new Parish year.

Our Staff is extremely skilled, dedicated, and motivated in doing their best for you, the parishioners of St. Thomas More.

I greatly appreciate each and every one of them. They make my ministry here joy-filled with a great sense of satisfaction that together we really are making Jesus present in this corner of the world, for this time, and this place!

Please pray for our Parish Staff on a regular basis!

Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor
Rev. Thomas Thompson, Pastoral Associate
Deacon Tom Goeltz, Deacon
Sr. Maureen Brown, C.S.J., Pastoral Associate
(Bereavement Ministry & Justice Concerns)
Kathleen Bell, Director of Faith Formation
Jeff & Gale Gibbons, High School Youth Ministers
Ron & Louise Briseno, Middle School Youth Ministers
Douglas Lynn, Director of Music & Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries
Kathy Santy, Assistant Music Director
Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development
Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary
Katrina Waggoner, Substitute Receptionist/Secretary
Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance
Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician
Natalie Provinse, Bookkeeper