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Wednesday, March 18, 2020

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton & St. Andrew Family,

As has been mentioned before, you all continue to remain close to our hearts and in our prayers during these trying times. We are incredibly grateful for your patience and understanding as we strive to serve you to the best of our abilities in the midst of these difficult moments.

We do not want to overwhelm you with communications, however, we have more important, albeit extremely difficult, information to share with you.

Yesterday, the Priest Personnel Board met, and both of us (Fr. Cordier and Fr. Chris) were informed that we have been reassigned. Effective July 1, Fr. Cordier will be the pastor of a three parish region in Springfield and Fr. Chris will be on the faculty at the seminary while continuing canon law studies. At this time, we do not know who will be replacing us as your priests, but we should have that information to share with you some time in April.

We are aware that the timing of this news is very hard. In the midst of so much uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus and the activity of our parishes and school, this may feel like an added element of uncertainty. However, we wanted to make you aware of this information before you heard about it from some other source. Please know that we are both very confident that our parish region will continue to thrive, and that our replacements will serve you well.

This is very hard news for both of us to share because we love worshiping, praying, serving, living, and encountering the joy of Christ with you so much. You have all been an incredible gift to both of us, and we will always remain close to you in Jesus Christ.

We are including statements (links below) from both of us individually as well. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to either of us. Know that we love you and will pray for you always, and we ask that you would pray for us too as we approach this time of transition.

Gratefully,
Fr. Michael Cordier and Fr. Chris Geiger

*"The first end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God,
secondly, to do it in the manner He wills it, and thirdly, to do it because it is His will."*

-Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton



Brothers and Sisters,

One year ago, I had the great joy of informing you that I had been asked to stay in Milford for an additional three years while studying Canon Law. Now I am writing to you with a heavy heart to inform you that I have been given a new assignment. Effective July 1, 2020 I will be assigned to the faculty of Mount St. Mary's Seminary while continuing my Canon Law studies. This means that, when I leave for my summer courses in Washington DC at the end of May, I will be leaving my assignment here at St. Andrew and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Milford.

Of course, this day would come eventually, but it is very difficult to face the reality of leaving now. I have loved serving as your priest, and engaging with so many of you pastorally and socially has been one of the great joys in my life. During this past year, I have had to dedicate a great deal of my time to Canon Law studies and this has made me far less available to be with you in the same way that I was during the first three years of this assignment. I am very grateful to all of you for your understanding and patience with me as I have been less available. As much as I would love to have more time to spend with each of you, I feel that it is important to let you know that this new assignment will be even more demanding, thus making any free time I do have extremely limited. I say this to warn you that, as difficult as it will be for me, I will have to be saying "no" to virtually all requests for pastoral guidance, sacraments, and social gatherings. I will have a responsibility and demands of my new assignment, and part of the reality of this is that I will have less available time. I am honored to be on a team that will be forming the next generation of priests, and I want to be able to give this work my full attention just as I have tried to give you my full attention in my years in Milford. I also want to give you the freedom and space to love and welcome the priest who replaces me in the same way that you have loved and welcomed me.

I cannot begin to express the depths of gratitude I feel when I am with you and when I think of you. It has been an incredible honor to serve as your priest. I cannot imagine a better place for me to begin my life as a priest; you have all shown me so much love and support, you have been patient with my short-comings and failures, and you have provided a firm foundation for me in my life given to Jesus Christ and his Church as a priest. I am consoled by the knowledge that we will always be united in Jesus Christ, and especially in Him in the Eucharist at Mass even if we are not physically in the same place. I cannot thank you enough, you will always hold a privileged place in my heart, and know of my prayers for your always. Please keep me in your prayers as well.

Gratefully and Humbly,
Fr. Chris Geiger

March 18, 2020

Dear St. Andrew & St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Family,

Blessings to you and your family.

Yesterday, Archbishop Schnurr appointed me pastor of 3 parishes in Springfield Oh, effective July 1.

Please remember that I was ordained in 2002. I have been pastor of SEAS since 2005, fifteen years, and administrator and pastor of SA since 2015, five years. Believe it or not, I am 63 years old. In less than seven years, I will be 70 years old, retirement age. I have thought and prayed over the past year or two about moving to a new assignment. Over this time, I have felt a desire to move on, to try something new. I don't enjoy change all that much, and maybe you don't either, but I know that it is good and needed at times because it can bring new life to all.

You have been a wonderful family to me, and like a family, we have shared many joys and sorrows. I have felt at home here and I made it my home. It has been an honor and a privilege to be your Pastor, to celebrate the sacraments with you, and to share in the work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our parishioners and community.

But now is the time to move on. I look forward to this new assignment. Please pray for me and I will pray for you. Also please keep Fr. Chris in your prayers as he begins his new duties later this year. I hope that a year from now we will all look back and see God's hand in all of this.

I'm grateful that we still have over three months to pray and work together. Let's make the best of it.

God bless you,
Fr. Michael Cordier
Pastor