

9 October 2018

Dear parishioners:

It's practically a truism of church life – more than anyone else, the parish secretary has an enormous effect on the smooth, vibrant and day-to-day running of a parish. Often, the secretary is the first voice or face for parishioners in need, in grief or in many different personal situations, as well as the first responder to the leaks, breaks and gripes with the physical property and vendors.

For nearly a generation, parishioners here have been blessed experiencing wonderful pastoral care through **Alice Bandelt McLaughlin**. Even as her title morphed from secretary to “operations manager,” and even as the parish itself became Holy Family and the demands more than doubled, Alice was the poised and talented hub around which our activity flourished. From baking cookies for a staff member's family to ratcheting up her Brooklyn accent to deal with a difficult contractor, Alice's skills covered the whole gamut of Holy Family.

As impressively, Alice gracefully weathered the death of her husband Joe in 2010 and encountered her own serious health struggles that sidelined her for parts of 2016-17. She has been blessed with grandchildren and marriage to Bob McLaughlin. No surprise that younger parish team members consider her their “office mom.”

So it is with profound gratitude tinged with sadness that we say “thank you” and “God bless” to Alice upon her retirement this month. We wish her stable health and plenty of memorable time with her family and friends.

We will continue to benefit from Alice's example through the emergence of **Rocio Ramos** as our director of pastoral services. A child of the parish who once even lived on our parish grounds, Rocio shared the main office with Alice for a decade, and is very ready to take this next step in parish leadership. Please turn to Rocio for all the pastoral needs that you previously did for Alice.

Deacon Nelson Torres has a new title -- plant and programming manager -- but he continues to be an invaluable and versatile presence around the campus. Nelson is our “go-to” team member if you spot an issue with our buildings or have an idea for parish programming, along with his many other duties.

With the demands of our finances, buildings, leases and vendors, **Renel Sevilla** is our business and pastoral administrator. In a sense, Renel assumes some of the operations duties from Alice, but is also gifted pastorally and will be seen more frequently in faith formation over time. **Martha Del Rio** contributes offsite as our bookkeeper and secret weapon, bringing a wealth of parish experience to bear on our transactions and policies.

Two college students assist our front-line ministers: **Aracely Xelhua** and **Jennifer Herrera**. Aracely will assist Rocio in the main office, and Jennifer reports to **Bridgette Smith Perez** in the Caritas program, although you are just as likely to see the two students as lectors or servers at our parish Masses.

Let's pray that our whole team continues to “be fervent with the Christian spirit, and, through the tasks they carry out in this present age, may constantly build up your kingdom” (Mass for Laity).

Blessings,

Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Kerrigan, pastor