

Thank You One and All

The following are Father Dan's edited remarks at the end of the Mass of Consecration.

The conversation to renovate the sanctuary began with plans for our 75th Anniversary in 2018. We were able to raise enough to build new parish offices, renovate the Emmaus Center and add an Adoration Chapel, but not enough for sanctuary renovations.

Just prior to the lockdown in March of 2020, a generous benefactor handed Father Dan a six-figure check with the request to place the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle in the middle of the sanctuary. Knowing you just cannot move a tabernacle, Father Dan began his research to renovate the sanctuary, determined how much it would cost, and asked another generous benefactor if they would be interested, and without hesitation, they were. Because of their generosity, we can give greater honor and glory to God with the renovations you see before us. These benefactors have asked to remain anonymous, and Father has respected their wishes. Please join in thanking them for their generosity.

Father Dan is very grateful to our parish ministers and staff. Thank you to our pastoral associate Christine Brandt and those who helped to make this time of transition easier by seeing to the many details; the sacristans who maintained the church sacristy as well as the school chapel sacristy, those who helped set up and take down the temporary altar and tabernacle each week; Noel Slade who was responsible to make sure the church was clean on Saturdays; but most especially Christine's husband Gene Brandt who was Father Dan's right hand man throughout the entire renovation and met with the contractor, the electrician, the sound vendor, the carpet vendor, and me, more times than he could count.

Our SML Church Choir under the direction of Carolyn Cuperwich, hit it out of the park! St. Augustine said singing is praying twice. Today we prayed a hundred times over!

We are grateful to the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Honor Guard who added to today's celebration, as well as the Knights of Columbus who were greeters.

Thank you to Deb Cancelliere and those who provided hospitality in the Emmaus Center immediately following the Mass.

Father Dan then introduced:

- **Julia Khumot, Associate Principal of DCAK-MSA Architecture who were awarded the renovation.**
- **John O'Connor and Jerry O'Connor, who removed the former altars, tabernacle altar and pulpit, and who built the current altar, tabernacle altars and pulpit,**
- **Carlos Perez and his woodwork craftsmen and Anthony Cioffi and his tile craftsmen.**

Father Dan acknowledged the following clergy who were here to celebrate with us.

We are very honored by our principal celebrant and homilist Bishop O'Connell. Father Dan always considered his Bishop to be a spiritual father, but because Bishop O'Connell and he are closer in age, Bishop has been like a big brother and he is very grateful for the support he has given to Father Dan and for the leadership he has provided to our Diocese for these last 11 years and especially these last few years of adversity caused by the pandemic.

Thank you to Father Carlo Calisin and Father Jason Parzynski, our masters of ceremonies and Father Mike Hall, Director of Liturgy, for their assistance at the Mass.

We were blest to welcome home:

- **Monsignor Dubell, who was pastor at SML from 2003-15**
- **Our native son Father Jerome Guld, currently pastor of St. Katherine Drexel in Burlington**
- **Father Jean Felicien of the Haitian apostolate. We are very grateful to him for arranging for the transport of our former altars, tabernacle altar and pulpit to two churches in Haiti. A photo of one of the altars in place at Our Lady of Mercy in Croix Des Bouquets, Haiti. The marble furnishings have been secured by customs due to the civil unrest.**
- **Deacon Rich Lutomski and welcome home Deacon Ken Motylinski**
- **and last but certainly not least, Father Dan's good man Friday, the Boy Wonder, Father Roy!**