

August 10, 2016

Dear friends,

I found out many of you do read the meditation last week. It seems that some of you read Theresa's letter of resignation, and thought it was me resigning until you got to the end of the letter! No, there is much work yet to be done for me and us, and while Theresa will be missed greatly both for the gifts she brings to our ministry and also for her friendship, our work will go on, and I plan to be part of that!

That said, I want to remind us of the work we did late last year and the beginning of this. We shared important experiences associated with St John's in 2015 and then wrote our story based on those narratives. Our story is characterized by rich relationships, hospitality and a sense of belonging to the larger community by our place in the downtown. In looking at our story, we recognized that some things were "missing". We thought we needed better communication, especially with those unable to be in church on a regular basis. We are missing a strong middle and high school program.

How are we doing at improving on the missing parts of our story? We put out a directory of "shut-ins" on a regular basis, with an invitation for you to visit or call, or write them. I hope that is happening. I think it is. We are starting a middle school program in late September together with an Inquirer's Class for newcomers and those withing to be confirmed. I have also been talking with other downtown churches about creating a single middle/senior high program for several of our churches. That is just an idea, and I am hoping it will be responded to positively. We are also developing ideas on how to build and nurture our relationships even more with the downtown people, regardless of who they are, and what they do.

What are you doing to help us live into our story? Both individually and as a member of the parish family? It's our story, and it is our story of living faithfully as God's children in the world. This is faith in action. Stories like this are meant not only to be told, but lived. Let's live ours to the fullest!

Yours in Christ,
Fr David