

Walking with You

The Basilica's prophetic witness

**JOIN US FOR FR. GRIFFITH'S
INSTALLATION WEEKEND**

Saturday, August 13 at 5:00 PM

Installation Mass with
Archbishop Hebda
Reception following Mass

Sunday, August 14

*Receptions following 9:30 and
11:30 AM Mass*

GREETINGS to The Basilica community! I look forward to soon being with you as we walk together in the light of the risen Lord. I want to congratulate Fr. John Bauer on the successes of his pastorate at The Basilica and shepherding well this fine community of faith over the past several years. Fr. Bauer has been exceedingly gracious and helpful as we have prepared for the transition of pastoral leadership, and I know he holds this community very close to his heart.

I have been so impressed with the commitment and talent of parish leaders I have met thus far. They have been a source of inspiration for me as I continue the process of listening and learning, so I can effectively serve The Basilica community as your next pastor. Indeed, I am humbled and honored by Archbishop Hebda's appointment as pastor of The Basilica and look forward to our shared journey of faith.

During the past several years, some of my scholarly work at the St. Thomas law school and pastoral work as a priest, has focused on responding to the harm of clergy abuse and leadership failures through restorative justice. Restorative justice seeks to respond to harm by promoting healing for victim-survivors and accountability for those who have caused harm. In the many conferences I have attended on this important topic over the last several years, the focus often comes back to Church culture.

Many have rightly, and with dismay, pointed to a culture in the Catholic Church which is often too closed and clerical, thus inhibiting light and wisdom. In its place, some leaders, including at the Catholic Leadership Roundtable, have called for



a new Church model of Co-Responsibility, where laity and clergy work and walk together for the good of the Church. As I told a group of conference attendees in San Antonio earlier this spring, this has been the prophetic witness of The Basilica of Saint Mary for more than a quarter century. And, as you all know, this model works!

Thank you for your prophetic witness for the good of the Church. I look forward to walking with you in tandem soon as we follow the path of our savior, Jesus Christ. ✚

— Fr. Daniel Griffith