



Dear Holy Cross Family,

As we reflect on the past year, we rejoice in our ability to regather in church services, fellowship events, and ministry work. We are learning to live in a world changed by the pandemic, including the stops and starts we all have experienced. The same time, we have experienced the joy of seeing old friends and welcoming new ones, including those who met online. The reason Holy Cross means so much to so many is that it is home; a place to not only worship our merciful and loving God, but to do so among “family and friends.” That is a priceless gift!

What gives all of those valuable and enduring relationships even greater significance and meaning is because of the one who first loved us, who incorporates us into his family—that is Jesus Christ. Amidst so much upheaval of the past two years, we can still confidently move forward because we place our hope and trust in the One who will never change, who never fails us or lets us go.

This year’s Annual Giving Campaign theme is, “More than Enough.” I may not have been your priest for very long, but I understand this phrase. I have witnessed firsthand the poverty that plagues the Third World. I know those who have traveled to Guatemala understand what it means to have no stove to cook food on. Poverty is also in our backyard. Through our many ministries we are engaged in our community, both locally and on a diocesan level. The members of Holy Cross give much in time and talent.

Many have asked me, “What drew you to Holy Cross?” My answer is, “The Holy Spirit is here.” This parish embodies the scripture, “For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.” (1 Corinthians, 12:12) We work together to help others and we also help each other! Stacy and I have witnessed this loving welcome in the few short weeks since we arrived in Wilmington.

I am not going to repeat the recent letter from the Stewardship Chair, Doug Fry. Rather, I want to say, “Thank you! Thank you!” Thank you to so many for regularly submitting your pledge throughout this past year. I thank you for prayerfully discerning your pledge commitment for 2023. To those in our parish family who have already submitted your pledge, “Thank you!” I invite those who have not completed the pledge card to step forward and do so in faith. You are all vital and needed members of this parish family.

In this season of giving, may we all recall the innumerable blessings God has bestowed us and this parish. Sunday, November 13th will be our Consecration Sunday of the pledges which will come forward to the altar during the services to be blessed as we offer to God our offering for the upcoming year. In doing so, we live into the statement, “For all things come from You, and from Your own hand we have given to You. (1 Chronicles 29:14)

With Love in Christ,

Rev. Anne Abdy