

“Those who go, stay and those who stay, go.”



Before the 9 AM Mass began on Sunday, October 22, the parish took the opportunity to thank John and Janice Moore for their many years of service to the Cathedral Parish of the Immaculate Conception. John and Janice are moving to Lewes, Delaware to enjoy their “retirement” years together. When I first came to the parish, John introduced himself to me as a retired public school administrator who recently retired and that if there was anything I needed, he would gladly oblige. He made the mistake of telling me that he was very handy.

That October, he was in charge of the parish “Respect Life” efforts compiling a list of “opportunities” for the parishioners to engage in including but not limited to, a letter writing campaign for those on death row. In November, we began a “We Need Mary” yearlong project where we would dedicate various

Sundays and process around the neighborhood praying for peace in our world, nation, city and hearts. John fashioned for this effort a wooden “Peace Cross” which led every procession. The host family took home the cross to pray in a special way for peace.

In December, John hand-carved a very classy easel for us to display various images throughout the year. The first was a framed copy of the Immaculate Conception, one of two in the diocese (the bishop possessing the other). This frame hangs proudly in the back of the Cathedral to the left of the parking lot entrance. Just prior to this celebration, John made a wooden “giving tree” and hung various ornaments for which parishioners bought various presents for children who would have little or nothing for Christmas.



In January, John led the “baby bottle campaign” and parishioners filled them with loose change for an agency that ministers to pregnant and new mothers. The agency was astonished at our donation of over \$2500. That’s a lot of change. It’s also heavy as John can attest.

The cathedral needed to replace curtains that covered the arch openings to the upper sacristy. We received a bid of \$8000 for two gold-painted lattices that would be housed there. John said to me, “Give me \$500 for materials and here’s what I’ll do (showing me his classy design that hangs there now).”

All along, John scheduled the lectors and Eucharistic ministers for the 9 AM Mass. John served as a lector and Janice was an EM. Every other week, John was one of two counters for the weekly collection.

Indeed, John and Janice will be greatly missed. Francis de Sales had a maxim that went like this “Those who go, stay and those who stay, go.” John and Janice leave for a new chapter in their lives but they stay in our hearts, prayers and love. We certainly have enough visible memories of them in the Cathedral. We are confident that as they go, they take a piece of us with them. We hope their framed sketch of the Cathedral keeps us in their hearts and prayers.

