

PASTOR'S COLUMN

“Welcome, Mr. Dennis DiPaolo, Director of Music and Liturgy, the Church of St. Thomas More!”

On Monday, September 1, 2003, Mr. Dennis DiPaolo officially begins his ministry here at the Church of St. Thomas More as Director of Music and Liturgy.



Mr. DiPaolo will oversee both the liturgical aspects of our Faith Community and the music program that is an essential and integral part of the liturgy.

Denny comes to us from Santa Sophia Parish, Spring Valley where he was ministering with me and the Parish Staff for the past nine months. Previous to that position, Denny was at St. Mary Magdalene Parish in San Diego where he had also, as Director of Music and Liturgy, ministered with the Pastor, Msgr. John Dickie, and the Parish Staff, for the past seven years.

It was difficult for Denny to make a decision to leave Santa Sophia having been there only nine months. But, due to Gary DeKler's decision to return to Colorado Springs, I extended an invitation to Denny to come to the Church of St. Thomas More. This invitation was vigorously encouraged and supported by both Fr. Peter McGuine and Gary DeKler.

Denny's "yes" to come to us was based on our very good ministerial relationship that developed over the nine months as we ministered together at Santa Sophia Parish and, most importantly, the very enthusiastic and strong Parish support for the liturgy, and the commitment to music, as an essential element of the liturgy, which he found here at St. Thomas More. The number of people in our Parish Choir must be a Choir Director's dream!

Happily for us and sadly for Santa Sophia Parish, Denny accepted the invitation.

Mr. DiPaolo's extensive background, educationally and experientially, will be a great asset in helping our Parish to continue to celebrate our Faith Life with the high level of commitment and excellence we presently experience.

Denny's first Mass with us will be my formal Installation as Pastor at the 5PM Mass on Saturday, September 6th. I know that all of you will give Denny that warm St. Thomas More embrace and welcome.

A very special "Thank You" to Kathy Santy and all the choir members and instrumentalists who stepped forward and so wonderfully "filled in" during the time of Gary's departure and Denny's arrival. Know that all that you did was very much appreciated by the entire Parish and me!

With Denny leading the way, I know that we will all continue to make beautiful music in praise of and gratitude for our God!

Fr. Mike