

Fr. Thomas



Sr. Maureen



Douglas



Kathy



Chris



Natalie



Lorraine



Katrina

## Pastor's Column

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### "Staff Recognition Day"

From time to time, someone will ask me, "Father, how can you oversee an entire Parish by yourself? You are the only priest assigned there."

The answer is of course, "I can't."

We often talk about "the priest shortage," and that we need to pray for vocations, especially to the priesthood. There is no denying that. But one of the great benefits that has arisen out of this "shortage" is the development of lay staff—men and women who assist the Pastor is the oversight of the Parish.

In past generations, there was a great reliance on "Father" to do everything. Since this can no longer be the case, we see lay men and women who are trained with a variety of skills stepping in and performing the tasks that once were reserved for "Father" or "Sister."

This is a great blessing for our Church as more and more of the laity become directly involved in Her mission and ministry.

This Sunday, August 26, at the 10:30am Mass, we will take a moment to recognize and show a sign of appreciation and support to our St. Thomas More Staff who greatly assist me in "pastoring" this Parish.

After Mass, my sister-in-law, Mary Ratajczak, and her family will be hosting and serving a brunch for our staff at her home. It is meant to be a small token of appreciation and a source of strength as we begin our new Parish year.

Our Staff is extremely skilled, dedicated, and motivated in doing their best for you, the parishioners of St. Thomas More.

I greatly appreciate each and every one of them. They make my ministry here joy-filled with a great sense of satisfaction that together we really are making Jesus present in this corner of the world, for this time, and this place!

Please pray for our Parish Staff on a regular basis!

**Rev. Michael Ratajczak**, Pastor

**Rev. Thomas Thompson**, Pastoral Associate

**Deacon Tom Goeltz**, Deacon

**Sr. Maureen Brown, C.S.J.**, Pastoral Associate  
(Bereavement Ministry & Justice Concerns)

**Kathleen Bell**, Director of Faith Formation

**Jeff & Gale Gibbons**, High School Youth Ministers

**Ron & Louise Briseno**, Middle School Youth Ministers

**Douglas Lynn**, Director of Music &  
Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries

**Kathy Santy**, Assistant Music Director

**Chris Smith**, Director of Stewardship and Development

**Henny Jocelyn**, Receptionist/Secretary

**Katrina Waggoner**, Substitute Receptionist/Secretary

**Joe Garcia**, Director of Maintenance

**Lorraine Doering**, Parish Office Technician

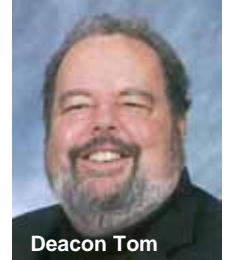
**Natalie Provinse**, Bookkeeper

Fr. Mike



Fr. Mike

Herman



Deacon Tom



Kathleen



Jeff & Gale



Louise & Ron



Henny



Joe