

Chancellor's Report – 63rd Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

My appointment as full-time chancellor occurred only three months ago, therefore, my report to this assembly will be brief. I have spent these months observing the operations of the chancery, travelling to parishes, assisting His Eminence with policy matters, and tending to administrative matters. In many ways, I have employed the approach we hope to see with any member of the clergy in a new assignment: observe as much as you can and be patient. I am eternally indebted to my predecessors, Fr. Paul Jannakos and Fr. John Zdinak, for their tireless labors for the benefit of the diocese and their counsel of me as I begin this new ministry. I look forward to drawing upon their wisdom and experience as long as they offer it.

In discussions prior to my appointment, His Eminence asked me to focus on two areas of diocesan life as chancellor: policy and clergy health.

1. Policy. This area seeks to identify, propose, author, refine, and implement policies and procedures where needed. It also includes revisiting existing policy to suggest necessary revisions. The creation of proper policy offers clarity to diocesan clergy and laity, forms an institutional standard for operations, and assists when transitions in office occur. Lastly, proper policy offers infrastructure to initiatives, ideas, and strategic plans.
2. Clergy Health. This area employs my clinical training as a licensed social worker and psychotherapist to address in a meaningful way the health and wellbeing of our clergy and their families. A major focus of my parish visitations (22 since July 1) is time with the clergy and their families to “check in” regarding their struggles, joys, financial position, and aspirations. These visits also afford me the opportunity to receive unfiltered feedback, which will inform the area of policy creation. For the record: I am not seeking to become the therapist of the diocese or anyone’s spiritual father. Rather, I seek to identify needs rooted in clergy health, advocate on their behalf, and coordinate resources to address needs. Lastly, my conversations with clergy and their families remain 100% confidential, save those items which fall under mandatory reporting.

In closing, I would like to thank our loving Lord for this Cross. May He always keep me humble and focused on His will for us. I would like to thank His Eminence for his trust in me as chancellor. Through the intercessions of St. Herman of Alaska, I can only pray to support His Eminence faithfully in *his* ministry as our shepherd and spiritual father. Many thanks to the district deans for their wisdom, experience, and commitment to the healthy life of the diocese. I am thankful to my wife Jessica, and children Andrew, Ella, and Nathaniel for their love and support through this transition. Please keep them in your prayers. Last, but not least, I want to thank my dear brother, Fr. Esteban, for his unwavering love, support, wisdom, and guidance. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his faithful service as vice-chancellor and tireless management of the chancery office. I ask your prayers and forgiveness.

With Love in Christ, Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor