

Richard Lawson:

Good morning, I'm Richard Lawson, Dean of Saint John's Cathedral and it is a joy and quite humbling to welcome you to the 160th annual meeting of Saint John's. Before we go about our business, let us pray.

Almighty and ever Living GOD, source of all wisdom and understanding. Teach us in all things to seek your honor and glory. By your Holy Spirit open the hearts and minds of the people of Saint John's, as we earnestly ask your guidance in choosing our Vestry leaders. In all things, grant us the courage to pursue your will in our ministries and the grace to accomplish it. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns one God forever, amen.

Congregation:

Amen.

Leigh Grinstead:

Good morning, everyone my name is Leigh Grinstead, and I'm the Senior Warden here at Saint John's. I want to thank you all for joining me here today for an important piece of business in the annual life of our Cathedral community. To let you know based on the number of ballots that have been submitted electronically for the election of the new Vestry class, we do have a quorum today. So, my thanks to all of you who voted in advance.

For the record, this meeting is being recorded and a transcript is also being generated. A copy of the recording and the transcript will be sent to everyone after the meeting is concluded. I've asked Shirley Traettino and Helen Richards to be members of the teller committee today. They'll be counting ballots for the election of new Vestry members. So, thanks to both of you.

As for the minutes from last year's annual meeting held on January 26th, 2020. It occurred to us while planning this meeting that it might prove difficult given the current circumstances to receive both a motion and a second and to get the votes needed to pass the minutes in a timely fashion. So, I asked the Vestry for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes from last year's annual meeting via email earlier this week.

That motion passed. We're also asking the congregation to vote on those and we've posted the minutes on our website for comment until the end of February. Information about how to view the annual minutes from last year and how to submit any changes have been shared in the Cathedral Voice. So, take a look at Friday's edition and I believe information on access should also be appearing on your screen even as I speak.

And now I want to move on to Vestry elections. At this time pre-voting for Vestry members has concluded. However, there is still time; there is still I should say, three ways to vote if you have not already. There's a new link for online voting that's available on your screen, sjcathedral.org/vote. Which has all the bios and the electronic ballot. You may also email your vote to Vestry@sjcathedral.org.

And for those of you who are not as comfortable or would prefer to call in a vote, you may also call 303-577-7727 and leave a voicemail for our tellers. And that number can accommodate up to five calls at once. So, if there's a busy signal, try again. It's important to note that voting will conclude at 9:30 AM Mountain Time. So that's our cut off.

I'd like to thank all the nominees for their willingness to stand in the Vestry election. Roger Hara, William McMechen, Greg Movesian, Robin Paulson, Rebecca Richardson, Lura Steele and Mark Wherry.

And I also want to thank the outgoing Vestry class for their time commitment. And in a year of extreme uncertainty, their continued faith. David Rote, Brian Harris, Robin Paulson and Mark Wari cared deeply for this place. And I thank you for all your work over the past several years and your continued service to this cathedral community.

I also want to recognize the rest of the Vestry who've served with me over this past year. The patience and kindness, creativity and strength and faith of this body is truly inspiring. If you're unsure who serves on the Vestry, please remember, we are your elected representatives. And our new beautifully designed website has photos so you can put faces to names. Visit sjcathedral.org/Vestry. And please don't hesitate to reach out and let us know if there's something that you think we need to know or an area of concern. And with that, I'd like to turn it over to Dr. Boney, thank you.

Michael Boney:

Good morning, my name is Michael Boney, I'm director of music here at Saint John's Cathedral. The past 10 months have certainly been challenging. And for those of us in music ministry, it's been particularly challenging. Trying to continue our tradition of great music and liturgy, we've all learned one size does not fit all. However, I am pleased to say that music continues at Saint John's Cathedral.

Last fall, I was able to secure vocal coaches from our vicars choral, to keep our choristers engaged in music making. This was well received and we plan to continue that for the spring. The cathedral choir meets for social time, once or twice per month just to check in on one another.

Most recently, we've installed new audio-visual equipment. Joseph and I have been working diligently with our audio technician to create a live stream which captures the sound of the cathedral as if you were sitting in the congregation. None of this has been easy, but we have learned a great deal about sound, more than I ever desired to know.

I wish to thank the clergy, Vestry staff and all of you for your continued support and prayers as we navigate this difficult time. I continue to be hopeful of a return to in-person worship when we can lift every voice and sing to the glory of God. Thank you.

Tom Barbour:

Good morning, everybody, my name is Tom Barbour, and it's my honor to serve as the Treasurer of Saint John's Cathedral. The year 2020 gave us more reason than ever to reflect, realign and react than perhaps ever before. In a year of profound uncertainty, our pledge income remained steady, not by happenstance, but by the act of commitment of so many of our faithful members.

On behalf of the finance committee, a heartfelt thanks to everyone who was able to maintain your pledged commitment to Saint John's, and our hearts are full of compassion and understanding for those whose commitment had to be altered by the effects of the pandemic.

Cathedral leadership had to respond to the same pressure many of us felt in our personal lives reducing expenses, resulting in our operating budget last year ending in a surplus. While this unplanned surplus is welcomed good news, it has been one step in a longer journey through more uncertain times on a path to financial sustainability.

The 2020 operating budget was balanced through the use of one-time lease income. While this income balanced the budget, it highlights the true deficit gap in our recurring revenues and expenses. The erosion of key recurring revenues such as non-pledged giving and offertory plate receipts were substantially offset by the wise use of operational expenses, resulting in approximate 10% reduction from the planned record.

The resulting projection for 2020 is a pre-audit surplus of approximately \$31,000. This achievement is a testimony to both the consistency of our pledge income and to the agile and wise administrative staff of Saint John's Cathedral.

The national challenges of 2020 resulted in Congress passing the Cares Act in late March to help support small businesses. Saint John's in concert with the Diocese of Colorado and many other parishes applied for a loan under the Paycheck Protection Program part of the bill. The loan helped ensure continued employment for employees of the cathedral. And later in the year consistent with the bill's provisions, the loan was forgiven and converted to a grant. These funds will help balance our budget in 2021.

Effective with the 2020 budget, the annual endowment drop percentage of fund operations was reduced by 1/4%. The fact that the endowment grew in 2020 by approximately 12%, coupled to the fact that we reduced our draw by a 1/4%, both in 2020 and 2021 greatly helps Saint John's to remain stable, as more than 1/3rd of our annual operations is funded by the endowment.

As described by our investment committee leadership, Saint John's discipline with regular rebalancing coupled with a consistent strategy is one way to help pave the way to a secure future. After four years of careful stewardship, the 2017 capital repairs drive is now depleted. Some of the final projects from those funds in the past year included repair of the cathedral sidewalks, installation of ADA ramps and chapel lighting to name a few.

While the cathedral campus has seen dramatic improvements in the last few years, the need continues to save money so that we can make critical investments in our buildings and grounds. Accordingly, in 2020, the Vestry approved moving approximately \$500,000 of unencumbered cash to be used solely for unplanned capital needs on the buildings and grounds. One goal in 2021 would be to create recurring savings for building needs.

Once again, our 2020 external audit passed with only one recurring qualification on the depreciation of property and equipment consistent with churches. This highly successful audit is a testament to the professionalism of the administrative staff and the experience of the audit committee, led by Chuck Thompson.

In a year filled with surprise, uncertainty and changes previously unimaginable, we close the books in sound financial shape due to the continued gifts of time, treasure and talent from our community. Thanks to this incredible community, it is possible to imagine that we'll be able to navigate our way through 2021 and find our path to future sustainability.

Audrey Chapman:

Thank you, Tom. Hi, I'm Audrey Chapman, the director of operations here at Saint John's Cathedral and it is wonderful to be with you all and with you all in this way. Before I start to tell you about buildings and grounds, I'd like to just acknowledge the amazing work of all of our staff in what Tom was talking about, reducing expenses.

And I'd really like to just highlight two staff people that are such huge support for me; thank you to Georgie Brooks Myrtle, our cathedral administrator and Kris Jenkins, our staff accountant, both of whom are incredibly dedicated and work incredibly hard. As I talk about buildings and grounds, I'd also like to thank the arts and architecture committee and Mike Baksa.

Working closely with Richard and the Arts and Architecture committee on buildings and grounds projects and overseeing facilities are about a 1/3 to a 1/4 of my job. As a side note, it's a really fun part of my job because my background is in art and design.

For 2020, I'd like to look back and highlight four major completions of renovations or beginning and completion of renovations that I helped with. The first is the completion of the music basement, including the addition of sprinklers and acoustic ceiling tile in the choir room.

The second is that, with the leadership of Canon Precentor Broderick Greer, Saint Martin's Chapel now has a completely new lighting system. Meaning that you can now read in Saint Martin's Chapel and sing and just see the beautiful art and architecture in that room.

Number three was the construction of new or repairs to all the sidewalks on the 14th, Washington, and Clarkson sides of your block. And number four: In 2020, Saint John's gained a small new ramp off the parking lot by which anyone in a wheelchair or with a walker can much more easily and safely get up and into the Welcome Center, and two new ADA ramps, both on the Clarkson side, neither of which you've ever had. The first ramp leads directly into Saint Martin's Chapel. The second ramp leads directly into the foyer that

leads into Dagwell Hall. I am elated about the accessibility these ramps will provide so that all users can fully enjoy those gorgeous spaces.

While the buildings and grounds projects are interesting, needed, and large, I should also briefly highlight the other 1/2 to a 1/3rd of my job at Saint John's, which is both organizational and financial. In this role, I enjoy supporting and working with the Vestry, the Finance Committee, the Audit Committees, Stewardship, Arts and Architecture, and the Grants committees.

And while I wish I had time to highlight the wonderful contributions of every member of all of those committees, I do have limited time, so I'll highlight just one. Please take the time to look at this annual meeting booklet and read the report from Carolyn Daniels on the excellent and critical work of the Grants Committee, whom the Vestry and you have asked to discern what nonprofits Saint John's funds with 5% of your pledge and plate gifts which they grant to organizations that are addressing critical needs in the community.

Finally, I am equally delighted with the relationship I've built with our pledgers. It is amazing and uplifting that in 2020 pledge fulfillment was 3.5% higher than what was pledged. Meaning that in a year that for some of our members, amongst other hardships was financially hard, those that could overpaid their pledges. Thank you all for your gifts to Saint John's Cathedral and thank you for your trust in me and the staff.

Katie Pearson:

I'm Katie Pearson, Canon pastor here at Saint John's Cathedral. And it is so good to be here with you this morning in this new normal of what being together looks like. We've all entered into a love hate relationship with technology, haven't we?

Disappointed by the poor facsimile of in-person connection, and yet grateful for what Zoom and live streaming do allow. Oh, how we miss you all. Pastoral care at Saint John's is happening my friends. All of our caring ministries have continued, eucharistic and pastoral visitors, parishioner adoptions, cards acknowledging sacramental rites and various anniversaries. Spiritual direction, the stargazers and more have continued. Folks are checking on our most isolated and vulnerable with compassionate dedication. What can no longer be done in person is accomplished over the phone, by mail and even by Zoom. I am so grateful.

Because there are no longer opportunities to check in at the door after service, or over coffee in Dagwell Hall. We held two massive calling campaigns in 2020, where over 40 volunteers called close to 500 of their fellow parishioners asking questions like, "How are you holding up in these strange days? How can Saint John's be praying for you? Would you like a clergy or staff member to be in touch with you?"

The first was completed in June and the second in December when we checked on folks and made sure they knew about our holiday offerings. Additionally, our callers alerted folks to our fabulous new website and asked if the information in our database was up to date. It is no exaggeration to say that we collected close to 1,000 pieces of updated information. Addresses, phone numbers, birthdays, many of us have moved away from landlines and now use cell phones only. I'm grateful to all who called and all of you who answered. If we missed you in these calls, please reach out to me. Thank you.

Broderick Greer:

I'm Broderick Greer, Canon for worship and liturgy and young adults here at Saint John's Cathedral. And it is the joy of my life to serve on this staff and to serve with our Dean and with Canon Katie.

A couple of millennia ago, the church decided that Christ's nature is dual. If the Creed's were being written today, we would say that Christ's nature is hybrid, that He is both divine and human. And those natures are intertwined in a way that cannot quite be parsed out. And one of the learnings of our staff and of our lay people during this pandemic is the fact that we as a Cathedral Church must be hybrid as well.

We're both an in-person community as we have experienced over the last 160 years of Saint John's existence, and in the last year, we have learned that we are also a digital or virtual community. And part of living into

our hybrid nature as a digital and in-person cathedral is our new AV system here in the church. And this AV system allows those of you who are not able to join us in person to experience our beautiful liturgies and music at home.

I spoke with one of you over the phone actually two Sundays ago; it's a family who lives in Arizona part of the year and if it were not for the pandemic, they would be with us in person here in Denver part of the year. This person was deeply concerned and rightfully so that we not give up on our hybrid nature once the pandemic is over.

She wisely shared with me that we have many people scattered throughout this country and throughout the world honestly, who call Saint John's Cathedral home and want to be a part of our community, even if they cannot physically be with us. This AV system, our digital Dean's forums, our digital Bible studies, our digital small groups and book studies and podcasts, et cetera, enable a seamless integration of in-person and digital community.

I am so grateful to Evans Ousley, our communications director who enables this so masterfully. I'm also grateful to Emily Smith, our Sacristan who assists Evans in video switching, our whole AV team and all of those who we will work with in the future to enable us like Christ to live into our hybrid nature. Thank you.

Emily Smith:

Good morning, my name is Emily and I'm the Sacristan here at Saint John's. When my friends ask, "So what exactly does a Sacristan do?" I usually answer with, "I get to work with families and individuals during the most holy parts of their Christian lives. I manage All Souls Walk, our columbarium and I oversee our funeral and burial services, baptisms, weddings and membership transfers."

In 2020, we held 40 burial services outside on All Souls Walk. When it comes to burial and funeral services, I am the first point of contact a family makes when a loved one has passed away. Then I work with our clergy, worship coordinator, music department, cathedral administrator and facility staff to coordinate with the family the details for the service and set dates on our calendars.

I'm also available to work with members interested in reserving a crypt on All Souls Walk or who are interested in making funeral pre-planning arrangements. I'm also the first point of contact for liturgies like weddings and baptisms. In 2020, our priests married four couples, one couple was married here in the cathedral and three others were married off site given our global pandemic.

Finally, in 2020, we baptized 29 babies, children and adults. The majority of these baptisms happened outside, one family at a time, with masks and physical distancing of course. Baptisms have been lovely and in the midst of such strange times, it was truly such a joy to celebrate the beginning of a beautiful life in Christ with our newest members of this church.

As Saint John's Sacristan, I manage our membership database Realm, as it's connected to record keeping of Holy Sacraments. In addition to housing the sacrament information, Realm is how we as staff stay connected to you and how you can stay connected to one another. It's important to keep your contact information up to date, whether you have moved or recently changed your phone number or email address. You can update your contact information by logging into your Realm profile or by contacting me directly.

Well, it's certainly been a very unique year. I am so grateful to walk alongside our people in these Holy Sacraments. If you have questions regarding baptisms, weddings, funerals or burials, All Souls Walk or membership, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Leigh Grinstead:

Thank you, Emily. Again, I'd like to thank everyone who has been willing to stand for election this year and for those of you who may not have been elected. As you know, there are many wonderful opportunities for service here and it's more than likely I will be calling on you directly so you're not really off the hook.

Our tellers have let me know that the newly elected Vestry members are Roger Hara, William McMechen, Greg Movesian and Rebecca Richardson. So, congratulations. "All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well".

Many of you I'm sure know that Julian of Norwich, medieval mystic who was born in England somewhere around 1342 wrote those words, and I found great comfort in them for many years. And this past year, I found myself returning to her words time and time again. I'm here to tell you with confidence, that the leadership, the finances and the building and grounds, all are well. But this year, as we've heard, and as we all know, has not been simple.

None of us has walked through the shadow of this past year without some degree of pain, and grief, and frustration and fear. I also know that for many of us, this has been a time of personal and spiritual growth, a chance to reflect on where God might be calling you or challenging you. Challenging us as a community to work together to fulfill our baptismal covenant in this community and in the larger world.

The pandemic has really pushed the cathedral to lean into innovation on multiple fronts and it's created an opportunity for Saint John's to get up to speed in our hyper connected world. And as Broderick talked about, it's offered us a chance to make some investments that I believe are really smart and strategic.

In the future, we're going to be able to function both in-person and online at the same time. And as Broderick said, in a hybrid way, right? I truly believe too, that our world will continue to want and need a hybrid way of doing business and sustaining community as we move ahead. Technology has limitations as Katie points to, no doubt. But our streaming services and adaptation of new ways of operating also allow us to embrace both ways of being.

I'd like to recognize also that there may be some joy for those who may not be able to come to church physically, either for distance or for some other reason. And there may be joy for some who want to attend in their pajamas and have breakfast together instead of coming down to the church. And we now offer that option.

It hasn't just been the technology as Emily pointed out, we've had other creative experiments this year. The partnership with Rocky Mountain PBS, and the Carols at that the cathedral service at Christmas was spectacular. And as possible, we've been opening up to services on the grounds, which required flexibility and creativity and the staff has really done a magnificent job.

And I wouldn't be doing my job as the Senior Warden if I didn't also talk about as Audrey did, the impact of your pledges and gifts. You should know that 20% of pledge and plate revenues are given to smaller and more vulnerable communities. 15% of those go to the office of the bishop and 5% directly to grantees. And that commitment of making 5% available to the grants committee has just been made by the Vestry again for their 2021 budget.

And a season of austerity and with a five-year financial plan that we follow carefully, and that this is a spiritual norm says a lot about the heart of this place. I too urge you to take a moment to read the report written by Carolyn Daniels which focuses on the impact that these grants have indirectly supporting our neighbors and their needs. It's powerful, and I'm so grateful to the grants committee for their work.

In closing, I will say that I am humbled and eternally grateful that you've allowed me to serve you this past year and I look forward to continuing our work. The actions, the spirit, and the blessing of all of you my fellow parishioners, Vestry members, those past, present and those future. The staff and the clergy make this cathedral a house of prayer for all people. I hope that some of you can find comfort as I have in the words of mother Julian that, "All will be well and all manner of things shall be well." Thank you.

Evans Ousley:

Hi, I'm Evans Ousley, Director of Communications and the face behind the Cathedral Voice newsletter emails or Facebook and Instagram posts and a handful of other communications outlets here at the cathedral.

2020 was a big year for us in a variety of ways, but especially in producing online content and maintaining connection and community despite a global pandemic as everyone has said before me. We quickly brought services to an online platform as pre-recorded videos and recently transition to live streaming with the new AV system that both Michael and Broderick mentioned.

We can't begin to explain how excited we are to be worshipping in real time with all of you at home. This new format allows us to also host our services on Facebook, which is incredible. As we get more comfortable with this new platform, I really want to encourage you to engage with us, either by posting a comment with a prayer request during the prayers of the people, offering the peace to all those worshipping along with you from their own homes or even letting us know who you're worshipping with at home; your family, your neighbor, whoever is sitting with you on Sunday mornings.

In so many ways, this platform allows us to be more connected. And while I know many Episcopalians like to stay anonymous in the pews, I really encourage you to be vocal in the comments and create that connection and community in worship that we've all been missing. You might just end up reconnecting with the person who shared a pew with every Sunday morning and I've been thinking about when you really miss the feeling of being in the cathedral for worship.

This active online engagement doesn't and shouldn't end with our worship services though. Since the beginning of our pandemic, our following on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube has grown immensely. If you aren't following us, you can easily find links to our social accounts on the second page of the annual meeting booklet. And if you don't know where that is, go to sjcathedral.org. It's right on the homepage.

Our content on these platforms has grown significantly, from live Dean's forums to prayers for each other, our country, and the world, from photos of the baptisms that have continued to take place as Emily mentioned, to news at what's going on at the cathedral. Social media is such an important part of evangelism and community. So, the more likes, comments and shares we get, the more people we are reaching.

Sharing a post is the most effective way to do this. And I know that we sometimes cringe at the word evangelism, but it's such an important part of our work as the church. And it's been made so easy with social media platforms. Simply sharing a forum video that you're particularly interested in or a prayer that moved you shows your own Facebook and Instagram friends what Saint John's cathedral is all about.

And now that we have the infrastructure and knowledge to host so many online opportunities, it means that even your aunt or your old neighbor who lives across the country or even families who only live here a part of the time, as Canon Broderick mentioned, can now be active members of our community and can find ways to connect with people in a way they may not have been able to otherwise given the pandemic's restrictions.

If nothing I'm saying makes any sense to your liking, commenting, or sharing, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with some questions. Or better yet, connect with that old pew mate of yours and ask for help. We're always eager to assist people in exploring our online opportunities and staying in touch.

If social media isn't your thing, I have news for you too. We launched a new website in the middle of the pandemic as Katie mentioned. This new site is amazing for so many reasons, but one of them is that it makes it easy for those without Facebook or Instagram to stay connected with us.

Our services are always on our homepage, so you never have to log into YouTube, if that feels too complicated for worship. We also have an amazing calendar feature on the site. If you scroll to the bottom of the homepage, you'll see upcoming events at the cathedral, Wednesday night formation opportunities, small lay led group meetings, link to evening prayer just to name a few.

Each event also has its own page on the website. So, if you click on the event you're interested in, you can read more about it, get the link to join and even add it to your Apple or Google Calendar. If that's not enticing enough, just go to sjcathedral.org and explore the new site. Who knows? you might find a photo of yourself. This site is now an incredible first touchstone for visitors and newcomers because it shows from the very first page who we are, what we value and what it's like to be a part of our community.

We're so thankful for each of you. And our success in continuing to grow our community in the middle of a pandemic is because of each of you. Thank you for your support and your trust. If you ever have any questions or comments related to communications, please send me an email. I always love to get to know more of you in our community and make our communications more effective and accessible for all.

Richard Lawson:

Thank you, Evans Ousley, for that outstanding report and for everyone's reports. For questions and answers, I will share what we received this week. Tom Stoever asked a question, which is, "What will be done with the surplus and can some of or all of it be added to the grants program?" A good question from Tom. Our other Tom, Tom Barbour, our Treasurer did say it's a pre-audited surplus that will become finalized, we hope, by early summer by the auditor and the audit committee.

This question and I'll answer by saying in theory, yes. Of course, the surplus could be used in that way, but it's an important reminder for me to highlight how financial decisions are made at the cathedral. Most importantly, the Vestry, whom you've just elected are literally authorized in the Canons of the church to make all financial decisions as a part of their authority and responsibility. Symbolically, that's very important. It means that the lay people discern the will of God for our finances and for our building and grounds. So, Mr. Stoever, I would suggest that if you want to pursue that you would make that suggestion to the Senior Warden or to the Treasurer, both of whom are on the finance committee and they would, if they agree and finance agrees, take it then to the Vestry for authorization.

Mary Welker-Haddock asked if we could explain why in 2020, the endowment grew almost twice the Dow Jones market average. The short answer to that question is the clergy have nothing to do with the endowment or the policy. The endowment is overseen by another group of lay people whom Audrey Chapman mentioned, and Audrey is the liaison to this committee. It's the investment committee that's overseen by Will Nicholson, a member of the parish.

We gave this question to Will, and he pointed out really one thing that he wants everyone to understand. And that is that the investment policy of the cathedral is designed to remove emotion from the process and its intent is for a conservative sustained growth in the future.

I'll also add to Will's words that it just so happened that the rebalancing of the endowment on the eve of the pandemic that Mary mentioned, proved timely and favorable. And on top of that, and perhaps most importantly, the cathedral in 2020 received about \$500,000 in bequests that went into the endowment.

It's an important reminder. Pledges, as we all know, are the most important source of income for the cathedral. They're the people's annual gifts. The endowment is also very important and if you have the desire and the ability to include Saint John's in your will and make a state gift, we would be most grateful for that. And you would be standing on the shoulders of people who've done that for generations. And if you would like to have a conversation about that, please see me or Audrey Chapman.

Mary Welker-Haddock also asked, "In the 2021 operating budget, what category of the budget contains the 15% that goes to the Episcopal Church in Colorado." That category in the budget is called worship and ministry. That category is under *Outreach*.

John Lake asked not a question, but he gave us a comment. John wants us to know and highlight for the parish that, "Harold and I," these are John's words, "Harold and I want to convey to Dr. Michael Boney and Mr. Joseph O'Berry our appreciation for the wonderful music. It's been a balm to our souls during these stressful times. It's so calming to hum those familiar hymns all the following week. Thank you." Amen John.

I also want to share a comment from Kathy Carfrae who's the Director of Housing at the Saint Francis Apartments at Cathedral Square. Kathy writes, "I will always remember January the 16th, 2018, the day the Saint Francis apartments opened, three years ago, and the first residents arrived. It was a snowy, cold day and it was such a sense of excitement, amazement and relief. And there were some tears shed by me primarily. Here we are three years later," Kathy writes, "with 33 of the original 50 residents still at the Saint Francis apartments, there are still approximately 50 residents housed there; three years later." Kathy adds, "Along the way, there have been 10 resident deaths, four residents who moved to better housing options for their families and two residents who moved into skilled nursing facilities. And while they moved out, many more moved in, people who had experienced homelessness on the streets of Denver and are now a part of that community and make their home at Saint Francis Apartments with the original 33. Please join me, Kathy asked, in remembering and celebrating this special community. It took a village to get here." Thanks for being a part of ours with gratitude and peace, Kathy Carfrae, Director of Housing."

Lastly, my report will be the homily at our 10:00 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist with spiritual communion. That service begins on our website, sjcathedral.org. Please join us. And finally, as we prayed in our opening prayer, may God bless all of the plans we've made for this new year and give us the grace to accomplish them. Thank you.