



The Cathedral Church
of Saint Paul
A House of Prayer for All

*Episcopal Diocese
of Massachusetts*
The Very Reverend
Amy McCreath, Dean

February 4, 2019

Dear All,

My heart is full to overflowing. After a decade serving MANNA and the Cathedral, I am writing now to let you know that I will be leaving my work here on March 4th. My time here has been life-changing, grace-filled, and just plain extraordinary. I am deeply grateful for it all, and for you and the support you have offered us all as MANNA has grown from a dream to a flourishing Cathedral ministry. This decision has come neither quickly nor easily, and I still sometimes worry whether I'll again find a community as rich and patient and loving and generous as the one which has surrounded me here. Over time, however, and increasingly deeply as I sit in prayer, it has come to feel right that I answer another call I've long held in my heart.

In many ways the work I plan to move into will not be that different from that which has so deeply shaped me here. I will continue to cross and re-cross divisions and walls of all kinds, though this time internationally as I seek to serve immigrants and refugees in Mexico and Central America. I do not yet know exactly how this ministry will make itself manifest, but the wise people of MANNA long ago taught me that this is for the best. I will learn as I spend time with, listen to, and learn from refugees and immigrants themselves. In this way, I trust, I will discover what is needed and what is not; what will be helpful and what will not; and what, most deeply, will lead to life, hope, resilience and joy for us all...

Of course, I would never leave MANNA if I weren't entirely certain that the community was in the best hands possible. Our Cathedral Dean, The Very Rev. Amy McCreath, is a wonderful leader, teacher, and friend -- and her robust and unwavering support for MANNA has been made manifest almost daily since she arrived. In addition, I am grateful to be able to announce that my dear friend and long-time partner in ministry, The Rev. Jennifer McCracken, has agreed to take over as priest to the community. Jennifer is -- as many of you already know -- abundantly qualified for this role, and I am grateful beyond words that she has said yes. Led by her, upheld by the power and grace of the people of MANNA, and supported by the faithful and love-packed presence of James Parker, Libby Gatti, Kevin Neil, Eva Ortez and the rest of our pastoral team, there is nothing the community will not be able to do - or be - moving forward.

Please pray for me as I embark on a new path of ministry -- and for all the people of MANNA who have taught me more than I can say here, and to whom I owe so much.

With love,

Tina

The Rev. Canon Cristina Rathbone
Canon Missioner, The Cathedral Church of St. Paul

Oh and PS: Please come help us all celebrate one another on Sunday March 3rd at 4:00PM! RSVP to Kevin Vetiack at Kvetiack@diomass.org