Rector's Note
10.29.26

I had a good week of rest, reflection, and meeting new friends this past week at CREDO clergy conference at Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond, Virginia. We heard lectures on clergy wellness, and were put into small groups to reflect on our core values and support each other in our vocation. We got consultation on vocational, spiritual and financial questions, and were given silent time to revise our rules of life.

A rule of life is something anyone can develop and use. It can be a touchstone and guide as we move through all that comes at us in our daily life. In the secular world a plan like this might be called a wellness plan. It includes daily practices, monthly or yearly practices, and even long-term goals. What makes it a *rule* is that the practices all serve not just as a personal improvement recipe but as a way to live and grow in relationship with God. A rule of life keeps us healthy and whole, in good relationship with our family and those we serve, by putting God at the center of all of it.

On Tuesday I returned to all the exciting and lovely activity that is St Martin's. Thanks to Noor and Audrey Reid, we had a festive and fun youth Halloween party on Wednesday with pumpkin painting. The incredibly creative Eleanor Sponsler made the perfect St Martin's goose with one of the gourds!

This will be a big Sunday for us. It is All Saints' Day in the morning, and All Souls in the evening. We will have our Altar of Remembrance, listing the names of those who have died in the past year in our bulletin and reading them in the evening service. We will have a reception in the Columbarium to commune with the saints there.

At our Sunday 10:30 service, we will have a baptism! There will be a special Consecration Sunday announcement. And it will be the first day for The Rev. Shanna Hawks, our new Associate Rector for Children, Youth and Families!

Phew! It's a lot, in the most wonderful way.

There is still time to bring in photos, items of remembrance, or names printed on a card to add to the side altar in the church. You can even add things during any of the services on Sunday.

I'll leave you with a prayer we used at CREDO conference. It is great to be home again!

Mary+

CREDO Prayer

Holy God, be in my mind, that I might let go of all that diminishes the movement of Your Spirit within me.

Discerning God, be in my eyes, that I might see You in the midst of all the busyness that fills my life.

Loving God, be in my heart, that I can be open to those I love, to those with whom I share my ministry and to the whole human family.

Gracious God, be in that grace-filled silence that lies deep within me, that I might live in Christ as Christ lives in me.

Amen. *(The Rev. James C. Fenhagen)*