Dear St. Bernadette and Christ the King communities,

I am humbled to announce that I have accepted a position working for the Office of Family, Youth, and Young Adult Ministry for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. I will begin that role on June 27, but I am thrilled to share that I will remain (along with my family) a part of the St. Bernadette/Christ the King community despite my change in employment!

Ever since I interviewed for the Coordinator of Youth Ministry position with Ann McDonald in 2012, St. Bernadette Parish has felt like home. I have been blessed to celebrate many milestones (both in my family and in many of yours) throughout my 10 years on staff at St. Bernadette. Now, our parish home feels even warmer with the expansion of our local Church community to include Christ the King. I am so grateful for the way both parishes have embraced my family as we have grown and changed, and for your trust in my leadership, especially during uncertain times. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to walk with you as have encountered Christ and been sent out as missionary disciples of Jesus!

I am deeply excited about Fr. Austin's vision for formation for all ages in our pastorate. I am grateful for my coworkers, especially Deacon Dan Miller, Ms. Airryn Sorto, Ms. Maria Bartolac, and Fr. Rob Katafiasz, and for the many tireless adult and teen volunteers I have worked alongside. Thank you for all you have done (and will do) to bring Fr. Austin's vision to fruition. I look forward to discovering who the Lord will call to join you in accompanying families in the journey of faith!

While it is difficult to leave a job that I dearly love, in my discernment and prayer, the Lord has gifted me with deep peace, in part because *there is SO MUCH GOOD HERE!* I want to share the hard-won wisdom and joy of our pastorate with the wider Catholic community, and this new position offers me the opportunity to do just that.

I have come to know that the goodness, beauty, and truth of our mission flows not from me or any other staff member or volunteer, but from the Lord's overflowing generosity. Indeed, God is good, all the time!

Please pray for me and my family in this transition, and know that you are all in my prayers as well.

Yours in Christ,

Ms. Rena Black

Director of Youth Ministry
St. Bernadette & Christ the King Parishes