

Janus Throws a Party, and The Community is the Real Guest of Honor

Art Maines, LCSW

Janus is an interesting character. With 2 faces, one looking to the past and the other looking ahead to the future, in the Roman pantheon he is the god of transitions, of moving from one place, time, or state of being to another. He presides over the in-between parts of life. Maybe that's why his name is the root of our month of January.



This week we celebrate a milestone in our community and the broader Ecumenical Catholic Communion: The Commissioning of Bishop Francis Krebs as the new Presiding Bishop. We are transitioning as both a church community and as the broader Communion to a new era, with fresh possibilities and horizons to prayerfully discern and consider. At the same time, we are called to reflect on our shared past and the many gifts and graces that have brought us to this point.

Among those gifts and graces, perhaps none stands out as much as the central role of community. People coming together here and across the country (and world) to forge a new way of being Catholic, rooted in ancient Christian tradition, yet embracing a vision of inclusion and hope that welcomes everyone, imperfections and all. People striving to understand and respect each other as they form agreements together for the good of all. People enacting the radically transformative Gospel of Christ.

In many ways, Frank is the guest of honor this week. He brings with him his accumulated wisdom and experience with participating in, creating, and nurturing communities as he embarks on this new chapter. All

congratulations and prayers to him as he assumes the mantle of leadership; may he lead us into a future beyond our greatest imaginings. I know we all will support him in every way possible, challenging him and ourselves to grow in love and authenticity.

All congratulations and prayers to the amazing community of Sts. Clare & Francis. Everyone has pulled together to make the Commissioning a memorable, once-in-a-lifetime event. I'm proud to be a part of such an incredible family.

But I also think all congratulations and prayers go to the individuals and their communities that make up the entire Ecumenical Catholic Communion as well. You did this!

Community in all its forms is the real guest of honor here.

Now, let's celebrate both the new Presiding Bishop AND the wonder of community. Janus would be proud.

Art Maines, LCSW is a graduate of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. He has over 15 years of experience as a counselor and psychotherapist. One of his specialties is relationship improvement and communication coaching.