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Stewardship, development director shouts out 'Aloha!'

Paul Leier

Aloha — hello. Aloha is a word in the Hawaiian language that has numerous meanings, both as a single word and when used in context with other words. The most common uses are as a greeting, farewell or a salutation. Aloha is also commonly used to mean love or express compassion. On a spiritual level, aloha is an invocation of the divine that dwells within.

Aloha! That is what the stewardship and development director position has meant these past five years — many greetings, relationships created, stories shared, charitable dreams realized for donors, and the ever present divine guidance by the Holy Spirit.

I have witnessed and heard many remarkable, faith-filled stories with people yearning to create a legacy — and then taking action to live out their life of stewardship. The mission is ongoing — stewardship truly is a daily way of life.

Since October 2006, I have had the privilege of serving as the director of stewardship and development with the Diocese of Fargo and the Catholic Development Foundation. The opportunity to serve parishes, lead tasks and meet many Catholics throughout the diocese has been very rewarding and hopefully beneficial for the Diocese of Fargo.

The past five years have included some very difficult economic times for our nation. Despite this, I have remained energized on accomplishing many tasks. Each day, I focused on “setting the table” for individuals and parishes so they can cherish the spiritual and ministerial benefits of enhanced resources.

My personal goal was to boldly introduce and propagate ideas that educate, engage and “plant the seeds” of stewardship and planned giving in the minds and hearts of many priests, deacons and Catholic households throughout the Diocese of Fargo. The momentum of these efforts appears to be increasing its pace. Your assistance and engagement is making this happen. Your generosity of time, talent and treasure is and will continue to be deeply appreciated.

At this time, I would like to open the directorship experience to someone else. This will enable new ideas and energy to flow into Catholic households and further the mission of stewardship as a way of life.

I have deeply discerned an opportunity to join Northwestern Bank with locations in Dilworth, Moorhead, Ulen and Hendrum, Minn. This position will allow me to leverage my five years of development plus 20 years of banking experience; engage in agricultural and business lending, business development and public relations in the Fargo-Moorhead community and region.

Thus, I resigned June 30 from my position as the stewardship and development director for the Diocese of Fargo and the Catholic Development Foundation to make way for a new director. My new employer has given me full support and the flexibility to assist the diocese with its development needs throughout the summer, until a new director is hired. Thereafter, I will continue to offer my support for the diocesan causes that are so critical to enriching the faith and social needs of so many people.

I want to sincerely thank all of you for your support and interaction these past five years. I have met and made many new friends in the Catholic parishes and the various non-profit organizations. It has been a rewarding and life-changing experience.

May the Lord continue to richly bless you and your loved ones. May the Holy Spirit guide your daily actions and fill your hearts with peace as you continue to live stewardship as a way of life. Aloha — farewell.

Paul Leier, former stewardship and development director for the Diocese of Fargo and Catholic Development Foundation.

For further information about stewardship and development in the Diocese of Fargo, contact the diocesan Finance Office at (701) 356-7930 or visit www.fargodiocese.org/stewardship.