

Greetings Grace Brothers and Sisters,

May “the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, (who) has glorified his servant Jesus” (Acts 3:13) be with you all this New Year.

My family and I feel very blessed to have been called by God to serve among you at Grace Church of West Feliciana. Let me briefly introduce my family. I was born in Colombia, South America, but I have lived in this Country for over 22 years. My wife, Chris, is originally from Georgia. Her family lived in northern New Jersey for a while which is where we met in 1991. We have been married for almost 16 years and have four amazing kids: Emily (15), Rebeca (12), Austin (7), and Sarah (4).

You know the highlights of my education and professional background from the Press Release on your website and the Diocesan Newspaper. I was in Roman Catholic seminary for 6.5 years and became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker when I left seminary. I worked as a clinician, manager and administrator for 12 years before going back to an Episcopal Seminary in 2005. I just finished a 19-month curacy as Associate Dean and Director of Family Ministries at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Davenport, Iowa. My wife is a stay-at-home mother who has become an integral part of our ministry over the last 9 years.

Now let me tell you briefly about where I come from spiritually and theologically. In spite of all the Catholic theological education, I came to know Christ as my Lord and Savior at “Grace Episcopal Church” in Ocala, Florida in 1999-2000. Through worship and ministry at Grace, God became personal and alive, rather than a theological and intellectual construct. I soon realized that I was saved by grace through his great sacrifice on the cross and that all I needed to do was to believe. “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

I feel very fortunate to be in ministry in God’s Holy Church at this present time. In spite of the recent pain, I believe very strongly that God is using and will continue to use various congregations within the Episcopal Church to bring his people back to himself. I believe that my ministry is an extension of Christ’s ministry in and for his

Church. As such, a profound relationship with the Lord is at the center of everything I believe and everything that I do. I believe in the supremacy of Scripture and the need for personal conversion and sanctification.

I place great value on the liturgy of our Church and I will strive to provide the sacred space where your relationship with the Lord will continue to grow. I believe strongly that Christian love, charity and grace are the preconditions to any life of service. We are all broken people in need of a Savior. As such, I believe that my priestly role will be best lived out along side other believers engaged in the same walk of faith and attempting to be faithful to our commitments to Christ and to each other.

I look forward to meeting all of you soon. Until then, I remain yours in Christ.

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