



## Retirement Tribute to Dan Kroger D.Min Ministry & Musical Director Holy Cross Church

By Robert G. Borelli

Dan Kroger retired from his duties at Holy Cross Church on the last day of August in 2021. I have known Dan for only a few short years of his life. But it was long enough to appreciate his gifts to God, his parish family, and his friends. Most of us know Dan for his musical talent as the Director of Music at Holy Cross Church, but Dan's duties went well beyond Music. Dan received his Doctor of Ministry from Drew University. Prior to that he earned a Bachelor of Music from Westminster Choir College and Master of Theology and Master of Divinity from St. Vincent de Paul Seminary. Dan used all of his background education in every aspect of his duties at Holy Cross Church in Vero Beach, Florida for over 22 years. As Father Danny pronounced at the altar on Dan's last day, "Sundays will never be the same", and I say, "Amen" to that. I know Dan as first being a Gentleman. Not lost on me is that Gentleman is actually two words, Gentle and Man and both of those definitions match Dan as he went about on his duties. We, at Holy Cross, mostly associate Dan as our Music Director because that is where he is most visible. However, there is much more of Dan's involvement at Holy Cross besides Music Direction. There is his Direction of Ministry for

Holy Cross, his Zoom books club, his Lenten Thursday's movie days, and his RCIA Classes. Add to this, his chronicles of Father Danny's homilies which I post on my website, more than 300, since 2016. I got to know Dan through our connection with Father Danny's homilies. As time went on, as we interfaced via email exchanges and at Church before mass when we talked. I must add we mainly joked with each other. My wife and I became admirers. Knowing how much personal time was required for Dan to initially copy Father Danny's Homilies and more recently, record them, gave me a vision of a person that saw something very religiously special and wanted it historically preserved. And as I stated above, Fr. Danny's homilies are preserved on my Catholic Men's Ministry Website. I have worked closely with hundreds of people in my career from all over the United States and from England and had to learn how to work with different character traits. But there was always one individual trait that stood out in some of these individual, that made working with them easy, that trait was kindness. These people became not only my business associates, but also my friends. In Dan's mannerism, I immediately saw that trait and I am proud to call him my friend. My wife and I want to wish Dan a rewarding retirement which he richly deserves by his past abundance of services to his God and to his Church. And as I stated in a previous email to him on his retirement, there is something he must do every morning when he is about to shave; that is to look into his bathroom mirror, smile, and shout out "Damn I was Good"!