

**The Rt. Rev. Daniel R. Morse**

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September 22, 2020

The Diocese of the Central States  
Synod Meeting 2020  
Trinity Church  
Mason, Ohio

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you in our Lord Jesus Christ!

It has been a year since I retired and left you in the very capable hands of Bp. Manto, but I still have you daily in my heart and prayers. I can't imagine that will ever change. One of the things I enjoy doing almost everyday is going to the diocese web site to see if there are any new notices of people and events in the parishes that might aid me in my prayers for you.

The past year I have enjoyed living with Davidson, his dear wife, Amy, and their children. They are out of the house at work or school most days, which leaves me alone in the house to catch up on books I've wanted to read for a long time. I'm always interested in what you're reading so I can add to my list.

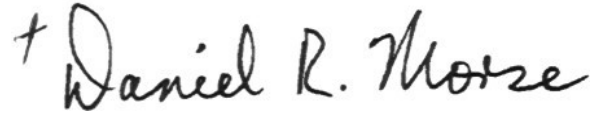
Here is part of what I said to you in my Episcopal Report in 2009.

There have been sacrifices on the part of a great many people. Clergy had to work secular jobs in order to get missions off the ground—a number still do! In many cases our wives had to help by working in order to meet family needs. This is still the case in many instances. To those wives present today, I want you to know that you are appreciated and that we couldn't have gotten to this point without your loving support. But here is my point and I hope it is an encouragement to you.

It takes unique men and women to do what you have done and are doing. It takes a pioneering spirit and a firm resolve to hang in there during the hard times to attempt to build a work for the Glory of God. A number of our clergy are still bi-vocational. Sacrifices are still being made. Many of you who have made real progress are still at the stages where your compensation is, at best, minimal. It is easy to get discouraged. It is easy to become defeated. If you focus on the immediate you will lose heart. You have to remember the Dream. You must hear in your ears and heart the words of our Lord telling his disciples and by extension, each of us to be his witnesses.

The Church can be a very difficult spouse for the priest and bishop, particularly so for his wife and mother of his children. I encourage you to be very attentive to the needs of Janice Manto. Though she may not know the details of the matters that Bp. Peter works through every day, she still feels the pressure Bp. Peter is under. Keep her in your love and prayers. Marianne had as her daily discipline praying for each priest in the diocese and especially the wife of each one. I encourage you to follow Marianne's example.

Affectionately yours in the Gospel,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel R. Morse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross symbol at the beginning.

Bishop, retired