

Nancy Burke's Announcement:
(Holy Week, 2023)

Dear St. Mary's family,

It is with excitement mixed with sadness that we are announcing that Nancy Burke will be transitioning out of Anchorage to take an exciting opportunity in Denver, CO as the CEO of the St. Francis Center, a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado. See:

<http://www.sfcdenver.org/>

As CEO, she will take her extensive experience of over twenty years working for the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Municipality of Anchorage and the United Way of Anchorage helping develop resources for the most vulnerable in Alaska to find and maintain stable housing.

Nancy was born and raised in Denver and is excited to return to her home community and family, to oversee services for more than 20,000 individuals helped by St. Francis Center services every year. St. Francis Center provides the community's primary day services center, conducts street outreach in the core downtown area, provides employment services and offers 150 units of supportive housing for their guests. See: http://www.sfcdenver.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/1920SFCAnnUpdt_online.pdf and <http://www.sfcdenver.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/WinterSpring22.pdf>

Nancy's prior professional experience building systems to provide wrap around services and permanent housing will serve her well as she takes over the St. Francis Center array of services for clients seeking to return to housing in Denver.

The Burke family requests your prayers and support at this time as Michael, Jesse and Cassidy will remain in Anchorage as Nancy embarks on this opportunity.

If you have questions, or would like to learn more about this, please join us to hear more about the work and ministry ahead for Nancy:

7-8 pm, Tuesday, April 11th, 2023, in Cay's Room and on Zoom:

<https://godsview.zoom.us/j/8307907403>

With much love,

Rev. Michael and Nancy Burke



FAQ / Frequently Anticipated Questions:

When will Nancy be leaving?

"Nancy will be beginning her new position sometime in May. We are still working out the timing and logistics. If she drives down, Michael might take a week off to help her drive the Alcan."

Does this mean that Michael is leaving?

"Not necessarily. Although Michael wants to remain open to new opportunities and to where the Spirit leads, he is as excited and engaged in the work and ministry of St. Mary's as he was when he first came as rector in August 2000. St. Mary's was, is, and will be the most amazing community we have ever participated in. However, Michael will be sixty-one years old this Fall, so there are likely changes ahead in the next few years."

How is this going to work?

"We are going to see what a long-distance marriage will be like. We have figured out a way for each of us to travel to be with the other for a few days each month, and we have all learned how to have breakfast and dinner over Zoom these past few years. We have talked to several couples who currently do this, and who find it is working well for them. Still, we won't really know what it is like until we try it for a while." #AirMiles

What does Michael think about all this?

"When Nancy and I began this marriage/partnership/love affair 34 years ago, we soon found out that we both had a sense of call: Nancy to advocacy alongside the vulnerable outside the church walls, and Michael within the 'church-in-the-world'. I hope I have always acted in a way that made one thing clear: the ordained calling is distinct from a lay calling, but is not above it. All ministry arises from our shared baptismal vows. I am passionate about supporting Nancy's call, and she has clearly heard the call to advocacy, leadership, and service at St. Francis Center in Denver. In many ways, the entirety of her ministry over the last thirty years has prepared her for this mission at this time."

What about the rest of the family?

"Cassidy, age 24, is in her social work degree program at the University of Alaska Anchorage and Jesse, age 28, is firmly established in his early education career at CITC's Claire Swan Early Learning Center, and they are excited about their mom's new mission. Now they also have a place to stay when they visit their aunts, uncles, and cousins." The cats seem disinterested, as usual.