

THANK YOU TO NATIONAL MEETING GENERAL CHAIR -- TODD WILLIAMSON
by Rita Thiron
Presented at the closing banquet 10-11-19

When one looks for someone to chair a national meeting as important as this one, you have to find a very special person.

It helps to find someone who grew up in Michigan and remains a loyal Tigers fan (as well as a Cubs fan).

It helps to work with someone with whom you always see eye-to eye (literally).

It is important to find someone who knows the city of Chicago, its local churches, and musicians.

It is helpful to have someone who so willingly ran around the city, stored countless items at his office, or drove to the hotel to view a space or take a measurement.

It helps to have someone who brought great humor in tense situations and who could “talk me off the ledge” during hotel negotiations.

It was vital to have someone who could lead a steering committee of good people from all over the country; who could communicate easily via e-mail, or would readily follow up with a phone call.

It was imperative to have a prayerful person who could prepare this week’s liturgy with style and grace or to lead a spontaneous prayer with words that were both poetic and inspirational.

It helps to find someone who, despite his own very busy schedule in a large archdiocese, always found time to schedule another meeting or to pursue another task.

It was important to have a person who was committed to not only making this fiftieth anniversary a time to remember the past, but to make this national meeting memorable.

It was vital to be working with a Chairperson who genuinely and deeply loves this Federation.

We found all of these characteristics in Todd Williamson.

[The members rose to their feet with a standing ovation.]

