

CANON TO THE ORDINARY Report to Diocesan Convention 2024

Dear friends and colleagues,

As I write this, I am beginning my third week back at work following a 10-week sabbatical. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to step away for a season of reflection, discernment, rest, and renewal. And I am grateful for those who made it possible by providing various forms of coverage and support leading up to and during my sabbatical, including:

- Bishop Ketlen and my colleagues on diocesan staff;
- The Rev. Canon Nancy Suellau, who looked after my transition ministry portfolio;
- Dr. Timothy Austin, who shepherded the rollout of our diocesan Safe Church policies; and
- The Rev. Jeffrey Murph, who led the planning of our 2024 Clergy Conference.

It has been said that nothing lasts forever but the certainty of change. Sure enough, 2024 has been a year of change for several of our parishes and clergy, and thus another busy year for me in service as your diocesan transition minister.

- ***St. Andrew's, Highland Park*** – Called the Rev. Sara H. Irwin as their new full-time Rector, effective September 1.
- ***St. Mark's, Johnstown, and St. Francis in the Fields, Somerset*** – Entered a process to search for and call a shared, full-time Priest-in-Charge.
- ***Atonement, Carnegie, and Nativity, Crafton*** – Began exploring the possibility of searching for and calling a shared, full-time Priest-in-Charge. In the meantime, on July 1, the Rev. Catherine Munz began serving as Church of the Nativity's part-time Interim Priest.
- ***Calvary, East Liberty*** – Called the Rev. Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan as their new Associate Rector, following the departure of previous Associate, the Rev. Neil K. Raman.
- ***Trinity Cathedral, Pittsburgh*** – Launched their search for a Cathedral Canon for Administration.

Transition ministry will no doubt continue to represent a large portion of my work for the diocese in 2025. In addition to the several ongoing transitions listed above, the Rev. Canon Jim Shoucair recently announced his retirement as rector of Christ Church, North Hills, effective February 1, 2025. I also recognize that, despite having made significant advancements in recent years, there remains room to improve our support of both parishes in transition and clergy in transition. This is important work and work to which I am committed.

My support of clergy and parishes extends beyond transition ministry and includes more than I can include within the pages of this report. I will highlight just a couple of activities from this year:

- **St. Brendan's, Franklin Park** - On May 12, I facilitated a process of Mutual Ministry Reflection involving the Priest-in-Charge and Vestry.
- **St. Barnabas, Brackenridge** – In mid-May, St. Barnabas' Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Frank Yesko, experienced a medical emergency. Following this event, I assisted the parish's Senior Warden in securing supply clergy for the summer months. In addition, I provided onsite training to several lay persons in the leadership of Morning and Evening Prayer.

Also in 2024, I continued working with Dr. Timothy Austin on the development of new diocesan Safe Church policies. We reached a major milestone on June 11, when Diocesan Council approved the new policies. The policy documents are now available in Praesidium Academy, where the *Safe Church, Safe Communities* training courses also reside. Additionally, we launched a new *Safe Church Resources* page on our diocesan website, which provides access to the policies as well as to a variety of other information, samples, and templates to facilitate the implementation of the policies by our parishes. Tim and I will continue to support implementation efforts through the end of the year. We are also thankful for the engagement of Eileen Sharbaugh and the Rev. Julie Smith as Safe Church trainers and consultants, as well as of the Diocesan Policies Working Group (a committee of Diocesan Council), led by Vice Chancellor Steve Bloomberg.

I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve the diocese, its people, and our communities in these and other ways and look forward to learning where and how God will lead us in the year ahead.

In Christ,

The Rev. Kimberly Karashin
Canon to the Ordinary