



This is the state of the /Pittsburgh /diocese*
in February of the year/ **Two** /Thousand/ and eleven.

On October 4, 2008, our only property in hand, was a cell phone bought /the day /before; *
two volunteer staff worked at home /and mail /went to a church/ mailbox.

After shopping and assembling, nailing and stringing wire, and collecting file cabinets and desks/ in a/
snowstorm,*
we opened a 4 room office in March 2009 with a part-time staff of one plus an assisting bishop,
communicators /and a canon./ also all/ part-time.

Now we sing of four more and the office /has doubled in/ size.*
We have computers and printers, projectors and screens, desks and cabinets, a chapel with/ bishops/ on
the /wall.

A year ago the court confirmed us proprietors of forty-five /proper-/ties.*
These include a camp, a playground, a retreat house, churches, rectories, cemeteries, and management of
a /twenty-two /million /endowment.

Pittsburgh is a diocese /of great /contrasts.*
There are coal fields and farms, hospitals and Heinz, symphonies and jazz, robots and Google, and/
univer/-sities /galore.

There are twenty-nine participating /congre-/gations.*
Plus a religious community, seminary, historical site, church camp, /and an /HIV-Aids /Center.

A new parish has sprung up in the south with more seeds about/ to be /planted.*
Two of the forty non-participating congregations have recently /settled /all legal /claims.

Three congregations are mighty in size, having over /one-thousand /members.*
These are: Calvary in East Liberty, Christ Church in North Hills, and /St. Paul's / in Mt./ Lebanon

We sing the praises of the /smallest as /well.*
One hundred eighty three years' old St. Peter's in Blairsville members are /twenty-two/ in /all.

Our next smallest congregation is the faithful remnant of Christ Church Greensburg, which cannot /access
its/ building.*
The Lutherans/ provide/ them a /home.

Eight is the number of congregations with fifty to one-/hundred /members.*
And fifteen parishes are more than one hundred, /but under/ one-thous-/and.

The average Sunday, alas, finds only about one-/third in the/ pews; *
the rest are probably on the anxious bench at a Steeler's, Penguins, or, /sigh, a/ Pirate's /game.

We are eight thousand six hundred and /forty-four /strong.*
Twelve percent are not yet sixteen;
We will not comment on the /age of the /rest of /us.

We gave our first grants before we had a desk, and outreach is /im-/por-/tant; *
there are mission trips and youth -at-risk programs, dinners for homeless and a /Habi-tat /for Human-ity/
home.

Once again we have Cursillo and a Youth Initiative, prayer groups and Progressives; our views reflect the
range /of the/ church. *
We are, in short, nothing less than E-/pisco/pa-li-/ans.