

## CANON FOR FORMATION

As Canon for Formation, I have focused on working with the Commission on Ministry on recruiting, preparing and examining those who believe they have been called to the diaconate and priesthood. By God's grace, we continue to be blessed and have had several ordinations in the last year and more possibilities in the future.

I continue to work with the seminarians at Trinity Seminary in Ambridge and, in addition, have begun to work with the seminarians at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS). In 2015, the Bishop and I taught two courses at PTS: the "Anglican Way of Theology" and "Liturgy as Pastoral Care." This dovetails nicely with Canon Cathy Brall working with students at PTS fulltime as the Director of Field Education.

In September, we had a Recovery Retreat in Foxburg, Pennsylvania, with the clergy of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The focus was in understanding addiction and its treatment. I wrote a grant to the Widows Corporation, which funded the full event. It was wonderful cooperating with the clergy of our northern neighbor.

Formation, however, is more than working with the clergy. In the upcoming year, we hope to expand formation from being focused on clergy to helping form the laity to carry out the mission of the Church as found in the Great Commandment:

*Jesus said unto him, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22).*

In addition to the Great Commandment is the Great Commission. It is Jesus' final statement before His Ascension: *Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28).*

We are hoping that more laity will be able to attend the Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference, which is held each spring in April or May. This training conference has successfully completed its 15th year. The upcoming 2016 Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference is scheduled for May 20, 2016, and will feature the young, dynamic speaker and writer Shane Claiborne ([www.redletterchristians.org/shane](http://www.redletterchristians.org/shane)).

If anyone has any comments, ideas, or suggestions for improving the formation of the people of God (both clergy and laity) please contact me at 412-414-3337 or send me an email at: [jgeisler@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:jgeisler@episcopalpgh.org).

Peace & Prayers,  
The Rev. Canon Dr. Jay Geisler