

CANON FOR MISSION

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Bishop McConnell and the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh as Canon for Mission, and am continually blessed by the relationships and experiences that I have gained while serving in this role for the past (close to) two years.

During late 2016 and early 2017, much of my time was devoted to the planning and coordination of *The Presiding Bishop's Pilgrimage for Reconciliation, Healing and Evangelism in Southwestern Pennsylvania*. Hundreds participated in one or more of the five events occurring that weekend. They included clergy and laypeople from throughout our diocese, visitors from other Episcopal dioceses (near and far), and neighbors from other faith traditions in and around Pittsburgh.

This was followed closely by *Lenten Learning Day 2017: The Word Beyond the Walls*. Approximately 80 people from 26 parishes gathered at St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, to learn and worship and eat!. The day was designed to explore more deeply the topics covered in the workshops at the 2016 Diocesan Convention: digital ministry, discipleship, and family faith formation.

Thanks to all who had a hand – or heart – in helping with these events. I pray that you and your congregations have been enlightened and encouraged by each, and that your experience has begun to bear fruit for the sake of Christ's kingdom.

Other major initiatives in which I have been involved over the past year include:

Appreciative Inquiry

I had the privilege of leading St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, through the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) process. AI encourages a parish to (1) look at itself with an "appreciative eye," identifying the gifts that lie within and around it, and (2) discern how God is calling the parish to use its gifts as it joins in His mission. The process required a series of ten meetings over the course of five months. Fifteen parishioners (vestry members and others) were involved in the process, before the results (a mission statement and action plan) were rolled out to the rest of the congregation. I commend St. Brendan's for the spirit and commitment with which they undertook this process!

The Mon Valley Mission

I have continued to provide strategic support and logistical leadership for this initiative, intended to help our Mon Valley parishes discern their role in addressing the region's socio-economic issues and spiritual needs. For details, see the separately submitted Mon Valley Mission report.

I am looking forward to another exciting year of mission and ministry ahead. Please let me know if I may be of any assistance to you or your parish.

Prayerfully and respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Karashin