

## **Candidate Application Form and Essay Questions Election of the IX Bishop of Pittsburgh Petition Process**

The following must be provided electronically by the person being nominated:

- This Candidate Application Form, with essay responses completed
- Cover letter outlining why you believe yourself to be called through the petition process into discernment (max. 500 words)
- Current resume or CV
- Updated OTM profile
- Current color photograph (head & shoulders) suitable for publication
- Contact information for current and all previous bishops

This form and the requirements listed above must be received electronically by the Rev. Noah Evans (noah@stpaulspgh.org) no later than noon, Eastern time, on Friday, May 21, 2021. If any of these documents are received after that time, the nomination will be void and rejected by the Standing Committee.

These materials may be used for biographical profiles and other information that will be published about the final slate of nominees.

Nominees should also be prepared to submit to an interview by the diocesan chancellor regarding certain employment, financial, personal, legal and background information.

### **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ May we leave a message at this number? Yes/No

Current Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Diocese in which you're currently serving: \_\_\_\_\_

Diocese of Canonical Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

## FIVE ESSAY QUESTIONS

Please answer the following questions in a separate document. The combined length of your responses should not exceed six pages (12-point font, single-spaced).

1. Describe your relationship with Christ and tell us where you find abiding joy in the Gospel, as well as the basis for your passion for its proclamation.
2. As our country becomes increasingly politically polarized, so can issues of social justice. The service of ordination calls on bishops to “boldly proclaim and interpret the Gospel of Christ, enlightening the minds and stirring up the conscience of your people.” How have you advocated for social change in a way that unites rather than polarizes? How would you draw on that experience to advance a diocese down the path toward a beloved community?
3. The institutional church continues to operate on the basis of an older and passive “open the doors and they will come” paradigm. Yet the coronavirus pandemic has worked to accelerate a societal move away from gatherings oriented around physical buildings and a shift toward online formation of community. What thought have you given to the ways in which we might continue to be a vibrant church in the face of these societal changes and the increasing distance between the life of the church and the everyday life of individuals? What experience would you draw on to prepare parishes and individuals to embrace necessary change with enthusiasm and hope?
4. The split dividing our diocese in 2008 created lasting scars and grief. While there has been a good deal of healing, much work remains to be done. A bishop is called to a ministry of reconciliation. How have you helped members or congregations with the healing process? How have you helped individuals move beyond their differences and find a common understanding that binds them?
5. Prayerful stewardship of our diocesan gifts, ministries, and members is of great importance to us. How has the notion of being a good steward informed your leadership style? What have been your successes and challenges as you’ve tried to prioritize objectives, marshal limited resources, and execute plans in furtherance of the mission of the Church?