

# LOVE. TEACH. HEAL.

*Our Mission Guided by the Love of Jesus Christ*

## A Letter from the Canon to the Ordinary

September 19, 2018

Friends,

The past year has been a busy one, both for our diocese and the Episcopal Church as a whole. In my role as Canon to the Ordinary, I've had the honor and pleasure of cooperating with the lay and ordained leaders of our parishes as they have worked to live out their mission.

In July, after experiencing troubling neurological symptoms, I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. After a difficult summer filled with much prayer and discernment, my family and I have decided that my focus needs to be on my health. With that in mind, it is with a heavy heart that I am laying down the responsibilities of Canon effective September 30, 2018. While attending to my health, I will remain engaged in parish ministry at Nativity, Crafton, and assisting with the communications efforts of the diocese.

MS is a long-term fight, and so is our common call to share the love of our God in Christ. My disappointment is tempered by hope, as our Resurrection faith is rooted in the sure knowledge that endings are often beginnings. I remain deeply grateful to Bishop McConnell for his trust and confidence, and to our excellent diocesan staff who have made the work of the last year a true joy.

Faithfully yours,



The Rev. Canon Shawn Malarkey



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Dear Friends in Christ,

Please join me in praying for Shawn+, Jolean, and their family in the wake of this news. We want to do everything we can to help him heal, and for now that must mean that he accept a more limited role in the leadership of this diocese. It is clear that Shawn is making the right decision, and I know you will join me in assuring him that he will find in us all the support he needs.


As Canon to the Ordinary, Shawn has proven himself an invaluable asset to our common life. We have all drawn on his patience, wisdom, and care. I will deeply miss Shawn's constant presence, and hope still to benefit from his counsel.

We are in the process of reorganizing the responsibilities of the diocesan staff to ensure that we will be able to continue to meet the needs of our clergy and people. This transition will take a bit of time, and

we ask for your patience.

We cannot see clearly all that God has in mind for Shawn and for us in the coming days and months. But we do know that God is good, merciful and gracious in all His ways. And we know God loves the Church as we minister in Christ's name to the world for which our Lord gave His life. It is in that belief that we pray and trust that Christ will use all of this to our benefit and joy, and to the glory of the Father.

Faithfully your bishop,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dorsey', with a small cross symbol at the beginning.

(The Right Reverend) Dorsey W.M. McConnell, D.D.  
VIII Bishop of Pittsburgh

