

CANON FOR MISSION

I continue to be blessed by the opportunity to serve Bishop McConnell and the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh as canon for mission. Being in this role while also discerning about, and preparing for, my future in ordained ministry has been an exciting, yet challenging, venture – and an experience for which I am immeasurably grateful.

Early this year, I led the planning and coordination of our 2018 Lenten Learning Day, during which we explored more deeply the meaning of our mission: to love, teach, and heal. Approximately 70 people from 22 parishes gathered at St. James, Penn Hills, to worship and learn together. Thanks to all who helped make the event possible, and to all who participated!

Working with Treasurer Kathi Workman and under the guidance of Diocesan Council, we revised the criteria for the Parish Mission Grant and made available the new Formation for Mission Grant. We are pleased with the number and quality of the applications that we have received, and with the mission initiatives that we have been able support through these grants. If your parish is considering applying for one of these grants, but you have questions about the process or criteria, please don't hesitate to contact me.

As I write this, I am close to completing the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) process at St. Andrew's, Highland Park. 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. At St. Andrew's, AI is being considered part of the foundation of a larger, more detailed strategic planning process that the parish will launch in the fall.

Throughout the year, I have also continued to provide support for the Mon Valley Mission (see separate report) and have been involved in discussions and planning around:

- The mission of Trinity Cathedral,
- New ministry initiatives,
- The formation and ministry needs of our smaller parishes, and
- Practices of a "vital" church.

It is a challenging time for Christ's Church, across *all* denominations. I am certainly looking forward to discovering what God is up to in our neighborhoods, and working alongside you to join in His mission!

Prayerfully and respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Karashin
Canon for Mission