

Annual Report 2022 – Canon to the Ordinary

The past year has been one of change and challenge. We welcomed Bishop Ketlen into the diocese, of course. We also welcomed a new Treasurer & Director of Administration, Elaine Zevkovich, While the accompanying goodbyes were bittersweet, it has been a great joy getting to know Bishop Ketlen and Elaine, seeing their hearts for God and the Gospel, and serving alongside them.

In April, at the invitation of Bishop Ketlen, I moved from my prior role as Canon for Mission & Director of Administration to Canon to the Ordinary. This was not a decision that I took lightly or made hastily. But I believe that, in the present season, this is the space that God has carved out for me to act on what He has placed on my heart: a tremendous sense of care and concern for the people and parishes of this diocese.

Much of my focus over the last year was on guiding and supporting parishes in various stages and circumstances of transition, including:

- Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill (called the Rev. Canon Natalie Hall as Rector)
- St. Brendan's, Franklin Park (called the Rev. Robin Jarrell as Priest-in-Charge)
- St. Paul's, Kittanning (welcomed the Rev. Brandon Cooper as part-time Priest-in-Charge and the Rev. Paul Barker as Deacon)
- St. Peter's, Brentwood, and St. Michael's of the Valley, Ligonier (initiated discernment and transition processes)

One parish transition was particularly difficult – the closing of St. Paul's, Monongahela. The people of St. Paul's and of Monongahela remain on my heart and mind, as we wait and watch for what God may be up to there and in other communities within our diocese.

The transition from Kathi Workman to Elaine Zevkovich as our Treasurer & Director of Administration represented another significant effort of the past year. I served as the staff liaison to the Treasurer Search Committee consisting of Kathy Baird, David Bischoff, and Jerry Stephenson. This outstanding team delivered an outstanding result in our hiring of Elaine. I cannot speak highly enough of Elaine's care and competence. She has been an outstanding partner to Bishop Ketlen and me as we address the needs of the diocese and explore new opportunities for mission and ministry.

I meet with Bishop Ketlen and Elaine for two hours each Tuesday. During these "Tuesday Triads," we provide updates, seek counsel, generate ideas, and collaborate on projects. Of course, both Bishop Ketlen and Elaine bring new perspectives and different experiences to the table – and new thoughts about how things could, and perhaps *should*, be done. This has already resulted in several process and policy changes; more are likely to follow. I ask for your patience and flexibility as we explore new ways to make our work more efficient and our ministry more impactful. Also, I want to thank and commend my other colleagues on our administrative staff –

Andy Muhl, Marlene Rihn, and Jo Ann McLaughlin-Klemencic – who have already offered a tremendous amount of patience and flexibility during our ongoing period of transition.

Finally, I wish to comment on one aspect of my ministry for the diocese that I feel is particularly important: assisting our bishop in the care of our diocesan clergy. I treasure my clergy colleagues and am eager to support and encourage them in their ministries. My conversations with fellow clergy are some of the most difficult conversations in which I engage, as the challenges of their ministries are both weighty and plentiful. But I am always happy to have those conversations. I hope that the clergy of this diocese know that they can reach out to me – for help connecting with resources, for guidance in pastoral matters, or just to let off steam when they feel like there's no one else they can talk to.

I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve the diocese, its people, and our communities in these and other ways and look forward to learning where and how God will lead us in the year ahead.

In faith,

The Rev. Kimberly Karashin
Canon to the Ordinary