

Bishop's Report 2022

This past year has allowed the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh to delight in multiple new beginnings! On June 26, 2021, the jubilant peal of the bells of Trinity Cathedral reflected the far-reaching joy felt by so many at the announcement of the election of your new Bishop. In August, you celebrated an inevitable time of transition with Bishop Dorsey and his wife Betsy, while mutually looking forward to the possibilities that the next chapter of your respective journeys would entail. Then, on November 13, 2021, Scott and I, along with our family and friends, and together with you and with the members of our Church at large and with God's great throng of witnesses, celebrated with joy and gratitude the day of my consecration at Calvary Church. Finally, on Sunday, November 14, we also celebrated my installation at Trinity Cathedral. In sum, God has graced us with an abundance of blessings!

In my sermon as Bishop-elect during Diocesan Convention last year, I emphasized how our diocese, which came into being in 1865, stands firmly on the person of Jesus Christ who is our one and only sure foundation. I reminded us of how our diocese was ready to deepen engagement in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ in winsome ways, and how poised we were to grow together as Pittsburghers for Jesus! Such a conviction remains lively and steadfast in my heart and, I hope, in yours.

The many months that have elapsed since June 26 have gone by in a whirlwind. They have also been filled with many other joys, a few of which I would like highlight. I am grateful for these gifts:

- For the opportunity to get to know Bishop Dorsey, with whom I had a full week of overlap to talk about the transition.
- For the attentiveness of the Rev. Noah Evans (former Chair of the Standing Committee) in helping the Diocese navigate the many aspects of its leadership transition, and for the tireless work of Jon Delano and Florence Atwood as Chair and Vice Chair of the Transition Committee.
- For the tremendous gift of the members of the diocesan staff, who are committed to God and to the mission of the Gospel of Christ. I am deeply grateful for the faithful and dedicated efforts of Andy Muhl, Marlene Rihn, Jo Ann McLaughlin-Klemencic, Shanaz Alam-Denlinger, Crystal Goforth, Rich Creehan, the Rev. Dan Isadore, Elaine Zevkovich, and Canon Kathi Workman (retired), the Rev. Canon Dr. Jay Geisler (retired), the Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh, the Rev. Canon Dr. Catherine "Cathy" Brall, the Rev. Canon Natalie Hall, and the Rev. Canon Kim Karashin.
- For the clergy who do the hard work of serving, leading, and pastoring day in and day out, especially during the burdensome and long interval of pandemic affliction.
- For the committed service of all of our diocesan lay and clergy leaders.
- For those who are at various stages of the discernment process for Holy Orders.
- For the wise counsel of Andy Roman, Chancellor of the Diocese, and for the invaluable service of Sue DeWalt, who served as Vice-Chancellor until this past spring.

- For the visitations that I was able to have with most of the various parishes and other religious communities of the Diocese, whose congregations show tremendous commitment.
- For the opportunity to be engaged in the Councils of the Church, through the gatherings of the House of Bishops, as well as those of General Convention and the Lambeth Conference, which took place this past summer.
- Lastly, and especially, for your care and concern while Scott and I were in the midst of facing a new and unexpected personal challenge.

The Grace of God abounds!

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ketlen A. Solak".

The Rt. Rev. Ketlen A. Solak, D.Min.
Bishop of Pittsburgh

Statistics for November 21, 2021 through October 23, 2022

Visitations: 29

Confirmations: 58

Receptions: 38

Baptisms: 3

Burials: 1

Chrism Masses: 1

Deconsecrations: 1

Ordinations: 2 (Order of Deacon 1; Order of Priest 1)