

CANON TO THE ORDINARY

Report to Diocesan Convention 2023

Dear friends and colleagues,

Once again over the past year, I have been pleased to dedicate much of my time in service to our parishes in transition. This is difficult yet fulfilling work – difficult in that involves walking alongside leaders during an anxious and uncertain time in the life of their parish, but fulfilling in that it is an opportunity to help them discern and respond to God’s purpose for their church community.

Since our 2022 Convention, I have assisted the following parishes:

- ***St. Michael’s of the Valley, Ligonier*** – Called the Rev. Marjorie S. Bevans as their new full-time Rector, effective August 1, 2023.
- ***St. Thomas, Canonsburg*** – Bishop Ketlen appointed the Rev. Deacon James Miorelli as their part-time Pastor-in-Charge, effective August 1, 2023, following the retirement of the Rev. Canon Dr. Cathy Brall.
- ***St. Bartholomew’s, Scottdale*** – Bishop Ketlen assigned the Rev. Deacon Cynthia Gainer to serve as their regular supply clergy beginning in June.
- ***St. Peter’s, Brentwood*** – Called the Rev. Dr. Luke Zerra as their new part-time Priest-in-Charge, effective October 1, 2023.
- ***St. Andrew’s, Highland Park*** – Currently in the discernment process following the April departure of their previous Rector, the Rev. Chris Cole.
- ***Church of the Nativity, Crafton*** – Currently in the discernment process following the May departure of their previous Rector, the Rev. Shawn Malarkey.

Bishop Ketlen and I are also working with the parishes below to discern various aspects of their mission and ministry going forward:

- ***Church of the Atonement, Carnegie***
- ***St. Mark’s, Johnstown***
- ***St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Somerset***

I have learned much over the last two years as your diocesan transition minister, and as I have worked with these parishes, I have also developed a small collection of tools and resources to guide parishes through various parts of the transition process. In the years ahead, I hope to expand this collection and make it available on our diocesan website for the benefit of any who may be engaged in this process in the future.

I would also like to highlight briefly the following three projects, which represent a significant portion of my work over the last year:

- ***Safe Church Policies & Processes*** – I continue to work with Dr. Timothy Austin of St. Brendan’s, Franklin Park, on an updated set of Safe Church policies, as well as tools to aid parishes in implementing the new policies once adopted. This has proven to be a complex project, one in which nearly every decision carries notable impact, or potential impact, for parishes and other diocesan organizations. As I write this, Tim and I are nearing the point of having completed drafts of both a *Policy for the Protection of Children & Youth* and a *Policy for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults* to provide to Bishop Ketlen and Chancellor Andy Roman for their review, before they are passed on to Diocesan Council for further review and eventual adoption.
- ***The Abbey*** – I am pleased to be a part of the team that is working to develop the new Episcopal community in Brookline known as *The Abbey*. The Rev. William “Biff” Carpenter, Elaine Zevkovich, and I meet weekly to coordinate our efforts and maintain momentum. At the time of my writing, we are looking forward to the beginning of repair and renovation work at the rectory of Church of the Advent, Brookline, which will serve as the home of The Abbey.
- ***Clergy Zooms & Conference*** – I have also continued to assist in the planning and coordination of events that gather clergy for enrichment and fellowship. From Fall 2022 through Spring 2023, with the leadership of the Clergy Association Executive Board and its president, the Rev. Sara Irwin, we offered a series of hour-long Zoom sessions featuring guest presenters on a variety of topics, including liturgy, spirituality, mental health, and more. Participation in these Zoom sessions ranged from 25 to 35 clergy. As I write this, I am also assisting in the planning of our annual Clergy Conference, scheduled for September 27-29. This extended time of learning, worship, fun, and refreshment is so important to the shared ministry of our diocesan clergy.

I remain 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 Christ,
 The Rev. Kimberly Karashin
 Canon to the Ordinary
 September 18, 2023