

## **CANON TO THE ORDINARY FOR TRANSITIONS AND CLERGY & CONGREGATIONAL CARE Report to Diocesan Convention 2025**

Dear friends and colleagues,

In 2025, over a quarter of our parishes (9 of 32) have been in some form of transition as it relates to ordained leadership. We've come a long way since January, though, and especially during the second half of this year.

- On July 1, the Rev. Charles Fischer began serving as Priest-in-Charge of Church of the Holy Cross, Homewood.
- On August 1, the Rev. Miguel Carmona began serving as Priest-in-Charge of Church of the Nativity, Crafton.
- On September 1, the Rev. Jay Geisler began serving as Vicar of All Saints, Brighton Heights.
- Also on September 1, the Rev. Julie Smith began serving as Priest-in-Charge of St. Barnabas, Brackenridge.

The following transitions remain in progress:

- St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, and Christ Church, North Hills, are expecting to post their full-time openings by the end of this year. We are blessed to have steady interim coverage in place at each – the Rev. Nancy Suellau at St. Brendan's and the Rev. Chuck Weiss at Christ Church.
- I continue working with the Vestry and Discernment Committee of Christ Church, Indiana, following the July 1 retirement of the Rev. Bill Geiger.
- We also continue in search of a priest to serve both St. Mark's, Johnstown, and St. Francis in the Fields, Somerset.

I am immensely grateful to the lay leaders in these parishes, particularly the members of vestries and discernment committees, for their good and diligent work during their respective seasons of transition. I am also grateful to the members of our clergy who have stepped in to fill gaps and offer support. (I wish I could name you all here!)

This year, I brought our diocese's Curacy Program into my portfolio of work. I developed and administered a Year One evaluation process for the four clergy who began their curacies in 2024: the Rev. Deanna Briody, Guy Brown, Jack Brownfield, and Theodore Somes. I also helped coordinate the start of the Rev. Nicole Starr's curacy at Trinity Cathedral this August.

I served as the primary coordinator for our annual Clergy Conference, which took place September 24-26 at Antiochian Village Conference & Retreat Center in Bolivar, PA. The conference was attended by 43 diocesan clergy. Our guest presenter guided us into conversation and reflection about the practices of pastoral care and preaching in an age when,

culturally, we often seem to be missing a shared sense of reality. While this was helpful to many, our clergy most appreciated the opportunity simply to be with one another, sharing ideas and building relationships of mutual support.

As we approach the end of this year and the end of my time on the staff of the diocese, I will, of course, be focused on ensuring that there is a plan for my current roles and responsibilities to be taken on by others. Details related to this will be communicated as they are worked out, and I ask for your patience in the meantime.

Looking back on my ten years in the Bishop's Office, I am grateful for those who have provided support and encouragement along the way, particularly my colleagues on diocesan staff, past and present. I hope to remain connected to the life, the work, and, especially, the people of the diocese going forward. While, for the time being, the shape of my future ministry remains unknown, even to me, I trust that God is writing the next chapter.

In Christ,

The Rev. Kimberly Karashin  
Canon to the Ordinary for Transitions  
and Clergy & Congregational Care