

Report of the Diocesan Liturgist

Earlier this year, Bishop Scanlan asked me to assume the position of Diocesan Liturgist. In assuming this role, I follow in the footsteps of two well-qualified predecessors, the Rev. Christopher Pyles, and the Rev. Howard Sasser.

The Diocesan Liturgist acts to support the Bishop in her role as the chief liturgical officer for the Diocese. In providing that support, the Liturgist consults with the Bishop and with others who are involved in diocesan worship services. The Liturgist coordinates with the various parties and with the Bishop, providing guidance and receiving input along the way. Once the input has been received, a draft of the liturgical materials is developed. The draft is then sent to Mrs. Carol Hartley for proof reading. The process culminates in liturgical materials which incorporate the wishes of the Bishop and those involved.

In addition, the Liturgist often acts as the Bishop's Chaplain during worship services, and also fulfills the role of Master of Ceremonies on many occasions.

It has been a busy year. The Diocesan Liturgist has assisted in the development of worship materials for:

Two diocesan events: The annual Chrism Masses, which took place in April; and the annual Clergy Conference, held in May.

Four ordinations: Mr. Kyle Murphy's diaconal ordination, in May; the Rev. Shayna Watson's priestly ordination, also in May; the Rev. James Robertson's priestly ordination, in June; and the Rev. Asa Coulson's priestly ordination, in July.

A new columbarium and memorial garden, which were dedicated at St. Mark's in Lewistown in August.

Six installations of new clergy, scheduled for this fall and early winter: A new Dean and Rector, the Rev. Dr. Amy Welin, at St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg, in September; and new Rectors: The Rev. Grant Ambrose, at St. Andrew's, York, in September; the Rev. Eric Hillegas, at St. John's, York, in October; the Rev. Dr. Greg Welin, at Mount Calvary, Camp Hill, in November; the Rev. Carlos de la Torre, at St. John's, Bellefonte, in November; and the Rev. Amanda Knouse, at St. John's, Lancaster, in December.

At the bishop's direction and to fulfill a resolution of General Convention 2018, I have been charged with forming and leading a Diocesan Liturgical Commission. Populating that Commission and setting the goals for its work will commence in November 2019.

Continuing challenges which lie ahead involve improvement in the transmission of materials via email (sometimes, computers move things around when they are emailed!), and improvement of the final preparation process so that the printed materials faithfully mirror the intent of the Bishop and those involved.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Gene Tucker
Diocesan Liturgist