

PROCESS TO RECEIVE NON EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE DURING TOMMY'S CLERGY RENEWEL:

The vision and mission of Pastoral Care at St. Margaret's is to celebrate life's joys and bear one another's burdens and sorrows in fulfillment of God's command to love one another as God loves us. We seek to connect parishioners within the St. Margaret's community to provide a network of care in times of need.

1. Call Connie Doughty (225-766-8314), the Parish Administrator, for a non-emergency request for pastoral care from Monday-Thursday between 9:30am-1:30pm and Friday 9:30am-11:30am. Connie will contact a member of Pastoral Team and someone on the team will be in touch with you. If Connie does not answer the phone DO NOT leave a message and go to step 2.

2. If you are not able to reach Connie or it is outside of office hours please call Jeanette Bourg (225-931-3314) or (225-371-1096) and if she does not answer, leave a message and she will return your call as soon as she can.

Parish Administrator

Connie Doughty

225-766-8314

secretary@saintmargarets.com

Vestry Members

Diane Bondioli, *Senior Warden*
(bondioli@eatel.net)

Ronny Daley, *Junior Warden*
(ronnydal@cox.net)

Tammy Gremillion, *Secretary*
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Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church

Clergy Renewal
2021

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Clergy Renewal Team:

Ann Dartez

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Fr. Tommy Dillon

What is a Clergy Renewal (sabbatical)?

The word sabbatical has its roots in the biblical concept of Sabbath (“to rest” or “to cease”). Sabbath keeping is setting aside time that God consecrates and makes holy.

Clergy Renewal leave is a time for our rector to shift gears to rest, disengage, study, reflect and travel in order to return to minister among us refreshed and renewed in body, mind and spirit. (It is not a time for routine work.)

Fr Tommy's letter of agreement with St. Margaret's specifies that he will take a sabbatical after four years of service at St. Margaret's. The year 2021 is Fr Tommy's fifth year with us and ten years since his last sabbatical.

Clergy Renewal is more than a vacation from meetings, budgets, sermons and people in need. It is a time for Fr Tommy to receive spiritual nourishment and a change in perspective, to deepen his relationship with God, himself, and his family – a season of spiritual growth. This special time will also be a season of growth for the entire congregation.

Do other clergy go on Clergy Renewal?

Yes, the church strongly encourages congregations to provide pastors with regular sabbatical leaves.

How long will Fr Tommy be gone?

Fr Tommy's last Sunday will be May 23rd, The Feast of Pentecost. He will return to the parish on September 8th. His first Sunday back will be September 12, 2021. Fr Tommy will be away for approximately three months.

What will Fr Tommy be doing on his Clergy Renewal?

As part of Fr Tommy's Clergy Renewal he will travel to Mexico, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Greece for relaxation, study, and prayer. He will visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, and the magnificent ruins of the civilization of Teotihuacan in June. In July he will visit the San Francisco Bay Area (where he lived for nine years) including sights like, Grace Cathedral. In August, he will enjoy the sites in and around Athens, Greece. His travels will finish at the Wild Goose Festival in North Carolina Labor Day Weekend. During his travels, he will be joined by clergy colleagues, friends and family, and will pursue spiritual direction, Spanish enrichment, and discernment.

Who will cover Fr Tommy's responsibilities during his absence?

The Very Rev. Ron Clingenpeel has agreed to provide pastoral oversight during Fr Tommy's Clergy Renewal. Fr Ron's time will include Sunday services every week with two days of pastoral work weekly. This time will consist of office hours, pastoral care, Wednesday evening services, and meetings with groups (as appropriate, but not Vestry).

Whom do I call if I have a family or personal crisis?

For pastoral concerns, contact Fr Ron Clingenpeel (314-249-5908) or someone on the Pastoral Care Committee.

Who will pay for the Clergy Renewal?

Expenses will be covered by the grant from the Lily Endowment clergy renewal program.

Who will administer the parish in Tommy's absence?

Our vestry wardens, Diane Bondioli and Ronny Daley, aided by vestry members, will supervise the staff, facilitate communications and oversee the use of the parish facilities.

What if a question/concern arises while Tommy is gone?

The Wardens, Fr Ron Clingenpeel, and Vestry will serve as a “clearinghouse” for questions and concerns. Ultimately, the vestry will exercise the authority to resolve all issues concerning parish life.

Will the church just be in a “holding pattern” while Tommy is away?

All of our ministries will continue to flourish while Fr Tommy is away, and perhaps new ones will be formed. Also, it is important to remember that the sabbatical is a two-way process: while Fr Tommy is on his journey of renewal, refreshment and reflection, we will embark on a journey as well – to continue reflection on our prior work, to renew ourselves and to discern God's will for us.

Will Tommy be in contact with St. Margaret's?

An important part of a Clergy Renewal is to make a complete break from things. The only people who will be in direct contact with Fr Tommy while he is away will be his family. Fr Tommy will post reflections of his experiences of the Holy on Facebook while on sabbatical and you may choose to follow his journey during his time away.

<https://www.facebook.com/GumboPriest/>

How will we get “reacquainted” with Tommy when he returns?

Fr Tommy's leave-taking and return will be highlighted by a liturgy that will include the renewal of Baptismal Vows and prayers for both the Rector and for the congregation. Since the theme of the Clergy Renewal is Sacred Journeying with Mary, the song for the clergy renewal, "Santa María del Camino" ("Come with us to walk the journey, Santa María, come") will be sung in procession with our statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe for a fiesta complete with food and music.

Upon the Rector's return, in recognition of the sacred journey we are completing, the congregation will take a symbolic pilgrimage with the statue. Singing the Marian hymn, we will walk together through the woods located on the church grounds to the doors of the sanctuary to welcome the Rector back. In addition, "Santa María del Camino" will be sung each Sunday before the Gospel to spiritually unite the congregation with the Rector during this sacred time apart.

How can I learn more about the Clergy Renewal?

www.saintmargarets.com/clergy-renewal-sabbatical-information/

Clergy Renewal 2021