

5/29/2020

Dear St Augustine Family,

I am so delighted to be called as your next Rector. I predict we will feel like family very quickly. I can already see us sitting down together over coffee and hearing your stories, whether by Zoom or in person, when we can safely re-gather.

St. Augustine is a parish with a beautiful history and a very bright future. I see in you a profound love of God and each other and a strong desire to reach out and further build our community in love and service. I know the Holy Spirit is moving in your midst, and I can't wait to see where the Spirit leads us together!

I have fallen in love with you as I discerned the process of joining you in mission. You are a congregation of faithful, prayerful people. I love your passion for God, your high value of community, your care of your neighbors, and your liturgical style. I feel that God hand-picked us for one another. I cannot wait to worship together, serve together, and laugh together. We will have meals together, play together, do outreach together, and pray together. It will be worshipful, missional, and fun!

Here is a little about me so you may get to know me. My background is in pastoral ministry and vocational counseling. I have over 17 years of vocational ministry experience. I am currently a Vocational Pastoral Counselor at a seminary where I assist students discerning God's life direction. I am passionate about equipping the saints to serve God. My heart is that you experience Jesus's love, wholeness, and your purpose. I also have years of experience as a pastor. I have been a senior pastor. I was also a family pastor serving children, youth, and college age.

I recently transferred my ordination to the Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church is a good fit for me because of my love for historical Christian worship practices, our high value of whole community, and our shared love of social justice. I value community, I embrace God's mission, and I love prayer. I also am a lover of hospitality, nature, game nights, comedy, creative artistic expression, and pedicures.

In addition, I do not come alone. My fun-loving engineering husband, Raymond, my smart student at University of Nevada, Reno daughter, Virginia, my kind mother Linda and my hard-working father Bill are also joining the church family.

Currently, the pandemic's fear and frustration makes life hard. Stress, isolation, and survival consume our country's mind and heart. In the midst of the global turmoil, you are changing pastors. Transition may lead to feelings of insecurity. I hope you remember that even in the midst of global panic, Christ is your salvation and hope. Even more today, it is important to remember to keep hold of your savior, Jesus Christ, who died that you should live. You may have confidence that God is with you and will never leave you. God is in control of this pastoral transition. Your wise Vestry is seeking God and navigating the transition. The Diocese is guiding the transition. Moreover, I am prayerfully planning the transition. This transition will be smooth. I

want you to know that I pray for you regularly. You are *always* on my heart. My hope for you is that you know that I care for you, that God is trustworthy, and that we will come out of this with new hope and life.

May you know Christ's hope, peace, and comfort.

Warmly,
Pastor Anny Genato