



Our Bishop Nominees

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From my days as a Roman Catholic seminarian to my current role as Canon for Mission Resources / CFO, I have witnessed events, shifts and challenges reforming the episcopate. The ministry of bishop can be a remarkable gift during these bewildering times of economic uncertainty and instability. A sacramental ministry lived out with extraordinary care, fervent prayer and in relationship with others can transform and offer needed hope. Responsibilities outlined by our canons and inherent in the office of bishop demand collaboration and shared ministry. I'm consoled by the fact that we already have a savior in Jesus Christ, so all I must be is a faithful and loving pastor! Wise bishops seek the counsel of and work closely with the leadership bodies of their diocese. By sharing our common faith and gifts, we can forge a renewed mission and ministry that leads us into deeper conversion in Christ.

The Rev. Canon

Kevin D. Nichols

Colleagues have identified three particular areas of strength in which I could minister well as bishop:

Support of and for Clergy. In many dioceses, care of clergy does not receive the full attention required. Our clergy give so much as pastors and "plant managers," yet too often are left feeling alone, overwhelmed and unsupported. I believe a bishop needs to stay in close relationship with clergy. Brutal honesty, mutual discernment and ministerial support are what clergy in my own diocese currently seek from me. As Bishop, I would make pastoral care for the clergy a priority.

Ambassador of Change. My administrative skills, developed during my time in the business world and from parish ministry in small and large congregations are highlighted as an area of strength. I take pride in being a capable facilitator who has implemented processes and strategic plans. Over time I have come to understand that it is not simply my role as leader of processes that is of greatest value, rather, my ability to draw diversely-gifted individuals into community and common understanding through engagement and mutual respect. The recognition of lay ministry as an equal yet different gift for the church allows us to envision our future in new and exciting ways. Assistants and direct reports tell me that one of my strengths is that I focus on the big picture and do not micro-manage. I hope this is true because that is surely how I wish to be managed and held accountable.

Presiding & Preaching. I love the traditions of our church, the nourishing power of the Eucharist and presiding at life's most sacred moments. In this time of "institutional rebellion," I'm convinced that being "good priests" or "good Christians" will no longer suffice. Times demand extraordinary efforts, not just for the survival of churches entrusted to our care, but for the sake of the Kingdom.

My weaknesses are many —just ask my children! But one particular area I wish to offer is that I am not particularly artistic and I find writing rather daunting. In seminary, I recall that my liturgy professor spent a great deal of time highlighting my liturgical strengths and skills and stated "this may be an area where your artistic side could blossom - hone it!" As fate would have it, over the last 5 years, I have been blessed to work alongside a bishop who is an artist and writer! I have come to see how he integrates his own artistic strengths and abilities into his liturgical planning, advocacy writing and how he leads clergy gatherings. I have found myself naturally integrating some of his more innate skills and practices. To the artists among us in our communities — know how much I value and admire the gifts

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**The Rev. Canon Ruth
Woodliff-Stanley**

People tell me I'm a bridge builder, and I do think building consensus is a strength of mine. I've been blessed to have been invited to work across lines of difference in the Church. I've helped architect and implement numerous processes at parish and diocesan-wide levels over the past two decades to bridge divides. I have strengths in my capacity to listen to disparate views and pull the relevant threads to build common understanding. Using these skills, I helped our bishop rebuild the collegium of Colorado at a time when we could have moved toward a split. Instead, we were able to build a strong common life despite widely divergent theological and political points of view in a diverse state. I am also able to help hear and articulate a vision; I am not conflict avoidant and do not shy away from difficult and demanding conversations. I am willing to exercise prophetic ministry when needed, while maintaining a clear sight line to the impact of my actions on the whole body of Christ. I have much enthusiasm for preaching and speaking, and I am told I am effective in these areas in giving voice to a vision that may be nascent but carrying great potential. We were able to do significant work in my parish on racial justice and reconciliation and are now doing work in the same area at a diocesan level, and my role has included helping to articulate the vision and create the structures and processes that support the strategic leadership of others to accomplish our goals.

I also work well with high volume, and I have good supervisory and administrative skills. I am not easily overwhelmed by a fast-paced, demanding work load; I tend to enjoy it. These tendencies strengthen others in the office by helping them experience being supported by my leadership.

I love great liturgy. However, I think the details of putting together a liturgy is not a strength of mine. I know it when I see it, but there are others more gifted than I at the design work. When I was rector of St. Thomas, I worked closely with my colleague to create dynamic worship. She would often craft a liturgy, and then together we would fine tune it to get a great result.

Likewise, I do not have strengths in visual design to translate a creative idea into something people can access visually. I am better with words and ideas, and even if I have some sense of what materials may need to look like (such as websites or other visual tools), I need help translating my ideas. I have worked over the past several months with our Communications Director to develop means of communicating important initiatives across the diocese. I help generate the ideas, and our Director masterfully translates them into visually accessible realities.

Walkabouts

April 17:
St Stephens, Whitehall

April 18
St Albans, Sinking Spring

April 19
St Pauls, Montrose

April 20
St Stephens, Wilkes-Barre



April 28:
Electing Convention

May 12:
Bishop Sean Farewell Party

September 15:
Consecration of IX Bishop

October 13&14:
Diocesan Convention
Seating of New Bishop