

Bishop Johnston Appoints Canon to the Ordinary to Begin in 2010

The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, Bishop of Virginia, today announced the appointment of the Rev. Susan E. Goff as Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Virginia. Ms. Goff will begin her work at the Diocese on January 18, 2010.

In her new role, Ms. Goff will oversee the day-to-day supervision of various episcopal ministries, including the discernment and ordination process for the Diocese, the transition process for clergy and congregations, including the Fresh Start Program, and misconduct prevention and response. Ms. Goff will also work closely with churches in the areas on congregational development and crisis and conflict resolution. While she will be based in the Richmond office, Ms. Goff will travel extensively throughout the Diocese.

"This is a really wonderful development, especially at the beginning of a new episcopate," said Bishop Johnston, now four days into his ministry as Bishop of Virginia after serving two and one-half years as Bishop Coadjutor. "It is very important to restore the office of Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Virginia. The Canon's ministry will have a huge impact, both at the congregational level and in diocesan responsibilities. That is why I'm so proud to announce that Susan is the one to take this position. She brings deep and wide-ranging experience to this new ministry, her colleagues know her and respect her highly, and she is a person of great spirituality in addition to her professional skills."

Ms. Goff joins the diocesan staff from St. Christopher's, Springfield, where she has served as rector since 1994. In addition to her work at St. Christopher's, she has served as an adjunct instructor in liturgics at Virginia Theological Seminary. Prior to St. Christopher's, Ms. Goff served as rector at Immanuel, Old Church, and was chaplain at St. Catherine's School in Richmond and St. Margaret's School in Tappahannock. Prior to her ordination in 1981, Ms. Goff spent two years as a lay minister at St. Michael's Mission on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming, was a summer ministry intern at the Grand Canyon in Arizona, and was Camp Coordinator of Eagle's Nest Camp in the Diocese of Newark.

Her leadership at the diocesan level includes serving two terms as a member of the Standing Committee, one term from 1993-1996 and one term that ends in January 2010. In addition, Ms. Goff has served as secretary of the Commission on Human Need and as a member of the Diocesan Human Sexuality Dialogue Group. She has supervised some 15 seminarians, been a trainer of seminarian supervisors and worked closely with postulants and the newly ordained. Her involvement in the wider Church includes serving as a deputy to General Convention in 2003, 2006 and 2009.

Ms. Goff graduated with a masters of divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York with distinction in 1980. She received her baccalaureate degree *magna cum laude* from Douglass College at Rutgers University, where she majored in psychology and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Ms. Goff is married to the Rev. Thomas C. Holliday, an interim ministry specialist who has served numerous churches in the Diocese.

"Susan Goff's ministry as Canon to the Ordinary will make a big difference in my own work as Bishop of Virginia," added Bishop Johnston. "To me, the Canon occupies a unique position in a bishop's office. We will share a special relationship of consultation and collaboration while she also takes charge of a number of critical diocesan responsibilities. I have complete trust and confidence in Susan for all of this."