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## From the Clergy Associate for Family Ministries

### May Message

Ten years ago this May 22<sup>nd</sup> I was ordained to the priesthood at Christ Church in Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia, by Bishop Peter James Lee. At the time I was finishing my first position after seminary, a two-year “Clergy Residency” program patterned after a medical residency for newly minted clergy. It was on the interview for this position, in March of 2003, that I first met my husband, Peter Quinn, on a blind date. I was ordained to the Diaconate in November of 2004 at Christ Church; Peter and I were married at Trinity Church Copley Square in the City of Boston on January 15, 2005.

When I was ordained a priest in May of that year, I had just accepted a new job as Assistant Rector at St. John’s Lafayette Square, where I served from July of 2005 until Christmas Eve of 2008. Peter and I drove with our two little daughters, Nora (2) and Molly (9 months) to Ridgewood on Christmas Day (after opening presents that Santa Claus had delivered to the tree in the lobby of the Tabard Inn in Washington). Peter began work at Becton Dickinson at the beginning of January, 2009, and we lived with his parents until we bought, renovated, and moved into our own home down the street during the summer of 2010.

When I think about the past ten years, I blink at the haze of them and am in awe of God’s presence with us during certainly the busiest and best ten years of my life so far. I am so grateful to have found St. Elizabeth’s for all of our family. And I can’t believe I’ve been ordained and married for ten years, except that here we are in this dear parish with four sweet girls to show for it!

As I was drifting down memory lane, I pulled out a collection of prayers a former parishioner shared with me, and turned to the prayer appointed for May 22. I am struck by the simple wisdom and hope you will enjoy it as I do:

*O Shepherd of the Sheep, who didst promise to carry the lambs in Thine arms, and to lead us by the still waters, help us to know the peace which passeth understanding. Give us to drink that heavenly draught which is life, the calm patience which is content to bear what Thou givest. Have mercy upon us, and bear our prayers. Lead us gently when we pass through the valley of the shadow of death. Guide us, till at last, in the assembly of Thy saints, we may find rest forevermore. Amen.*

– George Dawson (p. 143, *Prayers, Ancient and Modern*, selected by Mary Wilder Tileson)

What a joy to serve among you all. May you encounter this spring full of blessings in many forms,

Cathy Quinn  
*Clergy Associate for Family Ministries*