

Autobiographical Statement for the Rev. D.A. “Andy” Olivo

My name is Andy Olivo and I’m a follower of Jesus. I’m also a husband to Catherine; a father to Charles, Mary Claire, and Sydney; and a pastor, priest, and teacher. I could say other things about myself—I collect manual typewriters; I love live music and theatre; I play golf (poorly); and so much more—but those first details are really the core of my identity. If you spend time with me you will hear me talk about all of those things as they bring me so much joy, and I love to share that joy with others.

I’m blessed to serve as the Rector of St. Elizabeth’s in Ridgewood, N.J. We are a thriving church committed to making disciples who have a deep love of our Episcopal and Anglican traditions, while at the same time not afraid of change as we see how the Spirit is moving in the world.

I grew up in a small town in southern Indiana that goes by the name Nashville. I had a great upbringing in the Other Music City (yes, it’s actually called that), surrounded by a large, extended family. Although church was not part of my life until high school, my family believed that caring for others was essential. That love of others has been a guiding principle in my life, and became even more important when I became a Christian.

I discovered Jesus by way of the Catholic Church, deepened my faith in the Christian Church/ Disciples of Christ tradition, and found my spiritual home when I became an Episcopalian during my sophomore year of college in East Tennessee. By the time I graduated, I had discerned a call to ordained ministry and was sent to Sewanee to prepare for ordination.

I was ordained on my 25th birthday and began serving at St. Paul’s, Chattanooga the next day. After three years there, my new wife Catherine and I moved to Washington D.C. where I served as the Associate Rector of St. John’s, Lafayette Square (the “Church of the Presidents”) for five fun, formative years. We continued our journey north in the fall of 2019 when I became the Rector of St. Elizabeth’s. It’s been an unexpected and exciting journey, and all along the way I’ve had wonderful people who have helped me to grow not only as a priest but also as a person of faith.

I’m a strong believer that effective and successful ministry begins with relationship building—our relationships with God and our relationships with each other—and that conviction helps to guide my ministry.

A few other things about me: I love to spend time with my family and friends, laugh, read *The New Yorker*, go out to lunch, walk my dogs, and write letters (type, actually). Saying “thank you” is something I strive to do as frequently as I can. And so I’ll end that way: Thank you. Thank you for inviting me into this process with you. I am deeply honored.