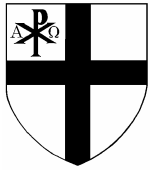


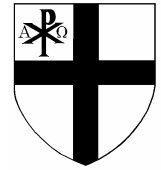
# Anglican Province of America



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## BISHOP'S EPISTLE

First of all, let me wish each of you a blessed Advent Season and a Merry Christmas. It seems as though it has been forever since my last Epistle. My travel schedule has been the heaviest I can remember. This along with the renovating and moving of the Diocesan/ Provincial Offices at St. Alban's Cathedral has limited my office time. Now that the move has been made and things are settling down, the communications from this office shall improve. Lisa is now the full time secretary for the Diocese and the Parish duties are being handled by the new secretary, Rhonda Edminson.

As some of you know, I have tendered my resignation as Dean of St. Alban's Cathedral, effective January 1, 2009. This will be my 30<sup>th</sup> year at St. Alban's beginning in the modest early days in 1979 to 2009. The work of God's hand at St. Alban's has been so evident from the handful of parishioners when I arrived to the present day as the Cathedral parish of the Diocese and Province. I am so pleased that the Rev. Canon Ralph Waterhouse has been elected as the new Dean. Fr. Ralph arrived in June 2008 and has hit the ground running. Also, appointed as Canon to the Cathedral is the Rev. Michael Eatmon. Canon Eatmon brings wonderful Bible and theological teaching skills to the Cathedral and I am looking forward to utilizing his talents in other parts of the Province and Diocese of the East. The congregation is very enthusiastic about the future.

### *Visit to the West Coast*

At the end of October and the first of November 2008, I was able to visit two parishes in the Diocese of the West (DOW) to ordain two men who had been scheduled for ordination. On Saturday, October 31, I journeyed from Portland, Oregon to Tacoma, Washington to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and Ordain the Rev. Paul Chikos. Fr. Craig Luesing is the rector of the parish. This parish was not doing well over the last few years, but most recently has seen a resurgence in attendance and the welcoming of new parishioners. They are optimistic about their future. Please pray for Fr. Luesing as he has been suffering from chronic back pain and has been scheduled for surgery in a couple of weeks. We pray for his full and quick recovery. From Tacoma it was back to Portland and the suburb of Wilsonville where the Church of St. Michael is located. On Sunday, Nov. 2, I ordained the

Rev. Robert Hawkins as a deacon. He was presented by his mentor, the Rev. Dr. Creighton Barnes of St. Andrew's, Jacksonville, Oregon. St. Michael's has a number of young people who are excited about their future in Wilsonville and their new Deacon-in-charge. Plans are being made by the remaining parishes of the DOW to hold a special Synod to reorganize and to elect the necessary committees and members for the year. Fr. Douglas King is assisting in this preparation. It will be necessary to elect a Standing Committee and a Board of Examining Chaplains.

### *News from the DEUS*

The months of October and November were busy months as I visited a number of our DEUS congregations. On Thursday October 9, I was in East Aurora, New York for an evening Eucharist celebrating the appointment of Fr. William Stott as the new Area Dean of the Northeast. From there it was on to Annapolis/Crownsville, Maryland. On October 11, I ordained the Rev. Thomas Burr as deacon at St. Paul's Church. On Sunday, October 12, I celebrated and preached at two Eucharists at St. Paul's and on Sunday afternoon at 3:00 PM, I dedicated their new church building to the glory of God and under the protection of St. Paul. Bishop Robert Loiselle and his wife Emily, along with the vestry and congregation, are to be congratulated for the outstanding job they did in seeing this project through. I enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Riser while there. It was gratifying to have a number of our clergy and parishioners from local parishes in Maryland and friends including Bishop Daniel Cox from the REC.

All Saints' Church, Mills River, North Carolina has issued a call to the Rev. William Martin. Fr. Martin comes from a conservative Episcopal Church background in California and was interviewed by the Board of Examining Chaplains and me in October 2008. I anticipate instituting Fr. Martin as Rector of All Saints' Church in early 2009. All Saints' Church is most grateful to Fr. Paul Blankinship for serving as the interim priest-in-charge following the resignation of Fr. Mark Clavier.

St. James Anglican Church, Gloucester, Virginia has lost Fr. Frank Watts (Chaplain) due to transfer by the U.S. Air Force. They presently have an interim priest, Fr.

# Continuation of Bishop's Epistle

Jason Dechenne, from the Anglican Church in America, who is serving on loan to them and licensed by me as priest-in-charge. St. James' Church is now in a remodeled building on the grounds of the very large property they own. This building was completed by members of the congregation and is a wonderful example of God's people working together.

Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Sarasota, Florida has sold its building and has relocated to a more visible location in the city. It is a beautiful former office building and they are currently remodeling it to suit their purposes. Fr. James Donnelly is experiencing some health problems and has recently resigned as the vicar. He asks that you keep him in your prayers. The congregation is currently being supplied by Fr. David Eastes and Fr. Richard Blyth. The Senior Warden is Bill Webster.

November 7-9, I visited St. George Anglican Church in Simpsonville (Greenville), South Carolina. On Friday there was an art exhibit at the church for the benefit of the homeless shelter in Greenville. There was a wide variety of art, some painted by the homeless themselves. The proceeds from the paintings that were sold at auction went to the benefit of the shelter. On Sunday at the celebration of the Eucharist, there were 5 people Confirmed. The entire weekend was an uplifting time demonstrating the dedication of the people there under the leadership of Fr. Johann Vanderbijl. On the way home from Greenville I stopped in Atlanta for an extra day and visited with my son Steve who has returned from his tour in Iraq. It was great to be with Steve and Rebecca and all the grandchildren.

## *News from the Diocese of Mid America (DMA)* (Submitted by Bishop Shaver)

The Diocese of Mid-America continues to develop new church plants. Of note, the very Rev. Charles Scott will oversee a new mission on the far South side of Indianapolis. Good Shepherd, Indianapolis, has moved into a shared facility with Resurrection Church on the Indianapolis North Side, a CANA Parish. The Anglican witness in the State Capital is growing.

New mission work is being planned for Chicago's North side. Under the leadership of the Rev. Jose Landeverde, Vicar of Our Lady of Guadalupe, on the near Southwest side of Chicago (Little Village), the Hispanic response has been very gratifying. Our Lady of Guadalupe now has a weekly attendance of two hundred and fifty persons. A new Confirmation class of forty will be presented to Bishop Shaver for Confirmation in January 2009. Recently three men were ordained as Deacons, Jesus Vargas, Zenon Carrera, and Jose Herrera. Two women were set aside as Deaconesses, Lucidia Blanco

and Marilu Vargas. The Church now has a huge new facility, with an ongoing Legal Aid Clinic, computer classes and homework assistance for school age children. A certified Anglican Social Services agency is planned for this summer to begin operation. The Diocese will oversee the new North Side Mission (to be named) and deploy two of the new Deacons and one of the Deaconesses from our Lady of Guadalupe to the new mission development.

St Matthias Church, Florence, Kentucky, under the leadership of the Rev. John Novak is experiencing growth as they develop. After completing his ordination studies and exams, Deacon Novak will be ordained Priest and Vicar of the Parish.

Holy Nativity, Lima, Ohio will call a new Vicar shortly after the first of the new year. This congregation has great potential.

Currently, we have two men studying at Nashotah House to be joined by two new Seminarians this summer. One Postulant, Dr. Richard Palmer, from St Paul's, Cincinnati, will be ordained this spring as a Deacon. He is a second career man, who just recently received his Master of Arts in Ministry from Nashotah House – He will be appointed to St Paul's to assist there.

## *Ecumenical News*

In October 2008, I attended the General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church in Victoria, British Columbia. I was well received and was able to meet with a number of the clergy and bishops I have known over the years. I was privileged to address the delegation and bring greetings from the APA.

In November, I visited another of our intercommunion partners, Forward in Faith, North America at their council meeting. The meeting was held at Our Lady of the Snows near St. Louis. Most of the discussion centered on the new Anglican Church in North America and how this Province is going to be structured. The concern was how those who do not ordain women would be involved and protected under the new set of Constitution and Canons. I was able to express the APA's hesitations given the anomalies that do exist and how the whole concept of affinity groups within the Province will work. It was a good time to renew acquaintances and friendships and we all prayed that God would lead those who are committed to Catholic Faith and Order in the right direction.

## *Non-parochial Clergy Reporting Requirements*

This is a reminder to all non-parochial clergy that you are required to send your Diocesan Bishop a letter at least once a year (Advent Season preferred). I have several clergy that I have not heard from (either by letter or email or even a call) in several years. Please satisfy Canon 43,

# Continuation of Bishop's Epistle

Section 1 of the APA Canons which reads in part: "And every Minister not in charge of any Parish or Congregation shall also report his occasional services, and if there have been none, the causes or reasons which have prevented the same." Please send me a letter/email during this Advent Season. (Assistants and Curates are exempt because the Annual report from the Rector/Vicar includes all his subordinate clergy). I would enjoy and appreciate hearing from you. Unfortunately, those who fail to contact me will ultimately be dropped from the APA roles.

## *Final word*

There is much buzz these days about the announcement of the new Anglican Church in North America and what this going to mean to the Anglican world. When reading the proposed Constitution of the ACNA, one gets the idea that there is much to support. There are parts of the Constitution that are an attempt to provide a way for those who believe in the ordination of women and those who do not to remain in the same "province" and address the issue in the future. This brings to mind the dilemma of whether or not one would be in communion with the Presiding Bishop if he ordains women. The discomfort in this is when there is a joint meeting, how does one in impaired communion participate? There are assurances that nothing need change in each jurisdiction of the new province and each one could continue to use their own prayer book.

On the other hand there are those in the APA who are concerned that we are not part of this new Province. There are compelling arguments made that we will become more and more isolated as a Province and become like the Anglican Catholic Church or the Anglican Province of Christ the King who live in isolation counting it a virtue. In other words the choices are not clear and there is not clear mandate in the APA to join the ACNA at this time. There is still much to develop over the next year. Will this whole new Province be accepted by the greater church? We must pray that the Primates will in their wisdom face the reality of not setting up a Province which by its structure will be divided. These issues will no doubt be subjects of discussion at deanery meetings over the next months. The wisdom of Solomon is needed in all of this.

God bless each of you and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

+Walter

## **Strategic Plan Updates**

If you are a Strategic Plan Champion and have not submitted your brief update report (a paragraph is fine)

please do so immediately to the Diocesan office at [apadeus@cfl.rr.com](mailto:apadeus@cfl.rr.com).

## **Ad Clerum**

**Ordinations:** The Rev. Mr. Thomas Burr was ordained to the Diaconate on October 11, 2008 at St. Paul's Chapel, Crownsville, Maryland. Fr. Thomas will serve as curate. The Rev. Mr. Paul Chikos was ordained to the Diaconate, on November 1, 2008 at St. Alban's Church, Tacoma, Washington. Fr. Paul will serve as curate. The Rev. Mr. Robert Hawkins was ordained to the Diaconate on November 2, 2008 at St. Michael's Church in Wilsonville, Oregon. Fr. Robert will serve as Deacon-in-charge.

**Call Accepted:** The Rev. William Martin has accepted a call to be the Priest-in-charge at All Saints' Church, Mills River, North Carolina. The Rev. Brett Travis has accepted a call to be Vicar at Holy Cross, Knoxville, Tennessee.

## **Resignation/Transfers:**

Fr. James Donnelly resigned from Holy Trinity, Sarasota, FL

## **Vacancies:**

Christ Church, Highland/Cashiers, NC  
Holy Nativity, Lima, OH  
Holy Trinity, Sarasota, FL

## **Prayer List**

Of your charity, keep in your prayers: Fr. Mike Napoli and Fr. Tony Clavier both battling cancer; Fr. Larry Emerson's wife Lindsey, health problems; Fr. Donnelly, heart issues; Fr. Blankinship's son Andrew, recovering from cancer; Fr. David Eastes, health issues; Bishop Belmonte's wife Eros, diabetes; Fr. Kite-Powell, stroke; Fr. Howard Underwood, recovery from back surgery; Fr. Warner's wife, Andrea, health problems; Betty Royer, (on Standing Committee), health issues.

## **Bishop's Itinerary:**

Oct. 9: Visitation to St. Luke's Church, E. Aurora, N.Y  
Oct.11: Ordination to Diaconate, Thomas Burr, St. Paul's Church, Crownsville, MD  
Oct. 12: Celebrating and Preaching/Morning Eucharists  
Oct. 12: Dedication of St. Paul's Church building at 3PM  
Oct.19: Visitation, Baptism, Confirmation at St. Luke's Church, Port Orange, FL  
Oct.21-24: Attending General Council of REC, Victoria, B.C. Canada



# Continuation of Bishop's Epistle

08 The Rev. Johann Vanderbijl, *Diaconate*  
 10 The Rev. Mr. Lawrence Stogner, *Diaconate*  
 13 The Rev. Richard Blyth, *Diaconate*  
 14 The Rev. Michael Northup, *Diaconate*  
 14 The Rev. Michael Torres, *Diaconate*  
 16 The Very Rev. William Perkins, Jr., *Priesthood*  
 16 The Ven. Erich Zwingert, *Priesthood*  
 17 The Rev. Canon Kenneth Badger, *Priesthood*  
 18 The Rev. Richard Blyth, *Priesthood*  
 21 The Rev. Robert Burgreen, *Diaconate*  
 21 The Rev. Canon Chad Jones, SSC, *Priesthood*  
 21 The Rev. Floyd Patrick, *Priesthood*  
 29 The Rev. Canon James Daughtry, *Priesthood*  
 30 The Rev. David Eastes, *Diaconate*  
 31 The Most Rev. Herbert Groce, SSC, *Diaconate*

## **January Birthdays**

13 The Rev. Dr. Robert Peoples  
 14 The Most Rev. Larry Shaver, Obl OSB  
 20 The Most Rev. Walter Grundorf, D.D.  
 29 The Rev. John Grafton

## **January Anniversaries**

05 The Very Rev. Charles Mallard, *Priesthood*  
 08 The Most Rev. Herbert Groce, SSC, *Bishop*  
 11 The Rev. Paul Blankinship, SCC, *Priesthood*  
 17 The Rev. Roger Bell, *Diaconate*  
 18 The Rev. Canon Burdett Geer, *Diaconate*  
 19 The Rt. Rev. G. Raymond Hanlan, *Bishop*  
 21 The Rev. William Weston, *Diaconate*  
 23 The Rev. Dennis Washburn, *Priesthood*

## **February Birthdays**

01 The Rev. Chip Sills, Jr.  
 04 The Rev. Mr. Richard Conley  
 12 The Rt. Rev. C. Peter Brewer, OSF  
 13 The Rev. Mr. Thomas Burr  
 19 The Rev. Michael Ward, SSA  
 23 The Rev. Kevin Sweeney

## **February Anniversaries**

13 The Rev. John Poole, *Diaconate*  
 17 The Very Rev. Charles Mallard, *Diaconate*  
 20 The Rev. James Reber, *Diaconate*  
 20 The Rev. James Reber, *Priesthood*  
 24 The Rev. Jose Landaverde, *Priesthood*  
 26 The Very Rev. Michael Smith, *Priesthood*  
 27 The Rev. Michael Ward, SSA, *Priesthood*

*Please contact the APA/DEUS Office at 1-800-480-1087 if any of the Birthday/Anniversary dates are in error or a date has been missed.*