



Diocese of the Holy Trinity and Great Plains

Newsletter

July, 2006

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A newlywed couple moved into their new home and the next day, when the man returned home from work, the wife told her husband that the Priest had called on them that day. He had asked her a question she could not answer. The husband asked what the question was, and she said he had asked her, "Does Jesus Christ live here"? She explained, "I didn't know what to say."

The husband said "Couldn't you tell him that we are respectable people?"

She replied "He didn't ask me that."

The husband said, "Why didn't you tell him that we go to church sometimes."

She said, "He didn't ask me that either. What he asked me was 'Does Jesus Christ live here'?"

That is a good question to put before any home; but equally important is the question, "What difference would Christ make in your house?" The Bible records evidence of healing, and there is help, there is hope, and there is happiness -- and the happiness is a result of Christ's presence and power.

Invite Jesus Christ into your home. See the difference that He can bring. What He does while He is there can change the home, the persons living there, and the purpose of their lives. Why don't you, this day, invite Christ into your home and enjoy the blessing of His presence?

In Memory...

It is with great sadness that the Diocese says goodbye to Father Arthur “Art” Werner of St. John’s HCC/AR, Lander, WY. Services were held June 6, 2006, in Lander with Bishop Kenneth Kinner presiding.

Fr. Werner moved to Lander in 1959, working in radio broadcasting and newspaper journalism. He also became involved in many organizations and projects including the Masons, Shrine and Scottish Rite, the VFW, American Legion, DAV, the Chamber of Commerce, the Water for Wildlife Federation, the Lander Little Theater, and the list goes on and on.

Fr. Werner finished his studies for orders at Holyrood Seminary in 1999, and became the Priest at St. John’s HCC/AR. While there he also served the Church of the Morning Star in Ethete.

Before going to Wyoming from his Michigan home, this highly decorated soldier was part of the D-Day invasion on Omaha Beach. Ironically, he was buried on the 62nd anniversary of that historical day. He leaves his wife, Caroline, step-daughter, Susan Bingle, and step-grandsons, Matt and Nate. He also leaves a legacy of untiring community service and service to our Church and our Lord. Fr. Werner was 81.

From the Clergy...

****Note:** *This is the final installment of the message written by Father Cochran at St. James in Kansas City. Hopefully it has been interesting and enlightening to all of us. A special thank you goes to Fr. Cochran for allowing me to reprint and edit his letter to visitors at St. James.*

Why is worship so structured; why not something new and exciting like contemporary worship and praise music?

The single most obvious problem with this question is that it assumes that worship at [Anglican churches] is boring. We believe that the parishioners would disagree heartily with that assumption. It is true that worship is orderly; the music consists of traditional hymns and Gregorian chant, all of which is very beautiful. Saint James and the other Anglican parishes, nonetheless, are traditional parishes. We believe, as the Church has for some time now, that worship is not entertainment. While at worship we believe that we are truly in the presence of God, and as Scripture tells us: *O, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of Him* (Psalm 46: 9).

Why would one want to clap hands, stomp feet, scream and shout, in the house of the Lord when we would not dream of behaving this way when invited to our neighbor's house?

The house of the Lord (the church) is a place where we can come to solemnly reflect inwardly on our very souls. It is a place where many people come to do this. We must give them, and most importantly God, the utmost respect.

The Divine Liturgy (the order of the Church Service) is an orderly rite full of ceremony. This is how the Church has worshiped since the beginning. In each prayer and in each action in the liturgy, we all learn something more about God. In the fact that our worship is structured, for example, we learn that God, too, is structured and orderly. God is not a god of chaos; He is the God of the universe who created the orderly laws of nature, such as physics and chemistry.

Our worship allows for us to come to a better understanding of God's nature. When we can more fully understand this, then we know how to order our lives around His will. For this is how the Saints of God have lived their lives on earth—lives ordered around God's will. This is ultimately the mission of the Church—to make saints of her members.

Do you... pray to Saints?

Here is another terrible misunderstanding by many people. The entire controversy surrounding this issue is grounded merely in semantics. In numerous plays by William Shakespeare and other authors of his era, the phrase, "I pray thee..." occurs very often. No **divine praise** is assumed in these instances; rather, in contemporary language we would say something like, "I implore you" or something else to that effect.

The assumption is that our members render **divine praise** to such people as the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Francis, and other historical and heroic members of the Church. The reality is that these Saints are merely asked (or implored) for their prayers on our behalf. As Christians we all believe in the power of prayer. Exactly how quantifiable that prayer is, we do not know, but we do know that it is powerful, nonetheless.

No Christian man or woman would be insulted when asked for his or her prayers. We pray for one another regularly. Then why is it that some become offended when we ask someone such as the Blessed Virgin Mary to pray for us? Is she not alive and well in the presence of God? We say unequivocally YES -- she is as are all of God's saints. And, we have the Holy Hope that, through the mercy of God, we too will be with them one day.

NOTE TO THE READERS: In order to bring information about the Synod, the usual story for the "Children's Corner" will return in the next issue of the newsletter.

Parish News from around the Diocese...

St. Gabriel's, Greeley:

St. Gabriel's celebrated Holy Week with services on Wednesday before Easter, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. Easter service was followed by a brunch at which the congregation celebrated the Resurrection, and then ate birthday cake with Gary Debus.

The Thursday Mass that week was followed by a clean-up project. New rock was added to the parking areas in the front and at the side. A little visiting was enjoyed in the process. This summer, the 4th of July parade will pass right by St. Gabriel's. A picnic in the back yard will follow the parade.

Chita Lebsack has been doing a little globe-trotting! She recently took a European river trip. Wow!

Father Glenn is still under a doctor's care to regulate his heart rhythm. Please keep him in your prayers.

Kevin and Teresa have been moving people over several weeks. We will have to await the details on that.

Church of the Holy Family, Casper:

The congregation in Casper also had a clean-up day recently. It was scheduled on the 3rd of June followed by pizza. Also on that day, parishioners took part in a charity walk-a-thon to benefit CARENET, a group which provides support for pregnant teens.

In the works in Casper is the planning for youth camp. A benefit yard sale is scheduled for June 15 & 16.

Thanks to Jeff and Michelle Johnson for hosting the event.

Camp will be in July.

This parish is also in mourning, not only for Father Art, but also for 21-year-old Evan Craig Smith, a member of the Church of the Morning Star. Evan died along with two other people in a car crash June 15th. Five hundred attended the Requiem Eucharist with 340 receiving Communion.

St. Joseph's, Wichita:

St. Joseph's parishioners asked for a Bible study and got it. Father Beaver put much time and effort into a study covering the Old Testament. Each week's lessons led to great discussions and enlightenment. All members are grateful to Father for his efforts and contributions and look forward to starting up again in the fall.

The Women of St. Joseph held their annual luncheon on June 2nd. Six ladies were in attendance. The idea was discussed to schedule another luncheon in the fall since several of the women in the parish were unable to attend this one. The fellowship shared at this annual event is much enjoyed by all.

St. Raphael's, Springfield, MO:

More sadness in the Diocese, and particularly for St. Raphael's members, as that parish says goodbye too soon to Chuck Mezo.

(Comments written by Ande Ryneveld and edited with permission.)

Chuck Mezo was a cheerful, larger-than-life, ministering angel, quietly helping all sorts of people all of the time. He was a sweet, selfless guy. More people than we'll ever know are missing him terribly. He was a bright and shining

light in Springfield, MO... and one of the biggest baseball fans the city has ever known.

Yet, as there is much sadness and grieving here at his absence, there is comparable joy and rejoicing *there*--in heaven.

As Shakespeare's Marc Antony said, "...the good is oft interred with their bones." Let it not be so with Chuck Arthur Mezo.

His life is both an inspiration and a challenge to us all. What have we -- what have I -- done to help another human being yesterday or today or tomorrow? What have we -- what have I -- done to cause at least one grin or giggle outbreak today?

Thank you, Chuck. See ya later.

Church of the Holy Trinity, Sheridan, WY:

Holy Trinity is looking to purchase a building more suitable for a church. Their search has been going on for some time now.

Also in the works in Sheridan is a police chaplain program. Fr. Crawshaw was approached by the police department to help get this program started, which he is working to do.

St. James, Kansas City, MO:

St. James clergy and parishioners put much work into preparing for the Synod delegates to converge upon them. In addition to that, however, they proudly spoke of the two new members, the wheel chair ramp recently installed, and, best of all, two babies on the way! One of those soon-to-arrive babies is Father Cochran's as his wife is expecting

their first child. Congratulations! (We will be awaiting the announcements.)

St. John's, Lander, WY:

With everything this parish has been through in the past month, please add prayers for the soul of Vestry member Virginia Juul Lindell. She was 89 and a retired school teacher. She passed away on June 15th. A graveside service will be held in July.

2006 Synod!

The annual Diocesan Synod was held June 14-16 in Kansas City, MO, hosted by St. James HCC/AR. A word of welcome was given by Father Cochran. The official count of Clergy and Delegates was 31. Three visiting Bishops were also in attendance: Bishop Kenneth Kinner, Diocese of the Missionary Jurisdiction to the American Indian People; Bishop Leo Michael of the United Episcopal Church of North America; and Bishop Arthur Rushlow, Anglican Friars of Corpus Christi. Bishop Greeson was unable to attend but sent the message that he loves us all.



Business as usual at the Synod.

The usual business was conducted at the Thursday meeting. Deacon Jimmie Dean, Ruth Cramer, Lewis Shephard, and Father Crawshaw will serve on the Council of Advice. The Consistory Court, made up of four clerical and three lay members, will now be formed by Fathers Beaver, Gordon, Crawshaw, Deacon Dean, JoDean Courtway, Arnie Wood, Johnny Becker, and Connie Crawshaw.

Bishop McNeley, in keeping with Title 6 of the Canons, submitted his resignation as he is approaching his 75th birthday this year. The House of Laity voted not to accept that resignation. According to the Canons, Bishop McNeley is required to resubmit his resignation every year.

Two men were officially identified in writing as candidates studying for orders. They are Lewis Shephard of Sheridan, WY, and Arnie Wood of Wichita, KS.



Bishop Kleppinger visits with others upon arriving for the evening meal on Thursday.

Just in time for the evening meal, the gathering of delegates and clergy were joined by three more Bishops. Bishop Thomas Kleppinger, Bishop Henry (Hank) King, and Bishop David Seeland arrived for dinner and visitation. They stayed for the remainder of the

Synod and took part in a planning meeting for the gathering set for October.

In the midst of going about the grieving for Father Werner, St. John's building fell victim to vandals and thieves. The church was broken into, many items from the altar stolen, and those items which were not so mobile were damaged, defiled, or destroyed! This was devastating news to all, and the delegates and clergy in attendance unanimously agreed that the collection from the Synodal Mass would be donated to St. John's to help replace and repair items needed there. That donation was \$520.

The Messages from the Synod:

There was an air of sadness over the Synod. Some tears were shed. However, the overall message was a positive one.

Bishop McNeley addressed the group at the beginning of the Thursday session. He began with identifying the primary challenges facing the clergy: unity and singleness of purpose. He drew attention to the aging population within our churches and, particularly, our clergy. He stated, "It is time for the young people in our midst to pick up the torch and move forward – to take us all into the future."

This may seem like a frightening prospect at first. Once a high standard is set, it seems a daunting task to match that standard, let alone to move beyond it. However, Bp. McNeley seemed to be expressing confidence in the next generation of church leaders, whoever they may be, which was encouraging and exciting.



Bishop Leo Michael from Little Rock Arkansas, UENA, introduces himself to the Synod delegates.

Bishop Michael is from an Arkansas Diocese of the United Episcopal Church of North America. They are part of the union between the HCC/AR and the HCC/WR. Bishop Michael introduced himself and his wife by telling how he came to be part of the UENA. He spoke of being a part of the Episcopal Anglicans by quoting a few words of a prayer we all recite in every Mass: “one Holy and Apostolic Church...” His message, however, hit home when he talked about the “doubting of self” and the feeling of being “too small as a church.” He offered the remedy to “put our hearts and minds together” so that we all can survive. He challenged us to “look in our own neighborhoods, and we will find those...who are fostering the faith and spreading the [good] word of God.”



Bishop Arthur Rushlow talks about our union and restoring the American family.

Also addressing the clergy and delegates was Bishop Rushlow from St. George’s parish in Ocala, FL. He has been there for 22 years and “loves celebrating Mass daily.” He is a member of the Anglican Friars of Corpus Christi. “It is time for us to... become one,” he said. We all need to “seek out ways to stop hurting each other and come together.” He also talked about what he sees as the most destructive problem facing America and Christians—the breakdown of marriage and the family unit. He challenged all of us to “stand and talk and show people about [the sacrament of] marriage.”

More information presented to the Synod:

**The Franciscans –

Sister Clare spoke to the delegates about the Franciscans. She let everyone know that the Franciscans are “still here.” She explained that members of the Franciscan Order provide much

support through prayer. This is an important part of their lives. *(Look back to the last issue of the newsletter for Sister Clare's article on this topic.)*

She explained that the group is quite small – only five spread from Kentucky to California. She said that making the commitment to become a Franciscan requires much searching of the soul and self, but the commitment is worth it when considering the spiritual gifts and the communion of good works to be received. She and Bp. Greeson would be happy to answer any questions or to discuss the Order with anyone interested.



Sister Clare provides information about the Franciscans and the scholarship fund.

****Bob Greene Memorial Scholarship Fund –**

An issue that came up at the 2005 Synod was that of a scholarship fund. A committee was formed and those members set about gathering information needed to establish such a

fund. It was agreed last year that the collection from the Synodal Mass would go into that fund as a starting point. The fund is just over \$400 at this time, a small amount, yes, but available!

In the year following the establishment of the committee and fund, more information has become available. In order to become “endowed” the fund must have \$50,000 in it and give no less than \$2500 annually. The committee has enlisted the help of Cristen Huntz, MBA (St. James) in managing the funds and is looking for additional members. If this is something you would like to be involved with please contact Sister Clare at St. James or at the address listed below.

Those are all details that can and will be worked out by the committee. In the meantime, it is important that all of you know a few specific things about the scholarship fund:

--Donations are being accepted in any amount at any time from anyone. Please mark your check for the scholarship fund and send it c/o St. James HCC/AR, 8107 S. Holmes Rd., Kansas City, MO, 64131, Attn: Sr. Clare;

--We are ready to help now! Even though the funds are small at this time, we feel we can help with the expense of purchasing books or other supplies, set-up costs for utilities in an apartment, combining with other scholarships to help with additional fees for classes, etc. If you, or someone you know, need help, contact any committee member.

--Contact information is as follows:

Sister Clare
611 Gould
Gladstone, MO 64118

Pat McKinney
8815 182nd Road
Mayette, KS 66509
(785)364-3989

Vickie Scaper
4480 S. Meridian #233
Wichita, KS 67217
316-524-5413
Sfprod2001@yahoo.com

****The October Meeting –**

An Ecclesiastical Congress is scheduled for Oct. 12-13, 2006, in Kansas City. St. James will host the event. Everyone who is a member of any parish in the jurisdictions that adhere to the founding documents of our Orthodox Anglican movement (such as the Affirmation of St. Louis) is welcome to attend. Bishop Kleppinger recommends arriving on Wed., Oct. 11. Registration will begin that afternoon. Accommodations are available at White Haven Motor Lodge. Contact your clergy for more information.

On the agenda are many interesting topics. The group will be addressed by Bishop Michael Wright Thursday morning, Bishop Samuel Banzano on Thursday afternoon, and by Bishop Cruz-Blanco on Friday morning.

On Thursday, church music will be discussed by Bishop Kleppinger, followed by Peter Whipple (St. James). Evangelism and church growth will be addressed by Bishop Leo Michael.

On Friday, Bishop David Seeland will talk about ministering to the sick. Father Oren Cyphers will discuss the acolytes. Bishop Hank King will have information about the Holy Oils. The Altar Guild is also on the agenda.

This gathering is a great opportunity for anyone who wishes to learn more and become more involved in

the church and the Diocese. Please consider attending.

****The 2007 Synod –**

It was decided that the 2007 Synod will be held June 13, 14, and 15, 2007, in Sheridan, WY, hosted by Holy Trinity HCC/AR. Make your plans now. Information will be available after the first of the year. The Bishop reminded everyone at this year's Synod that each parish is required by the Canons to be represented by no less than two delegates. Larger parishes may wish to refer to the Canons for specific guidelines on the number of delegates required as determined by a percentage of the total membership. Jon Getz can answer any questions regarding this matter.

Can you believe it has been a year since the newsletter began? It has been quite a learning experience for me. The deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is coming very quickly. I will need to get the copies out by the first week of September to get back on track. Therefore, the deadline for news, photos, and information will be the 7th of August -- just a few weeks away. I go back to work on the 8th so please help me out by responding soon. Thanks. VLS

NOTE TO ALL PARISH

TREASURERS: Please send all correspondence to Lynn Baxter. She is the diocesan treasurer. Her address is 2415 Applegrove St. NE, Canton, OH, 44721. Thank you.



The catered meals at St. James were a wonderful benefit of the Synod.



Meals at the Synod give everyone a chance to visit and socialize. Getting to know new people is fun for all.