



Nurse Nancy

We are home again after a long but successful trip. The Synod was one of the better ones that I have attended. Fr. Crawshaw and the folks at Holy Trinity in Sheridan are great hosts. We managed to get some work done and have some fun doing it. Now that we are home it is time to carry out the things we agreed needed to be done in our Diocese.

There is a story I want to share with you because I know most of you have heard about my “incident” while I was in Sheridan. Saturday morning after the Synod, I had an occasion to visit the Emergency Room of the local hospital. Evidently I passed out at my table in the restaurant of the motel where we were staying. The paramedics were called and I was transported by two very professional young men to the hospital. Another EMT took my car and Madelyn and followed us. When I arrived I was met by Nurse Nancy (I never learned her last name) who would have to be described as a true Angel of Mercy. I was wired for sound and a blood test taken. It did not take long for the physician on duty to determine that one of the prescriptions I had taken for years was far below the therapeutic level. I was told that I could not drive until this problem was rectified, and I was also told to double the dosage I was taking. They released me on my promise not to drive. When we left Nurse Nancy told us if there was any way she could help us just to let her know.

At that time I was beginning to wonder how I was going to get home. Sunday morning after Church at Holy Trinity we went back to the Emergency Room. Thank God Nurse Nancy was on duty. I told her I really needed to get home as soon as possible. I had been told it would require another blood test to see if the medicine was at the proper level. Nurse Nancy said, “Don’t worry about it. I will take care of it.” The doors of the hospital opened at 6:30 am, and she said she would call the lab, and they would be waiting for me. We were there at 6:30 on Monday morning, and they were waiting for me. The test was taken, and it was back to the Emergency Room to wait. The results were there very soon, the level was acceptable, and I was free to go home. But I realized there was another problem. I had doubled up on my medication and did not have even enough for that day. Nurse Nancy said, “I’ll take care of it.”

The doctor I had seen on Saturday was not on duty Monday so Nurse Nancy called him at home, and he said he would call the prescription in to the drug store. By the time we

drove from the hospital to the drug store the pharmacist was filling my prescription. All of this occurred before 8:00 am.

It is so seldom you meet people like these that it is something I won't soon forget. I hope the hospital administration knows how fortunate they are to have Nurse Nancy on their staff.

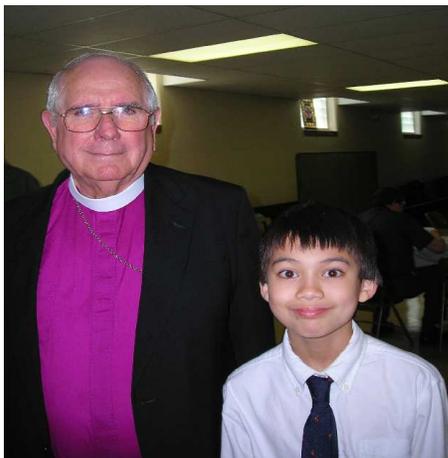
Parish News...

St. James, Kansas City

The Kansas City Parish has been rather busy lately. Look!



(above) On April 14th, Stuart Paul Cochran received Baptism from his father, Fr. Cochran.



(above) On May 6th Gabriel Thomas Brock received the Sacrament of Holy Confirmation at the hands of Bishop McNeley.



(above) Father Cochran received his MA from the University of Missouri in Kansas City on May 5th. His degree is in European History with a concentration in Medieval Christianity.

Congratulations go out to all of them!

Sad news!

MARY SCHNACKE

In March, St. James Parish and the Diocese were saddened by the death of Mary Schnacke. She and her husband Philip were among the first members of St. James. Mary had served on the Vestry in several positions and was the former treasurer of the Diocese. She was preceded in death by her husband. Mary had been in failing health for several years and was on dialysis at the time of her death. She is survived by a son, James, of Overland Park, Kansas, a daughter, Cyd, of Lawrence, Kansas, and two grandchildren.

Request for prayer...

Please keep Father Toole in your prayers as he recovers from by-pass surgery in June. He is recuperating at home.

St. Andrew, Helena

(Note from Helen Hoffman)

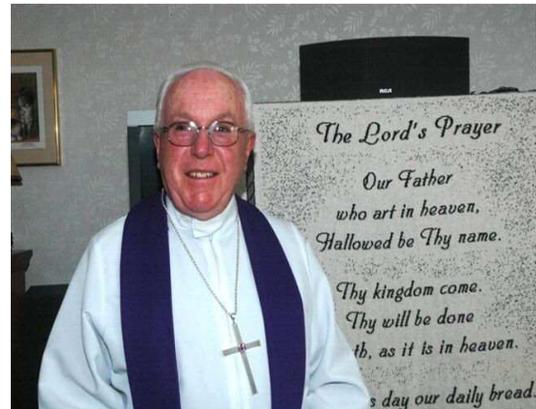
St. Andrew's Fellowship in Helena celebrated Mass at the new home of Tom and Gail Murrin in the Helena Valley on Wednesday, March 28th. Bishop Kinner blessed the Murrin home. The service was followed by a "Soup Supper."



Pictured left to right: The Kinnners, Helen Hoffman, Gail Murrin (w/apron), Meredith Miller, Bobbie Spilker, and Bill Spilker. Don Hoffman took the picture.



A spring snowstorm in Wyoming extended Bishop Kinner's stay in Montana. For two days, the roads were closed by several feet of blowing snow from south of Billings to Casper. The blessing of the storm was that St. Andrew's celebrated Psalm Sunday with Bishop and Priscilla Kinner. It was the first Sunday Mass for St. Andrew's since December of 1998.



Bishop Kinner exemplifies the best of the circuit riders of the Old West. He travels 1100 miles to serve the flock in Helena. We are blessed!

St. Gabriel, Greeley

Father Kern and the parish at Greeley have an annual Lenten study which follows Wednesday evening Mass. Last year they listened to Fr. Benedict Groschell on the Ten Commandments (lessons on tape). This year they chose R. C. Sproul's "Dust to Glory" series.

Two Baptisms were celebrated in March.

St. Gabriel Church continues its mission to feed the hungry with the Food Shelf project. The church is located in an area of need, and the demand on this mission is great.

Holy Trinity, Sheridan

Holy Trinity parish in Sheridan, Wyoming, plans to expand its church building hoping that it will lead to growth of the congregation, according to Fr. Stuart Crawshaw. The announcement was made by Senior Warden Mark Kinner during the Diocesan Synod held in Sheridan in early June.

"Our present structure is a remodeled house with very limited physical space," Crawshaw said, "and our plan is to add substantially to the front with accommodation for fifty or more people. It will have a definite church-like appearance with the altar at the east end where it should be." Plans also include removing the present garage to make room for additional parking.

The parish started a building fund a couple of years ago and has been looking for property for a new church. The scarcity of suitable locations and prohibitive costs prompted the parish to investigate the feasibility of expanding its present home and has engaged an architect.

"This will be a major step for a congregation that, a few short years ago, met in a rented club building," Father Crawshaw said, "and our intent is to be more visible in the community as ambassadors for Christ. It's a 'build it and they will come' idea."



Fr. Crawshaw – photo taken at the Synod.

Synod Notes...

The 2007 Synod was called to order in June. Here are a few highlights from members in attendance. Photos are the courtesy of Don Hoffman, St. Andrew, Arnie Wood, St. Joseph, and Fr. Crawshaw, Holy Trinity.



Diocesan Secretary, Beth Kline, was unable to attend. Marilyn Beaver, wife of Father Beaver, Wichita, gladly stepped in to help with those duties.



Pictured left to right: Bishop McNeley, Marilyn Beaver, and Lynn Baxter.

The Bishop once again offered his resignation as is required by the Canons upon his 75th birthday. Of course, the offer was refused by the Synod delegation.

However, Jon Getz, Canonist, presented information to the delegates on the canonical process required for an election of a Bishop, whenever that becomes necessary. A Canons and Constitution Committee was appointed consisting of Lynn Baxter, Jon Getz, Fr. John Cochran, and Fr. Stuart Crawshaw.



Jon Getz, Canonist

Those elected or appointed to fill vacancies in various committees were: Council of Advice -- Fr. John Cochran, St. James, (re-elected), Richard Caldwell, and Armen Gazaway, both of St. Joseph.

Consistory Court -- Fr. John Cochran, and Cristen Huntz, St. James.

It was reported that Arnie Wood, St. Joseph, and Lewis Shepherd, Holy Trinity, are progressing well in their studies for the diaconate. Arnie will be ordained soon.

The House of Laity presented a resolution that the Bishop and the Council of Advice continue an ecumenical plan with fixed goals and objectives for continued outreach to other Anglican bodies. This was unanimously approved. An Ecumenical Commission was formed to assist the Bishop with this. Those members are Lynn Baxter, Richard Caldwell (below), Fr. John Cochran, Cristen Huntz, Sister Clare, Fr. Stuart Crawshaw, Mark Kinner, and Lewis Shepherd. Bp. Kinner will be an ex-officio member.



With all that business going on, it seems only fitting that the group would unwind a little on Thursday evening. An Irish band, above, came in for everyone's entertainment. The performances were enjoyed very much. Wait! Who's that drummer? He looks a little familiar, doesn't he?



Lynn Baxter, below, Diocesan Treasurer, reported on the budget for 2008.



Breaking news! New Diocesan Web site was launched June 15. The address is dhtgp.com. Webmaster is Kirk Baxter.

You should check it out! It is very nice!

**Thank you, Lynn and Kirk Baxter!*

The Synod Mass collection was \$418 and was designated for ecumenical efforts. Any other contributions to this purpose may be sent to Lynn and will be so designated. Send to: Lynn Baxter, 2415 Applegrove St NE, Canton, OH 44721.



****The deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is **Sept. 1**. PLEASE send me your information, comments, book reviews, stories, ideas. I can't do this by myself. Send it to Vickie Scrapper, 4480 S. Meridian #233, Wichita, KS, 67217, or email to sfprod2001@yahoo.com. Thanks!**

My apologies are extended to all as I misspelled Bob Green's name in the last issue. The scholarship fund is named after Bob Green, long-time member at St. Peter, Albuquerque, because of his commitment to the youth he came in contact with over the years. He was dedicated to being involved in every way he could and to

demonstrating the goodness of God through the way he lived his life. The Bob Green Memorial Scholarship Fund is still taking contributions. You may contact Sr. Clare at St. James, 8107 S. Holmes Rd., Kansas City, MO, 64131.

Here is an interesting story with a good message. It never hurts to be reminded of those lessons we have learned.

GOD LIVES UNDER THE BED

(author unknown)

I envy Kevin. My brother, Kevin, thinks God lives under his bed. At least that's what I heard him say one night. He was praying out loud in his dark bedroom, and I stopped to listen, "Are you there, God?" he said. "Where are you? Oh, I see. Under the bed..."

I giggled softly and tiptoed off to my own room. Kevin's unique perspectives are often a source of amusement. But that night something else lingered long after the humor. I realized for the first time the very different world Kevin lives in.

He was born 30 years ago, mentally disabled as a result of difficulties during labor. Apart from his size, 6' 2", there are few ways in which he is an adult.

He reasons and communicates with the capabilities of a 7-year-old, and he always will. He probably will always believe that God lives under his bed, that Santa Claus is the one who fills the space under our tree every Christmas, and that airplanes stay up in the sky because angels carry them.

I remember wondering if Kevin realizes he is different. Is he ever dissatisfied with his monotonous life?

He is up before dawn each day, off to work at a workshop for the disabled, home to walk our cocker spaniel, return to eat his favorite macaroni-and-cheese for dinner, and later to bed. The only

variation in the entire scheme is laundry, when he hovers excitedly over the washing machine like a mother with her newborn child.

He does not seem dissatisfied.

He lopes out to the bus every morning at 7:05, eager for a day of simple work.

He wrings his hands excitedly while the water boils on the stove before dinner, and he stays up late twice a week to gather our dirty laundry for his next day's laundry chores.

And Saturdays-oh, the bliss of Saturdays! That's the day my Dad takes Kevin to the airport to have a soft drink, watch the planes land, and speculate loudly on the destination of each passenger inside. "That one's goin' to Chi-car-go!" Kevin shouts as he claps his hands. His anticipation is so great he can hardly sleep on Friday nights.

And so goes his world of daily rituals and weekend field trips. He doesn't know what it means to be discontent. His life is simple. He will never know the entanglements of wealth of power, and he does not care what brand of clothing he wears or what kind of food he eats. His needs have always been met, and he never worries that one day they may not be.

His hands are diligent. Kevin is never as happy as when he is working. When he unloads the dishwasher or vacuums the carpet, his heart is completely in it. He does not shrink from a job when it is begun, and he does not leave a job until it is finished. He is not obsessed with his work or the work of others. His heart is pure.

He still believes everyone tells the truth, promises must be kept, and when you are wrong, you apologize instead of arguing.

Free from pride and unconcerned with appearances, Kevin is not afraid to cry when he is hurt, angry, or sorry. He is always transparent, always sincere. And

he trusts God.

Not confined by intellectual reasoning, when he comes to Christ, he comes as a child. Kevin seems to know God - to really be friends with Him in a way that is difficult for an "educated" person to grasp. God seems like his closest companion.

In my moments of doubt and frustrations with my Christianity, I envy the security Kevin has in his simple faith. It is then that I am most willing to admit that he has some divine knowledge that rises above my mortal questions. It is then I realize that perhaps he is not the one with the handicap. I am. My obligations, my fear, my pride, my circumstances - they all become disabilities when I do not trust them to God's care. Who knows if Kevin comprehends things I can never learn? After all, he has spent his whole life in that kind of innocence, praying after dark and soaking up the goodness and love of God.

And one day, when the mysteries of heaven are opened, and we are all amazed at how close God really is to our hearts, I'll realize that God heard the simple prayers of a boy who believed that God lived under his bed.

Kevin won't be surprised at all!

Just a few more Synod images...



A second Ecumenical Congress is scheduled for Wed. & Thurs., Nov. 7-8, 2007. No agenda is available at this time. However, if you would like to attend, mark your calendars now. Everyone is welcome. More information will be available soon.