

Christus Rex

Anglican Province of Christ the King



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Apostolic Christianity in the Anglican Tradition

April, 2011

Welcome New Clergy

The Rev. David Anthony La Barbera was ordained to the priesthood on Dec. 5, 2010, at St. Augustine's, Chico, CA, by Abp. James Provence.



Fr. La Barbera, Abp. Provence, Fr. Hansen

Fr. La Barbera has been called as the Rector of St. Jude's Anglican Church in Grants Pass, Oregon, as Fr. Tom Elliott retires as Rector Emeritus. Fr. La Barbera had been serving at St. Augustine's and St. Paul's, Redmond, Oregon, since his ordination as Deacon in 2008.

Born in Salinas, California, Fr. La Barbera grew up in San Jose. He has had a variety of secular jobs. He started working for his uncle Tony in his liquor store at nine years old and worked for him throughout high school. Fr. La Barbera served in the U. S. Navy after graduating from high school and attended Butte College in Chico briefly. Most recently, he worked for a funeral home in Chico and gave historical tours at Chico cemetery.

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The Rev. Mr. Peter Brown Towle was ordained to the diaconate on Dec. 11, 2010, at St. Peter's, Oakland, CA, by Abp. James Provence.

Dcn. Towle was born in Philadelphia and grew up there and in eastern Maryland. He served first in the U. S. Army and later entered service in the U. S. Navy. A Naval assignment brought him to California in 1984 and he retired from the Navy in 1991. Subsequently he worked as a hotel security agent in San Diego and the San Francisco Bay area.

A lifelong Episcopalian, Dcn. Towle began attending St. Peter's in 2005. He took classes in residence at Saint Joseph of Arimathea Anglican Theological College. He also audited SJAATC online classes and completed his diaconal studies with Fr. Roderick Pomroy, Rector of St. Peter's.



Postulant Peter Towle is examined by Abp. Provence.

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(La Barbera, continued from page 1)



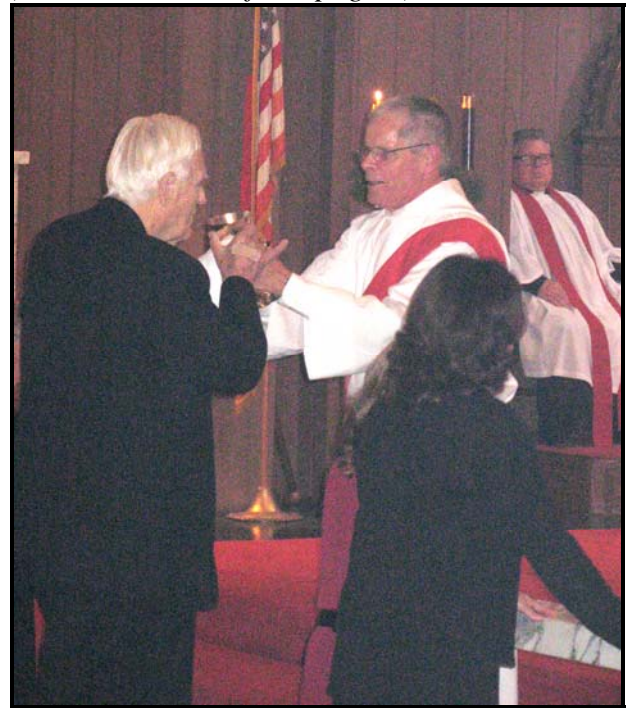
Fr. La Barbera took classes at Saint Joseph of Arimathea Anglican Theological College and completed his studies for the priesthood with Fr. Peter Hansen, Rector of St. Augustine's in Chico



Fr. La Barbera gives his first blessings as a priest to parishioners of St. Augustine's.

Fr. La Barbera has three children and a stepson and eight beautiful grandchildren ranging in age from 15years to 4 months. ✠

(Towle, continued from page 1)



Newly ordained Dcn. Towle serves the chalice to Abp. Morse.

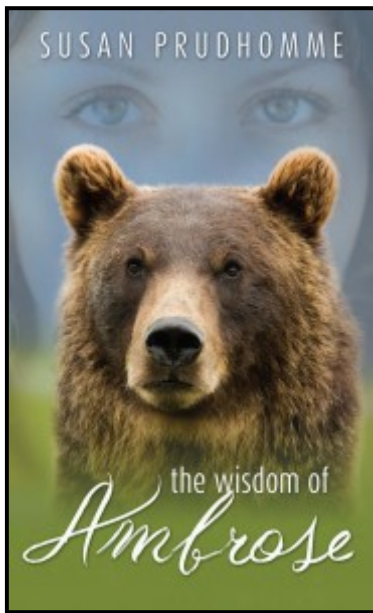
Dcn. Towle's wife Emily works with the children's program at St. Peter's. They have two sons, Dennis and Phillip.



Dcn. Towle, Abp. Provence, Fr. Pomroy

A Review of *The Wisdom of Ambrose*

By Christine Sunderland



In this delightful fantasy by Susan Prudhomme of St. Mark's parish, Larkspur, CA, empty-nester Susan Anderson seeks to find her true identity among the lofty and silent redwoods of Northern California. She crosses into another world, a parallel time, and meets Ambrose, a large brown bear.

As baby-boomer mothers watch their children grow up and leave home, they are left with painful gaps in their lives. Some have professions that fill their hearts, minds, and hours, and perhaps for these busier moms the question of identity may be put off until retirement, perhaps not. Those who dedicated those eighteen (plus) years to their children (and spouse) as stay-at-home moms may find the gap immense. Those who controlled every hour of every day, scheduling events, being "Super Moms," may ask themselves desperate questions.

And so Susan Anderson, her husband challenged by his teaching job, her children grown and gone, is filled with unease. She has learned over the years the habit of love, of caring for, of guiding. She has controlled and organized, to create a happy home life. In a sense she has lived through others in this caretaking – her husband, her children. Being a homemaker is, I believe, a naturally satisfying role for women, and in our culture vitally necessary to the raising of the next generation, the stability of marriage and family, and the health of American culture. It is a hugely important job and tragically underappreciated. But what happens when suddenly (or so it seems) they no longer have children to fill their days, when controlling others is no longer possible?

Susan Anderson's loss and search for herself is a universal experience, shared by men and women in all walks of life, in all times and places.

We move through our weeks in varying ways, thinking our work and our relationships identify us. When the job is lost, the family member gone (mother, father, spouse, child), the best friend relocated, or the marriage threatened, a void is left and we are forced to face ourselves, our true identity. Like Susan, each of us asks, "Who am I?", "Why am I here?", "How do I fill the void?" In *The Wisdom of Ambrose*, the other Susan, author Susan Prudhomme, offers profound answers.

This short novel is a well-written, elegant, and captivating tale, fine for any age but particularly appropriate for empty-nesters. As I turned the pages, becoming more and more enchanted, I often thought of Milne's *Winnie the Pooh*, Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and Tolkien's *The Hobbit*. Ambrose, who calls himself "just a bear," comes to life, as do the other creatures we meet in these majestic woods.

Theologically, we can trust in this tale that the answer to Susan Anderson's quest is not in the natural world, for the animals too are "bent," working their own way through their own time. This is not a pantheistic, nature worshipping, animistic tale, and tree-huggers be warned. The answer to Susan's quest lies in a Christian cosmology, where a Great King reigns and a Lady of the Forest guides her people to be good. The natural world is, to paraphrase Hopkins, charged with the grandeur of God, and lingering there can be inspiring.

It was a great pleasure to spend time among the majestic redwoods and the burbling streams, the birds and the small creatures. I entered a world that adults are prone to forget, with notes of earlier innocent days, and it was good to be back. I loved Ambrose, and am most grateful for Susan Prudhomme's lovely book.

I'm now looking forward to her next novel, *The Forest*, not a sequel, but the first of a trilogy, and more pages of Christian enchantment.✠

Christine Sunderland is Vice-President of the American Church Union and Church Schools Director for the Province.

For further information:
www.susanprudhomme.com
www.oaktara.com

New Home for Saint Mary the Virgin

By The Rev. Ron White (UECNA)

Saint Mary the Virgin has a new and, God willing, a permanent home in the San Diego area.



After 30 some odd years of time sharing we have a home that has been made possible by the grace of God, Archbishop Provence, Archbishop Robinson (UECNA) and all the clergy and laity of St Mary's who have made this leap of faith.



We were blessed to have Abp. Provence here to dedicate the building and confirm Joe Devine (our master woodworker) who contributed so much of his time and talent.

It is a true blessing to have seen this take shape through the generosity of St Mary's people and the parish of St Albans in Arizona (UECNA) for their donations.

Our work is now ahead of us and we ask the prayers of all as we move ahead with God's great commission. ✠

(Note: Fr. White has been licensed by Abp. Provence to serve St. Mary the Virgin Church)

ALL SAINTS AWARD



Fr. Blair Schultz, Rector, All Saints' Church, Bolingbroke, Illinois, presents Senior Warden Chris Oschman the All Saints Award

Calendar

DSS Synod: May 10-12, 2011, hosted by and held at Anglican Church of the Holy Comforter, Montevallo, Alabama.

DWS Synod: May 18-21, 2011, at the Lafayette Park Hotel, Lafayette, California.

DSWS Synod: June 7-9, 2011. St George's Anglican Church is the host and the Synod will be held at the Suncoast Hotel and Casino, 9090 Alta Drive, Las Vegas, NV.

DES Synod: July 27-28, 2011, hosted by and held at All Saints, Bolingbrook, Illinois.

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