



# ***The Shepherd's Staff***

***Newsletter of the  
Diocese of the Western States***

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## **News from Around the Diocese**

Saint Mark's Victoria BC has unanimously elected the Reverend W. Scott Herb to be their new Rector. Father Herb, formerly Curate of Saint Mark's Portland, is currently moving and hopes to be on full time duty as soon as possible. He will join Canon Stanley Sinclair (who will be retiring for the fourth time) and Deacon Jonathan Carrothers. The Right Reverend Peter Hansen, our Suffragan Bishop, will be on hand on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, to institute Father Herb.

Meanwhile, the search goes on for a new Rector for Saint Bartholomew's parish in Woodinville WA. We have organized a "clergy-fire-brigade" to keep Saint Bartholomew's covered each Sunday. So far, Fr. W. Scott Herb (Victoria BC), myself, Fr. John Pennington (Redmond OR), Fr. David La Barbera (Grants Pass OR), Fr. Boyd Britton (Our Saviour CA), Bishop Hansen (Chico CA), Fr. Larry Shaddix (Berkeley CA) and Father Robert Ponec (Sioux City IA) have gone or are scheduled to go. Please direct all questions and inquiries to me at the email above.

Deacon Michael Ruffino has moved from the Bay Area to Colorado Springs Colorado. Although he is greatly missed at Saint Peter's and Saint Joseph of Arimathea, Deacon Ruffino has quickly become part of the clergy team of the Front Range stretching from Westcliffe to Cheyenne. He is filling the place left by Father Howard Hillman, who has moved to Michigan, and joins Fr. Richard Andrews (All Saints Cheyenne WY), Fr. Dan Canda (St. James Fort Collins CO), and Fr. George Parrish (St. Patrick's Westcliffe CO). On the Friday after Labor Day, the Deacon hopes to host the clergy for a planning session under the guidance of Father Canda.

Do consider taking a course this fall from Saint Joseph of Arimathea Theological College online program. Courses will be offered in Ecclesiastical Latin, The Theology of the Oecumenical Councils, and the Book of Common Prayer. Please see the Saint Joseph's link on the APCK website (<http://www.anglicanpck.org>). Courses may be taken for credit or audited. Full or partial scholarships are available.

And it's not too early to start thinking about next year's Bishop Morse Youth Camp which will be held from June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup>. We need to keep expenses down so, that said, we will not raise prices for early registrations which will allow us to work on creative ideas such as group airfare discounts and better organize our fundraising efforts. Erin Salazar will be working with the older campers and counselors to organize camp educational programs.

## Here is a **THANK YOU** from Father Scott Mitchell, Rector of St. Luke's, Redding CA

To all my dear fathers, brothers and sisters in Christ.

This past month has been a great trial for all of us in the north state. In our Shasta County alone, we saw the ravages of fire take lives, destroy property and displace thousands with little or no warning. The Carr Fire, which ignited on July 23rd killed eight people, injured several, and destroyed well over a thousand homes and businesses. At present, the fire is 95% contained and has burned almost 300,000 acres. The smoke in the atmosphere here is like a fog and ash still rains down. The Carr fire is but one of numerous wildland fires in the area but the biggest in Shasta County History and the 7th most deadly fire in California history.

Many of St. Luke's parishioners were evacuated and forced to seek refuge with family, friends or in hotels. Don Doult and his daughter Trina lost their home to the fire in the town of Old Shasta. All this created a financial hardship and great stress to all affected.



In order to assist those victims of our parish, I sent out a plea to all churches in the Diocese of the Western States for contributions. The response was overwhelming. Much more than I could have hoped and prayed for. Through your generosity, we raised over \$20,000.

After rendering aid to our affected parishioners, we were able to donate money through the Salvation Army for assistance to those families that lost their homes in the fire. 100% of the donation went to the relief of the fire victims. We were also able to contribute funds to the family of Jeremy Stoke, the 37-year-old Redding Firefighter that lost his life in the fire. Jeremy leaves behind a wife and 2 children. I knew Jeremy personally and grieve his loss.

My gratitude and appreciation to all that donated is more than I can express in words. Because of all your generosity and compassion, we were able to reach out in charity to those in great need in a time of suffering in our community.

May God richly bless all of you!

Fr. Scott+, St. Luke's Redding

# A Few Pictures from our Synod last April



## A Sermon for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

The Gospel today is often seen as a harvest Gospel because it usually occurs during the Fall Season; and lends itself to a spiritual interpretation of the Lord's harvest of souls. But I would like us to consider this Parable of Serving Two Masters as pointing us towards a place called home. Home is a powerful word in any language. Webster defines home as the place where a person lives or was born or even where someone is comfortable. I know when I am returning – by car, train or airplane – the closer I get to greater Los Angeles, the stronger is my feeling – my happy feeling – that I am almost home. When Jesus talks in the Gospel about serving two masters; think about the two masters as two homes. One home is God's home; the other is Mammon's home. Billy Graham illustrated this point when he said, "My home is in Heaven. I'm just traveling through this world."

The oldest roots of the word mammon come from Talmudic Hebrew and Aramaic where it means wealth, money and possessions – based on the idea of the things in which a person trusts. In the New Testament mammon takes a more negative connotation and equates to excessive materialism and greed. Saint Jerome makes an important distinction when he says that mammon does not refer to the person who has riches but to the person who is the servant of riches. In the Gospel today, mammon seems to be personified with Saint Augustine equating Mammon with the Prince of this world and Saint Gregory of Nyssa equating Mammon with Beelzebub or the devil. But personified or not, it is obvious that in the context of the Gospel, mammon refers to a home and a loyalty other than that of God's home and loyalty.

And just as we say that our home is where our heart is, so it is true with our loyalty: where our loyalty is, there is our home also. The core of today's lesson is that it is so easy to become obsessed with the physical things that we need for life but these things are not the important things. Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. God gives us what we need. In fact, he gives us more than we need to sustain (dare I say) a comfortable life. And yes, God does expect us to help our brothers and sisters who - for whatever reason need material, psychological or spiritual help – not a handout but help! Mammon calls us to selfishness and God calls us to love. Where we make our home is our choice.

And how do we find that home? Simple: Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. I don't know who said it but I like it: the kingdom of heaven is the reward of good works and God's righteousness is the way by which we go to God. And that means we must hate what God hates (sin) and love what God loves (our brothers and sisters). It is the old Faith versus works controversy. Yes, we are saved by Faith and yes, we show our Faith by our good works. Therefore, we are saved by our Faith and our good works. Another way to put it is, if everyone in the house puts God first, friends and family second and oneself third, that's God's house, not Mammon's. It's an old cliché; but it's true.

My dear friends, Mammon is on a quest for our souls. Mammon tells us to get what we want as conveniently as possible. Mammon twists family values. Mammon tells us that he who dies with the most toys, wins. Mammon convinces that we can compromise with the devil. Mammon tells us that soccer and little league are more important than the Holy Communion. Mammon tells us that we are right even when we know we are wrong. And his campaign is relentless. But there is a solution: Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

There is a story told of a young monk who was afraid of God's judgment. Tormented by his sins, he went to his abbot and confessed, "Father, there is a terrible battle raging within me. One side of me is the soaring eagle, good and true and beautiful; and it soars above the clouds. The other side of me is a howling wolf that represents the worst that's in me. He tells me to join the pack; he tempts me to the mean and selfish. Father," he said, "how can I win this battle? Which one will win?" The old abbot looked at him kindly and said, "My son. The winner will be the one you feed."