



The Shepherd's Staff

*Newsletter of the
Diocese of the Western States*

October 2018

The Right Reverend Donald M. Ashman
bishopashman@gmail.com

News from Around the Diocese

Congratulations to our Suffragan Bishop

On September 21st, Bishop Peter Falconer Hansen celebrated his first anniversary of consecration to the Episcopate. The consecration service for Bishop Hansen and Bishop Blair W. Schultz of the Atlantic States took place during a Pontifical Mass at All Saints' Cathedral in Tulsa Oklahoma. The chief consecrator was Archbishop Frederick G. Morrison, assisted by Bishops Frank Brulc, John E. Upham and Donald M. Ashman. After the service, a delightful luncheon was served in the All Saints' Parish Hall.

Bishop Hansen is Treasurer for both the Diocese of the Western States (chairing the Board of Directors) and the Saint Joseph of Arimathea Foundation, as well as Secretary of the American Church Union. His *History of the Diocese of Christ the King and Province of Christ is King* has just been published by the ACU.



Did you know that the ACU or American Church Union is the official publishing house of the Anglican Province of Christ the King? In addition to Bishop Hansen's history of our Province and his insights into the future, the ACU publishes many other books and pamphlets. The ACU can be found on the APCK website <https://www.anglicanpck.org> or at <https://americanchurchunion.com/>. I highly recommend *All Is Grace*, a Collection of Pastoral Sermon, by the Most Reverend Robert Sherwood Morse. It is like reliving the presence of Bishop Morse when he used to visit our churches. There are a wide variety of publications, especially children's books (the *Little Picture Books* are my favorite), theology books, acolyte manuals, and confirmation manuals.

The Saint Joseph of Arimathea Theological College Fall Semester is off to a good start. Four classes are currently being offered in Ecclesiastical Latin (first and second years), a study of the Book of Common Prayer by Bishop Schultz and the Development of Christian Theology during the first seven Oecumenical Councils. These courses are open to anyone but specifically designed to help postulants pass canonical exams. The college is now using a new platform, **zoom** (<https://www.zoom.us/>), which allows for better interaction between the instructor of the students. All that is needed is a computer (even an -ipad), preferably a laptop with microphone and camera. Please address any questions to the provost of the college at provostsjact@gmail.com. Archbishop Morrison has sent his congratulations to all students.

Good news from Saint John the Baptist in Omaha, Nebraska and Saint Paul's Anglican Church in Bend, Oregon. Both churches have found new and more suitable places of worship. Father John Pennington has informed the Diocese that Saint Paul's now meets at 12:30 p.m. at 60377 Cinder Butte Road, Bend, Oregon 97701. Father Robert Ponec has informed the Diocese that St John's is now meeting at 3416 Woolworth Avenue, Omaha, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church at 9:30 a.m. every Saturday.



On the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity, September 30th, Bishop Peter Hansen, assisted by Deacon Carrothers and Canon Sinclair, instituted Father W. Scott Herb as the new Rector at Saint Mark's Church in Victoria, British Columbia. The congregation was thirty plus followed by a parish luncheon. It was a great moment for Saint Mark's and we hope to have pictures for the next Shepherd's Staff.

A Sermon for the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Caedmon was an Anglo-Saxon poet, who lived in the mid seventh century. He first cared for animals in a monastery under Saint Hilda, the founding abbess of the monastery at Whitby, but later, according to legend, he learned how to compose songs and poetry in a dream. In one of his poems about the day of judgment (what Saint Paul in the Epistle today calls the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ), he imagined the Cross of Christ set in the midst of the world; and from the Cross there streamed an extraordinary light which had a penetrating X-ray like quality which stripped away the disguises (or masks) from things and people; and showed them as they really were. It is a poetic vision of Saint Paul's belief that, when the day of judgment comes, the person who is in Christ will be able to meet that day unafraid because that person will be clothed not in his or her own merits but in the merits of Christ.

The merits of Christ are God's gift to us; God's free-gift to us. The Greek word Saint Paul uses is Charisma which means a favor that a person receives without any merit, virtue or achievement on his or her own part; a gift of divine grace; a gift of faith. Did you ever hear someone say something you knew had deep spiritual insight? Has anyone ever told you that about yourself? The truth is we all have that divine charismata: gifts of art or music or verbal expression or mechanical ability and so many more – yes, even preaching. These are gifts of the Holy Ghost. Of course, you understand, it is a two-way street. God gives us these divine gifts, but we must use them.

Yesterday, at Hal Cloud's funeral, I preached about God's gift of love. I quoted from Saint John's First Epistle: *Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God: and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. God gives us Himself; He gives us love. It doesn't matter how long we take to respond because God keeps loving us. And for those of us who understand that, then we also understand that we must love our brothers and sisters. That means, even when they do not deserve it, we must treat them as we would want to be treated. No substitutions and no exceptions! I used my favorite example of God's love yesterday when I recounted the crowd of hateful people screaming and cursing Jesus; and what was Jesus' response? *Father forgive them for they know not what they do.**

But Hal's funeral and Christ's Crucifixion reminded me of an even greater Charisma: Salvation. Perhaps the best way to describe Salvation is that Salvation is the state of grace that allows us to enter into a right (righteous) relationship with God. This is a gift because we cannot do it on our own. We need God's help; his Charisma. Consider the Good Thief on the cross next to Christ. What did he do to earn Salvation? Nothing! In his life, he had done not one good thing; but at the last moments of his life, he used the gift of Charisma. And so, he said he was sorry and asked that he might be allowed into Jesus's Kingdom; and Jesus said: *This day thou shalt be with me in paradise.*

My point today is that, when we cooperate with Charisma (that gift of divine grace), we see the world and ourselves in a new (or should I say real) perspective just like Caedmon's Cross of Extraordinary Light; we see things as they really are. It is then that we can make the changes we need to make in our lives. Try praying this simple prayer I found online and modified. *Through me, O Lord, let there be kind words, a warm smile, and a caring heart. Through me, O Lord, let there be a willingness to listen and a readiness to understand. Through me, O Lord, let there be dependability, steadfastness, trust and loyalty. Through me, O Lord, let there be compassion, forgiveness, mercy and love. And in me, O Lord, let there be every quality I have found in Thee. Amen.*

Dear clergy and parish leaders. I need your help. I need news of what is happening in your parishes and, even better, pictures. Please, o please help the *Shepherd's Staff* inform the Diocese about the activities of all our parish families. +dma