



The Shepherd's Staff

*Newsletter of the
Diocese of the Western States*

December 2018

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

Saint Joseph's Seminary

Next semester (January 2019) both Latin classes (Ecclesiastical Latin II and IV) and the class in the development of Church Theology will continue. Please note that the theology class which begins with Pelagianism can be taken even if the first semester was not. In place of Bishop Schultz's Prayer Book Class, Bishop Upham will be offering a class in Spiritual Formation geared for priests. Next fall (September 2019), he will offer a similar class geared for deacons. **All priests are encouraged to take this class, especially if they have been a priest less than ten years.**

The Council of Bishops meets in Tulsa

The Council of Bishops under the guidance of Archbishop Frederick G. Morrison met at All Saints Cathedral in Tulsa, Oklahoma on November 13th, 14th and 15th. The council discussed growth and development, personnel record-keeping, the spiritual and financial health of each of the dioceses (Atlantic, Southwestern and Western), Saint Joseph of Arimathea



Seminary and their vision for the future of the APCK. Although the council meets regularly during the year using the zoom or skype platform, the Archbishop felt it was important for the council to meet face to face once a year.

[left to right: Bishop Ashman, Bishop Hansen, Archbishop Morrison, Bishop Upham, Bishop Schultz]

The Front Range

The Front Range is a name given to the central part of Colorado from the southern part of Wyoming facing the Rocky Mountains to the west. During the week of December 2nd, Bishop Ashman visited our parishes from Westcliffe in the south to Cheyenne in the north.

On Sunday December 2nd, the Bishop celebrated, confirmed Mr. Lenny Noyce and preached at Saint James in Fort Collins. Saint James' is located at the Danforth Chapel located on the Colorado State University Campus [at right]. The Danforth Foundation was created in 1927 by William H. Danforth, founder of the Ralston Purina Company, and between 1941 and 1959 founded twenty-four college chapels. After the service the congregation enjoyed a small but delicious catered lunch. Then the Bishop drove in snow flurries to All Saints' in Cheyenne where he celebrated, preached and enjoyed a lovely coffee hour.



[above, Father Andrews and his flock at All Saints]

On Monday, the Front Range clergy (Fr. Dan Canda, Fr. Richard Andrews, Fr. George Parrish, and Deacon Michael Ruffino) met in clericus in Westminster (Denver) with the Bishop and discussed their visions for growth and development.

On Tuesday, the Bishop and Deacon Ruffino met with parishioners from Transfiguration Mission in Colorado Springs over a luncheon at the Broadmoor Hotel, planning future pastoral outreach.

On Wednesday Father Canda drove the Bishop to Saint Patrick's Church in Westcliffe where Father Canda baptized three children and the Bishop confirmed their parents. After the Eucharist, everyone was invited to the home of Colonel and Mrs. Joanne Canda for a festive Thanksgiving style turkey dinner with all the fixings.

[at right, the flock at Saint Patrick's]



Bishop Morse Youth Camp

Mark your Kalendars: Sunday, June 30th to Friday July 5th, 2019.

Every year, the Bishop Morse Youth Camp gathers members and friends from parishes throughout the Anglican Province of Christ the King for a five-day program at Warm Beach Camp & Conference Center, 20800 Marine Drive, Stanwood, WA 98292. We start our days with Holy Communion in a beautiful chapel overlooking Port Susan Bay. After breakfast, we have free time to prepare for the day (cleaning up, etc.) followed by instruction to learn more about living the Christian Faith in the Anglican tradition. Afternoons are given to outdoor recreation and fellowship. We may also take day trips to the surrounding areas and there will be a special fireworks outing on July Fourth. After dinner, we gather for Evening Prayer and Wrap UP, followed by evening activities such as movie night, skits, games, and campfires and of course S'mores.

Campers will be challenged to grow spiritually, physically, emotionally, and socially. Opportunities will abound for making new friends and meeting people from all over the United States, learning leadership skills, taking responsibility for oneself and others, and having lots of fun!

Staff and Counselors

In addition to the priests and deacons who volunteer their time, counselors (of college age or older) who desire and demonstrate the ability to serve as Christian role models are chosen to supervise and guide the campers. They are selected for their maturity and experience in working with teenagers and youth. Moreover, qualified and trained staff members supervise campers and program activities such as canoeing.

Age Restrictions

The Summer Youth Camp is open to youth entering the 7th grade through 12th grade. Counselors (those of college age – especially camp veterans) are also welcome to apply. Please contact the Camp Manager Erin Salazar at weatherlass@yahoo.com if you need assistance or have questions.

Fees and Deadline

The fee is \$325.00 per person (adjusted for families), if paid by March 31st. The fee between April 1st and May 31st, rises to \$350.00 per person. After June 1st, contact Bishop Ashman **ASAP** as space may be taken. Scholarships are available and as always, applications will be kept confidential. Please contact Bishop Ashman directly if you know of a camper that needs assistance: 818-749-8139 or bishopashman@gmail.com

Parishes are strongly encouraged to help campers attend camp as the principal goal of camp is to give our youth the spiritual training and insight to stay a part of the church long after the camp ends and into their adult lives.

More information will be coming to individual parishes, campers and former campers and in the January *Shepherd's Staff*.

Well Done Thou Good and Faithful Servant



On November 28, 2018, Father Tony Sands passed into eternal life. The Diocese and the Church lost a loyal priest, a good husband and a faithful servant but Father entered into Paradise. The picture at left was taken at our last Diocesan Synod. Father's Sands' funeral was celebrated on December 8th at Saint Augustine's Parish in Chico. Below is the Sermon preached at that service by Suffragan Bishop Peter F. Hansen.

"And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."

EVERY TIME a baby's foot first stands unsteadily on this earth, a gift is given. Every time the sound of a unique voice is heard, its new gift arrives along with it. Every touch of every hand, every thought expressed, every wild idea, every imagining comes as by God, as in His image, a gift to lighten the world.

As a flame in the wind, its glow may last only moments, a day, a year, even a hundred years in our sight. But then it expires. The glow diminishes, the light fades, the flame is gone, a thin trail of smoke rises and we are darkened by its departure. But now the gift is given and it has been received. And we give thanks.

We give thanks today for the life and person of Tony Sands, a man who worked all his days, a son, a brother, a husband, a father and grandfather, a friend, and a priest. That last gift was a hard gem to mine, like a diamond, out of Tony, but well worth it. He was faithful in every duty he took to perform. He sought excellence in all he did. (Except maybe his choice of movies. Cowboy flicks. Never mind.) But even there, he brought forth Sansidin, our hero at last Synod, in the spoof of Have Gun Will Travel fame. That may have been the one time you actually heard him speak.

Frank Anthony Sands was the descendant of Edwin Sandys, the Anglican Archbishop of York during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Since his own father was also named Frank, the son took the middle name of Tony, which stuck all his life. He wasn't raised an Episcopalian, the family having wandered from their Anglican past into other Protestant forms, even Quakerism. But upon meeting the daughter of Warren and Helen Dreiss, Tony was ultimately drawn into the spiritual life of this building and its church, St. John the Evangelist. In his last really bad move in that association, Tony voted with the majority of its vestry to sell off this old dump of a downtown church building in order to move the entire operation to more modern digs in another part of town. We long ago forgave that. For today the building is ours.

Tony and Ann were early and important members of St. Augustine's when I arrived in 1991. Their four children were raised up in this church: Stacy, Frank, Cassie and Eric sometimes making up all or most of our Sunday school. Tony narrowly got persuaded by my predecessor, Father Chip Angel, along with two other 40-somethingish men, that he might train for ministry. I inherited this Deacon's class, and one man, Dick Ramsey, went off to Oregon, founded St. Paul's in Bend, as a layman, but was killed on the highway. Another, Rick Turner, contracted leukemia and suffered over 20 years under it, then died not long ago. Tony was left, and entered my wife Giti's school for Sunday School teachers. Despite his natural reticence, Tony learned to teach scripture, then he received his call. I trained him many hours in the Father Hansen School of Diaconal Studies and, in 1999 he became Deacon Sands.

For seven years, Tony served this parish as its deacon. During that time, our bishop called him to occasionally serve elsewhere, traveling long distances, giving his time to other congregations. Driving his pickup to Bend, to Danville or Concord was gravy for him. He drove those kinds distances for work in irrigation already. No problem.

Although Ann cites his reluctance to advance into any holy office, Tony obediently answered the call again and was ordained a priest in 2006. His value as a utility player was enhanced and I never heard him refuse a request to serve, even here. It was our annual tradition, after all, for Father Sands to preach the Thanksgiving Day service, the Hansens in Texas with our son's family, and he gave yet another episode of the Pilgrims and the Indians, Myles Standish and Sqanto, in the spiritual foundations of America and the first Thanksgiving feast.

In all his roles, Tony was truly a priest. His Protestant forebears would say that all real Christians are priests, as St. Peter said, a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. 1 Peter 2:9 Whenever an Evangelical raises that point with other scriptural objections to our professional priesthood, I have an answer and a little teaching for them. First of all, they are right. All Christians are priests. Secondly, I ask them, since they are priests, what is a priest? I get all kinds of answers, most of them wrong.

Priest is a generic term, not limited to Christianity, meaning one who is called personally by God to serve Him. They are trained in their faith and practice, then inducted into the priesthood ceremonially. At that point, they are to offer their sacrifice. The priesthood is sacrifice. He must bring his gift, the one prescribed by God, to an altar and there he is to offer it. Most often, when God receives the required oblation, He blesses it and returns the transformed offering back to the priest. The priest then turns from the altar to the people present, to whom he then gives the gift, God's blessing within the offering, for them to eat, or to wear, or to use for healing. The wave offerings of Israel were meat cooked and eaten. Grain offerings were made into bread. The sacrifice of a priest created fellowship with God. But the priest must offer a sacrifice. That's what priesthood is. It's different than the title of minister, or preacher, or evangelist, teacher, pastor.

Now, if every Christian is a priest, I continue speaking with my Baptist friend, how does that pattern hold for us? We are all called by Christ to believe in and worship Him, Lord and Savior. Good. We are taught the true faith. Right. We then are initiated by Baptism and enter the church, each of us a member of Christ's Body. Ok. Then what?

What does the new Christian offer as his or her sacrifice? St. Paul wrote it, and we say it every Eucharistic prayer. We offer and present ourselves, our souls and bodies, as a living, holy, acceptable offering and our reasonable service. Rom 12:1 There is no other offering acceptable. It's what He wants. And receiving that, God blesses us, fills us with His Holy Spirit, transforms us, renews our minds, and then gives us our new true selves.

Now the priest turns from the altar and the Holy Spirit gives through him or through her whatever gifts come for all the church, and the world, to profit withal, as St. Paul says. So, yes, all are priests. And what I do, and what Father Tony did at that altar, was a specialized kind of priesthood, modeled in exactly what Jesus did that last night, to offer bread and wine, to enact with words and actions, so that in our hands Christ's Body and Blood enter here and bless the gathering, and through our hands these gifts are given to eat, drink, and be blessed.

Tony was a priest. He was an Anglican priest, as I've described. And a priest to a family who needed him to sacrifice his work career to save the family business. A priest to his kids who needed a home and provision, and a steady hand as father. A priest to his wife as mate and friend and lodestar of her home life. A priest to friends who needed him whenever they asked. A priest to his mother, long sick and weak and needy. A priest to me, for whenever I asked, Tony came.

So what now? He lies here in state. He is dressed as a priest there in the casket, under that pall, in his alb and stole and chasuble, black and violet. I know. I dressed him yesterday. It's the unspeakable honor for one priest to dress another priest for his reckoning. His head is toward the altar. You may know this or not, but laypeople enter a church feet first. In our church culture that is so, in order that, should the Resurrection happen before the last hymn, you stand facing the altar and the sacrament. But a priest would rise facing his people. Father Tony is ready for the Resurrection.

Bishop Donald Ashman took the time on the day Tony died to fly up and we spent a time with the family around his dying form, his flame burning so low. After solemn prayers and blessings, Bishop Ashman said, "Tony, be happy!" Sounds strange perhaps, but what else is the Christian faith but joy at the assured departure of a saint? The bishop is truly sorry he can't join us today, but his jet just set down in Los Angeles after a week in the snows of Colorado, and next week he comes to the Bay Area. And, oh yes, he has three churches to serve this weekend in Los Angeles. I am deputized in his place to celebrate and to speak in his stead. To be a priest to you, and one last time for my friend.

The flame is struck, and the gift is given. We can't say how long it burns, but it's a gift to us and we warm ourselves in its glow. This life is not all there is. It's an appearance, and a holy altar where we offer ourselves, our souls and bodies, living sacrifices to God. He may use us in many ways, but it's all for Him.

Everything was made by Him and for Him, by and for Jesus, by and for the Son of God. It is to His altar we turn, with the blessings of a good man who lived among us, and now lives on, his light shining brightly in another realm, seen only by saints and angels and God. We bless him with our presence today. For some day, we will all be caught up together in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, forever with Him and with each other.

Take comfort, little candles. Your flames are all wonderful gifts of light to us all.

+PFH

Dear clergy and parish leaders. Please send me any Thanksgiving or Christmas pictures with a few words. It means so much for members of our Diocese to see what other parishes are doing. And make sure the *Shepherd's Staff* reaches your parish family. Gratefully,

+dma

Looking Ahead...

In the next edition of the Shepherd's Staff, there will be more information on the Bishop Morse Youth Camp, the 2019 Western States Diocesan Synod in Lafayette (May 15th to 18th), the Summer Seminary Session (early July) and much more.