



The Shepherd's Staff

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

February 2019

***The Right Reverend Donald M. Ashman
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Our Twenty Eighth Synod is approaching...

Greetings to the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of the Western States as I hereby call for the assembling of the twenty-eighth Synod of the Diocese of the Western States to be held at the Lafayette Park Hotel and Saint Joseph of Arimathea Seminary from May 15th to May 18th of this year. Mrs. Nona Gourley has sent out packets to each parish and this issue of the *Shepherd's Staff* is trying to aid in getting the word out to as many as possible of the Diocesan family.

Synod is a key moment in the annual and ongoing life of our Diocese. Synod is the legislative body of the Diocese subject to its own Canons and the Canons of the Province. Synod may levy assessments on Parishes and Diocesan Missions and adopts a budget each year. [Such a budget must be in balance and the projected expenses must be equaled by the projected income.] Synod also admits new parishes and missions; hears and receives status reports about various functions of the Diocese; and elects its officers and committees. Synod is also an opportunity for our laity and clergy to socialize (think of it as a church family reunion) and make new friends.

The membership of Synod consists of: (a) The Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor and Suffragan Bishops, if there be any; (b) All Presbyters of the Diocese. [All Deacons of the Diocese are entitled to seat and voice without vote]; and (c) Three lay delegates from each Parish of the Diocese and one lay delegate from each Mission of the Diocese.

Last year, we shortened Synod to help attendees save a night's hotel expense and to help long distance clergy get away earlier so they could get home to their altars in time for Sunday Masses. That shortening worked very well BUT there was a sensible request to have an optional Saturday Mass and more time to socialize which has been added both to Wednesday and Saturday. (See the tentative Synod Schedule on the next page)

I am well aware that attendance at Synod involves personal effort and expense, especially for working clergy and smaller parishes. I hope that (wherever possible) parishes and missions will help their clergy and delegates to attend Synod. Finally, we have two fundraisers, a Men's Auction, with auctioneer Fr. Michael Mautner, designed to raise funds to help clergy attend Synod, and the ACW Auction primarily for the Bishop Morse Youth Camp.

Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

#209 Hospitality Room

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Pick up folders

Board Room

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Standing Committee,
- Hosted Lunch

George Washington Room

3:00 p.m., Social Hour

(Hosted by the Anglican Church Women)

- Light Refreshments provided
- A chance to meet with friends and fellow delegates before the Synod opens
- 5:00 p.m., The Opening Reception
- Join in and bid during the Bishop's Auction for the benefit of the Clergy;
- The Deluxe Synod Radio Players presents "Father Brown goes to Synod."
- Mingle, Mix, Chat, Bid and have lots of fun

The Park Bistro

7:00 p.m., No Host Dinner (Clergy and Laity)

Thursday, May 16, 2019

#209 Hospitality Room

7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Pick up folders

Board Room

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Board of Directors

George Washington Room

7:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist – Fr. Mark Lillegard

10:00 a.m. Workshop – Fr. Matthew Weber

- How the Ordo Kalendar teaches the Faith

Ben Franklin Room

11:30 a.m., No Host ACW and Clergy Lunch

- Limited Seating, reservations required
- 1:00 p.m., ACW Meeting

George Washington Room

1:30 – 4:00 p.m., Clericus

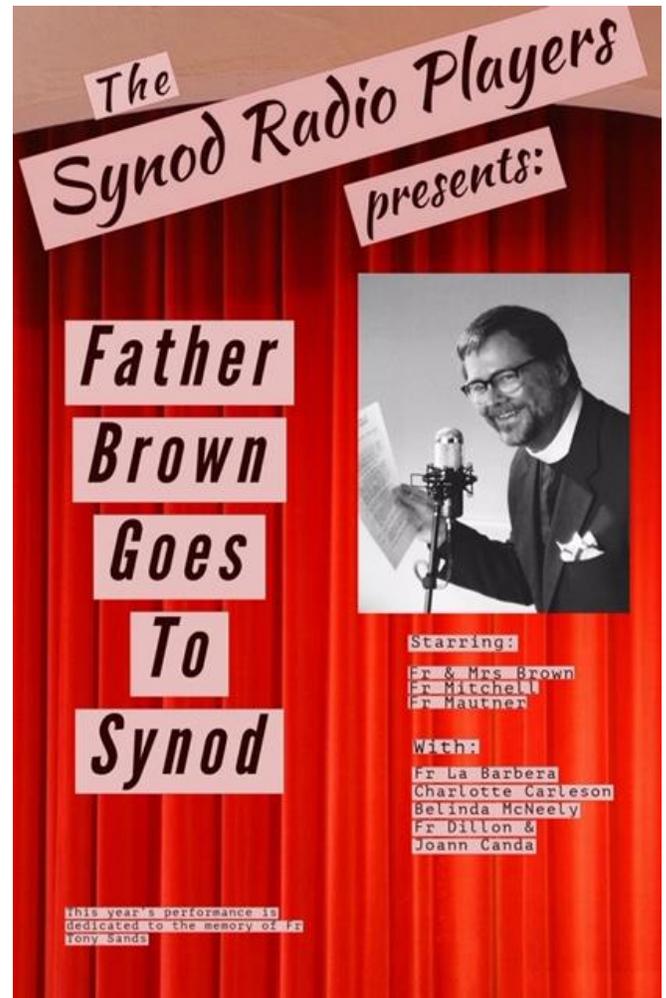
4:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Evening

Laity: Dinner on your own

Clergy: Dinner at Postino's Restaurant

- 6:10 p.m., Leave Hotel; 6:30, Dinner



Friday, May 17, 2019

#209 Hospitality Room

6:30 a.m. (Late Arrivals) Pick up folders

Synod Mass

7:00 a.m., Buses leave for Seminary Chapel

8:45 a.m., Synodical Mass at St. Joseph's Seminary

10:15 a.m., Buses return to the hotel

Lunch on your own (except)

The Clergy Wives Luncheon

11:15 a.m., Library

George Washington Foyer

1:30 p.m., Synod Delegate Registration

George Washington Room

2:00 p.m., Synod Business Meeting
followed by Evening Prayer

Independence Courtyard

6:00 p.m., Social Hour (No Host Bar Available)

Independence Room

7:00 p.m., Synod Banquet
ACW Fund-raiser drawing following

Saturday, May 18, 2019

George Washington Room

7:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist – Bishop Hansen
Breakfast/Brunch on your own
– last chance to visit until next year.



News from the Seminary

Second Semester classes have begun under the auspices of Saint Joseph's Seminary. Bishop Blair Schultz is finishing up his course in the Book of Common Prayer. Bishop Ashman's two Latin classes are advancing beautifully (shameless plug!) as well as his class on The Theology of the Church Councils. Bishop Upham is beginning a new class (with sixteen students) on Priestly Formation. We are using the Zoom format which has been far more successful than Skype. When it is time for class, the students need to have their emails open and the instructor sends them a link to join in on the class. The student then presses the link and they are connected to the class. Deacon Mike Ruffino has started using Zoom for a Colorado (and beyond) Bible Study on Thursday evening. Great going, Deacon.

The Bishop Morse Youth Camp

Mark your Kalendars to attend or sent your youth to the Bishop Morse Youth Camp from Sunday, June 30th to Friday July 5th, 2019. The 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! A reliable survey taken late last year discovered that an astounding number of teenagers who happily attended church suddenly stopped going to church, once they went off to college or work. We would like to address this problem, so the theme of this year's camp will be ***Keeping the Faith***.

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. We want them to **Keep the Faith**.

Summer Session at Saint Joseph's Seminary

Mark the dates for the Summer Session at Saint Joseph's Seminary: July 15th to July 25th. This is an opportunity to take classes to prepare for canonical examinations and/or learn more about various topics related to the sacred ministry and the Church. More details will be soon forthcoming. Tuition for the two weeks (including housing) is \$300 and limited scholarships are available with priority going to postulants actively pursuing Holy Orders. We are investigating using Zoom for distance learning. One Spring project at the Seminary is setting up for such a system. Email any questions to the Provost, Bishop Ashman at provostjact@gmail.com or the Vice Provost, Bishop Upham at bishopjeu@hotmail.com

A Sermon for the Conversion of Saint Paul

(A parody based on the Screwtape Letters)

I must tell you that I am unable to say how the following document fell into my hands. All I can disclose is that there was a security leak in the Department of Infernal Police.

To all tempters, senior tempters, regional devils and satanic commanders, this is a top priority alert! Please be advised that all-points bulletin has been issued – yet again - for a despicable traitor, Saul of Tarsus. Ten years ago, he was firmly in our camp, doing the work of our master below. He was our kind of fellow: a well-educated lawyer, a religious bigot and filled with hate toward that pestilent fellow Jesus of Nazareth, whom we persuaded an intimidated Pontius Pilate and his Roman soldiers to crucify before he could do any more damage. Saul's actions were all so admirable. He preached valiantly against those miscreants who followed that carpenter – so dangerous they were because they actually tried to persuade others that the Galilean rabbi arose from the dead. Saul so commendably hunted these criminals down and saw to their executions - personally. It was so glorious and exhilarating!

But then on his way to Damascus to hunt down more of these criminals that he might take them in chains to Jerusalem, a bright, blinding light [you know, how we devils inexplicably choke at this barbaric weapon of the enemy] – this light threw him from his horse and a voice called to him, “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” And Saul asked whose voice it was and heard those fearful words, “I am Jesus whom thou persecutest!” But Saul, seeing no one - was then told to go into Damascus and he would be told what to do. Oh, how foul a journey that was! He was led into the city by hand because he was still blinded. And after three days with no food or water, an enemy agent, named Ananias, went to our former colleague, laid hands on him and said that he would receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost!

As you know, it was at that moment that Saul was lost to us. He received his sight and– it still stings to say it – was baptized. Saul stayed with the enemy for a number of days. He became convinced that we (yes, we) were now the enemy and that he must betray us. And so he did! He marched into the synagogues and preached the blasphemy that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and proclaimed the utter foolishness of his law of love. We know that love makes no sense because then no one can feed upon another. But to our utter consternation, he won over many people, both good and bad, to the enemy's gospel.

But preaching blasphemy to his own people was not enough for that scoundrel. No, he had to travel over all the Roman Empire preaching his calumnies against our kingdom and our father below. On his first journey, he went to Antioch, Cyprus and Asia Minor. He then hurried back for a council at Jerusalem and convinced the older followers of Jesus that they must accept non-Jews into their cult. Then he made a long journey across the Eastern Mediterranean, again visiting Antioch and Asia Minor; and then continued on into Greece where our agents almost got him at Philippi (blast that jailer!). Then he went on to Athens to preach his lies on the Hill of Mars. On his third journey, he continued to spread his propaganda in Asia Minor; and especially in Corinth where he stayed for three months, undoing so much of our tempters' hard work.

And the foul nature of his writings! Oh, my lord Lucifer below! In his Letter to the Romans, Saul actually tried to convince the human fools that Jesus of Nazareth offers them the free gifts of grace, forgiveness and salvation. In his Letter to the Philippians, he let the secret out that their God, our enemy, actually became one of the human vermin and died to save them from death. And in his Letter to the Galatians, he argued that the human vermin must abandon the letter of the law for the fruits of the spirit (uggh!!!). In his Letter to the Ephesians, he had the gall to exhort his simpleton followers to be completely humble and gentle; patient and forbearing one another in love. And in his Letter to the Colossians, he told his followers to forgive each other because their God first forgave them. Oh, such hideous blasphemy!

But oh yes! I almost forgot about the all-points bulletin! It has been reported to headquarters that Saul has been apprehended and is being sent to Rome. Sad to say, we almost finished him off in that shipwreck off the coast of Malta. So it is imperative that all available tempters must report to Rome immediately. This time we must make sure that Saul is stopped. So make haste and do your duty. [At the bottom, a faint postscript reads: Oh no! he is doing more damage as a martyr than when he was alive. Saul was right; His God must be God!]