



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

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

***July 2020***

***The Right Reverend Donald M. Ashman***

bishopashman@gmail.com

provostsjact@gmail.com

## **The Parable of the Two Brothers**

There is a story told of two brothers worked together on the family farm they had inherited from their parents. One brother was married and had a large family. The other was single. At the day's end, the brothers shared everything equally, produce and profit. Then one day the single brother said to himself, "It's not right that we should share equally the produce and the profit. I'm alone and my needs are simple." So, each night he took a sack of grain from his bin and crept across the field between their houses, dumping it into his brother's bin. Meanwhile, the married brother said to himself, "It's not right that we should share the produce and the profit equally. After all, I'm married, and I have my wife and my children to look after me in years to come. My brother has no one, and no one to take care of his future." So, each night, he took a sack of grain and dumped it into his single brother's bin. Both men were puzzled for years because their supply of grain never dwindled. Then one dark night the two brothers bumped into each other.

Some of my readers may now be asking themselves, "So he's going to ask for money?" Yes, "Well then, what for this time?" And my answer is for your brother and sister. But it is not currency I'm after, it's generosity. It is love. In the Lesson for the Epistle for Independence Day, we are reminded that Yahweh told the Children of Israel to love the stranger, for they were once strangers in the Land of Egypt. I want us to realize that just as the two brothers in the parable were brothers, every human being is our brother or sister. And my question to each of us is, "how many times have we bumped into each other secretly carrying the grains of kindness, gratitude, generosity, forgiveness, mercy, and humility to enrich our brothers and sisters?"

On July twenty-fifth, we will observe the Feast of Saint James, the brother of Saint John and the Apostle who was the first of the Apostles to be martyred. The Epistle tells us that James was killed by King Herod, but the Gospel contains a lesson about the grain each of must carry for each other. The mother of James and John asks Jesus to allow her sons to sit on his right hand and on his left in his kingdom. So Jesus asked the brothers if they were willing to share Jesus baptism of pain and death and they said they were. Jesus said to them that indeed they would share in his suffering but to sit on his right and left hand was not his to give. The other disciples were indignant, so Jesus tells all of them that his kingdom is not like that of the world where the rich and powerful hold reign.

And then Jesus responds, *that it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.* And I submit to my readers that we are all ministers who must carry the grains of kindness, gratitude, generosity, forgiveness, mercy, and humility to our brothers and sisters.

## **Saint Joseph of Arimathea Seminary**

2020 Seminary Summer Session classes (on the Zoom Platform) will be held over a two-week period, from July 20<sup>th</sup> to July 24<sup>th</sup> and from July 27<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>. Class will assemble on the Zoom platform at 9:00 a.m. and read Morning Prayer together. Instruction will follow for an hour to an hour and a half in a Seminar setting. At the end of the morning seminar instruction, a question will be posed to the students and auditors. The class will re-assemble at 4:00 p.m. and the question will be discussed with each student contributing their work. The afternoon session will conclude with Evening Prayer.

The first week will consist of a rigorous in-depth analysis of the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, specifically the Lectionary, Calendar, Morning and Evening Prayer, the development of the Anglican Prayer Book Rites, and practical applications on the 1928 Communion Office and the Missal Mass. The second week will center around in-depth Biblical studies including authorship, the J E P D question, the Synoptic Gospels and their lineage, and the evolution of the Bible.

An individual set of final Essay Exams for each student will be assigned on the last day and will be due on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The class will have one last meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup> to share out the work accomplished. Finally, all seminarians and recently (often "fast-tracked") clergy (under ten years) are strongly advised to set aside time and attend for credit. As of the twenty-first of June, twenty-two seminarians and auditors have signed up. In addition, there will be an opportunity for interested churchmen in the Province to attend via Zoom the Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer during the session. But space (due to Zoom limits) is limited. Contact the provost, Bishop Ashman, if you are interested. There is no cost for this opportunity – but we will never say no to a donation.

## **2021 Ordo Kalendars**

The 2021 Ordo Kalendars are in preparation and will be available for ordering soon. The Ordo Kalendar which conforms to the 1928 Prayer Book and the American and Anglican Missals. The Ordo Kalendar is in full color and edited for Church use by Father Matthew Weber of Saint Ann's Chapel in Palo Alto. There is space on the front of the Kalendar where a parish may, if desired, insert a picture, its name and other pertinent information after receiving the Kalendars. Direct inquiries to Mrs. Nona Gourley (209) 862-2582 or email [order1928bcpcalendar@gmail.com](mailto:order1928bcpcalendar@gmail.com).

## **A Fathers' Day Parable**

Many years ago, in a small cottage in a small town in Northwest England, there lived a happy couple with their four-year-old son. The man was a cabinetmaker and a genius at woodcarving. When the man's mother died, his old father came to live with his son and his family. The grandfather was not so old, but much worn out by a life of hard work [as a woodworker who had taught his son his trade] and so the old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together at the table, but the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Dishes were broken or chipped. Food stained the tablecloth or fell to the floor. Spilt milk was a daily occurrence. The son and daughter-in-law soon became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about Grandfather," said the son. "I've had enough of his spilt milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor." Therefore, he had his wife set a small table in the corner. So, in the corner, the grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Moreover, since the grandfather had broken so many dishes, his food was served in a wooden bowl. When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, they never noticed the small tears in his eyes. The only words they had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food. Now the four-year-old watched it all in silence. One evening before supper, the father noticed his son carving with some wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?" Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh, I am making little bowls for you and Mama to eat your food in when I grow up." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work. The parents that speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, they both knew what had to be done. [*taddled*]

## Anglican Church Women

Hopefully, by now most of you can go back to your churches and resume some kind of normalcy. It is time to think about the upcoming Synod, and what we, as ACW members, can contribute. Already we have several items for the annual drawings, and now is the time to think 'baskets', or any other drawings items. Please get photos and descriptions to me by September 1 so that there is time to assemble a brochure and get tickets out to the churches. Drawings will benefit the Bishop Morse Youth Camp and tickets will be \$2.00 each.

Ellen Ashman has very kindly donated a 12-piece dinner service, the 'Fox and Hare' Collection by Fitz and Floyd, and we will be selling tickets at \$5.00 each to benefit Diocesan ACW funds which can be used as needed in the Diocese. Tickets and brochure will be sent out with the Drawings details. The set includes candlesticks, a soup tureen with ladle, a cake plate and serving platter.



In addition to the regular auction, ACW member Carol Karcher has come up with a brilliant idea for raising funds for clergy in need of financial assistance through St. Joseph of Arimathea Seminary. She calls it '*Preserve*'ing the Priesthood'! She was bored during lockdown, and resorted to canning, preserve and chutney making. She is going to set up a 'Country Store' at Synod and is inviting all members to contribute jars! They can contain anything that fits in a jar, from jams and jellies to trail mix and M&Ms. Use your imagination!



# 'Preserve'ing the Priesthood



## Calling all canners!

(And those who can put M&Ms in a jar)

This year at Synod, we are going to have a Country Store of home-canned jams, jellies, relishes, pickles, barbecue sauce, spaghetti sauce—whatever can be put into a jar and sealed. If you are not a canner, there are many things that can be assembled into a jar—cookie mixes, beans for bean soup; the recipes are endless and can be found easily online, or contact Carol Karcher at [beauspaniel@comcast.net](mailto:beauspaniel@comcast.net) for ideas. We want to get as many people involved as possible; Proceeds will benefit seminarian scholarships to St. Joseph of Arimathea Anglican Theological College.

On a slightly different note, but for the same cause, please don't forget your Lenten Mite Boxes! Simply collect the boxes, count the money and have your treasurer send a check made out to Provincial ACW, with a notation 'Lenten Boxes' to Gillian Golden, Provincial ACW Lenten Chairman, P.O. Box 558, Selma, OR 97538. All contributing churches will be remembered at the altar at St. Joseph of Arimathea Chapel, and receive a certificate of participation.

On behalf of all of us I would like to thank all the clergy who held services on Zoom, Facebook and YouTube and helped us through the lockdown. You made our lives much more bearable. Looking forward to seeing you at Synod.

Gillian Golden, ACW President

## **!!!You People are always asking for Money!!!**

Yes, I am afraid we are - and with no apologies! No apologies whatsoever! There is much work to be done. The pain of losing two Archbishops, the continuing apostasy (squabbling) among so-called "like minded" churches, the pandemic, our unhappy society and unpredictable changes in demographics (unimaginable for some of us even a year ago – "*California here I flee*") has taken its toll on our morale and resources. And yet there remains so much work to be done. And that work, as Bishop Morse so often reminded us, is bringing souls to Christ. That is our Mission Statement. That is our *raison d'être*. That is why we cling to the Rock on which Christ built his Church!

The work of the Anglican Church Women is truly invaluable. Their spirit and dedication to our *raison d'être* is awe inspiring. The Council of Bishops and I are most deeply grateful for their efforts. But we must do more. There is one parish and a few families who generously give to Saint Joseph's Seminary and the Youth Camp. Bishop Morse used to have a **Hundred Dollar a Month Club** which now has far fewer members. I thank those who remain just as I thank those who give to Synod support, and I am asking (begging) parishes to consider giving \$25 or \$50 or \$100 a month to these causes. Make it part of your monthly outreach! I am also asking parishes to give more generously to the support of their clergy, and, in these times of uncertain income and demographic change, I am asking parishes to start saving for their future benefit – a parish rainy-day account. Yes, we are always asking for money! No apologies whatsoever!



## Saint James Anglican Church

Under the leadership of Father Daniel Canda, Saint James is moving from a rented gym into a storefront renovation in the greater Denver area.

Father and his family are doing all of the physical remodeling as was seen in the last issue of the Shepherd's Staff.

We look forward to more pictures of this continuing story of the work of this outstanding parish.



## Around the Diocese

- As we begin to reopen our churches, please remember that prudence and the safety of our parish families are of the utmost importance. It may be that some of our parishes (like mine in Los Angeles) will have to temporarily shut down on certain weekends due to spikes in the virus rates. The bright spot in this pestilence has been the effective use many of our clergy have made of Zoom and other platforms to keep our parish families connected.
- Deacon Michael Ruffino of Saint Chad's Anglican Mission in Colorado has had a successful knee replacement and is recovering nicely and about to start physical therapy. BUT on June 29<sup>th</sup>, Deacon Ruffino's wife, Susan, appeared to suffer a mild to severe stroke. As of midday Tuesday, the doctors said it was not a stroke, but Susan will remain in the hospital for further treatment with a number of complications. Please keep Susan and her husband in your prayers.
- Please also remember Father Boyd Britton (Los Angeles and Santa Barbara) who is recovering from foot surgery from a persistent infection.
- My "at distance" Confirmation Class on Zoom began on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> and has about twenty members. It's never too late to join us.
- Pray for our Archbishop and our Suffragan Bishop along with the priests and deacons of our Diocese. They are under great stress and they need your prayers and support. Pray for those who despair and struggle to find the gifts of Faith, Hope and Charity in these troubled times. Pray for each other. Pray for the Church, the unity of God's People, Peace, Social Justice, those who seek Holy Orders, those who have died in the service of our Country, along with the sick (especially those struck down with COVID19), the suffering, the friendless, and the needy.

## People want to know...

...what your parish is doing. It may not mean much to you, but others want to know. I need pictures and stories about what is going on in your parishes. I know we have been in rough times as of late, but we are "moving back in" so get me those pictures and stories so I can share them with the Diocese. Please!