



The Shepherd's Staff

*Newsletter of the
Diocese of the Western States*

August 2020

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The Seminary Keeps Moving Forward

The Saint Joseph's Seminary Summer Session ended on July 31st. The Zoom Platform worked far beyond expectations with twenty-five students, faculty and auditors from all three Dioceses sharing a fruitful week. Week one was devoted to Prayer Book studies (Bishop Ashman) and week two focused on Biblical studies (Archbishop Upham). Finals have been assigned and a follow up session is planned for August 24th, Saint Bartholomew's Day.

The Seminary Fall Session will begin the last week of August. Bishop Peter Hansen will resume his Church History class on Tuesday, August 25th at 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time and run for fifteen sessions. Bishop Ashman's Greek class (Greek 3-4) will resume on Friday, August 28th and will run until we break for Christmas. Canon Ben Jones will be offering a vocational discernment class beginning soon, date and time to be announced.

Nota Bene: The Council of Bishops has decided that no man will be made a Deacon and no Deacon will be ordained a priest until he has successfully passed Vocational Discernment.

The cost per course is \$250.00 for credit and \$75.00 for audit. Please address any requests for tuition relief to the Provost at bishopashman@gmail.com or provostsjact@gmail.com.

When you sign up for your course(s), please send your information to the following:

- (1) The Provost (Bishop Ashman): bishopashman@gmail.com or provostsjact@gmail.com.
- (2) The Vice Provost and Registrar (Canon Ben Jones): fr.benjones@gmail.com

Send your check to St. George's Anglican Church, 1210 Dixie Trail, Raleigh, North Carolina 27607

When you sign up be sure to include your name, address, email address; your parish, your sponsoring or parish priest, and the courses you have completed online or at Saint Joseph's Seminary and the dates completed. If you are intending to pursue Holy Orders, please complete the application for postulancy found on the APCK Website: www.anglicanpck.org – and send it to your Diocesan Bishop

The Archbishop and Provost would like to personally remind all clergy that "continuing education" is of supreme importance. We too easily forget what we have learned. This was all too evident this summer – in a positive sense. We all need to learn what (perhaps) we did not learn. We all need to sharpen our skills, especially our theological and pastoral skills.

Of Your Charity, Brethren....

- Please keep Belinda McNeely, the wife of Chancellor Richard McNeely, in your prayers. Mrs. McNeely is finally home from the hospital after her fall while walking her dogs but still has a long (perhaps year-long) convalesce ahead of her. In spite of it all, she is doing much, much better!
- Father David La Barbera of Saint Jude's Grants Pass had successful surgery for kidney stones on July 16th. He is home and in great spirits. As he said, *the doctor's laser beam blasted that evil stone to sand.*
- After being hospitalized with sepsis, Father Ponec is finally home. His hospital stay was extended by a week until the infection was controlled. At home he faces six weeks of IV medications. He and Deb wish to thank everyone for their prayers and best wishes.
- Father Boyd Britton (vicar in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara) is recovering very well from foot surgery after a persistent infection.
- The Archbishop's ankle surgery went better than expected. He is home, taught his Seminary class and all is going along grandly.
- Deacon Michael Ruffino of Saint Chad's Anglican Mission in Colorado is starting physical therapy after a knee replacement. His wife, Susan, however, is struggling with dizziness and, in spite of occasional hospital visits, is home and recovering. Please keep Susan in your special prayers.
- And please pray for Peter 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.

Anglican Church Women Notes



We are all saddened by the news that there will be no Synod this year but look forward with hope for a much better year in 2021. Thank you to all the parishes who have sent in pictures and descriptions of items for the ACW Drawings We look forward to seeing them next April! All other parishes have eight months to come up donations, and I know we will have a good selection, and raise much needed money for the Bishop Morse Youth Camp. Remember also the 'Preserving the Priesthood' Country Store, and set aside a jar of your preserves, jams, jellies, or anything else that will fit in a jar to bring to Chico.

Please also send in your Lenten Mite Box contributions to Gillian Golden, Provincial ACW Lenten Chairman, P.O. Box 558, Selma, OR 97538-0558. This money is also vitally needed for the support of St. Joseph of Arimathea Seminary. In addition, please send your orders for Ordo Kalendars to Nona Gourley, Provincial ACW President, 2038 Carlsbad Caverns Court, Newman, CA 95360.

I know that many of you are still unable to attend church, due to Covid 19 restrictions, and we are especially grateful to all the clergy who are bringing services to us on Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube. Thank you all.

Please keep all ACW members who are sick in your prayers, especially Belinda McNeely and Jean Vogel, and pray that the Lord will keep us all safe and well.

Gillian Golden. President ACW-DWS



A Sermon for the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real. Thomas Merton, Trappist monk, who wrote *The Seven Storey Mountain*

Humility is nothing else but a right judgment of ourselves. William Law, (1686-1781) a non-juror priest who wrote *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*

There is a true story about a monk named Brother John who was summoned by his bishop and told that he was to report to a monastery in another part of the country as its new abbot. His promotion was a great honor because the monastery was famous worldwide for its pious works and its holy men of God. When the Brother John arrived at his new monastery unannounced, the holy monks decided to check out this new monk to see if he was humble. They immediately sent him to work in the kitchen to do the most menial tasks. Uncomplaining, the new abbot spent long hours cooking and cleaning and he happily did the work that others did not want to do. After a few weeks, the bishop arrived and asked where the new abbot was. When the monks told him they still had no abbot, the bishop asked where Brother John was. They said he was in the kitchen cooking dinner. Imagine the lesson in humility the holy monks received when the bishop introduced their cook and dishwasher as their new abbot.

My dear friends, it is interesting to note that in the Epistle St. Paul makes it quite clear that he was the least of the apostles and felt that he should not even be called an apostle. He knew that he had killed followers of the Lord he now served; he knew that he had - in his own words - persecuted the Church of God. And yet he acknowledged that - despite his unworthiness - God had called him and was using him for the work of the Kingdom. Paul had no illusions about his past, but he knew that he was called to preach Christ and that grace was not given to him in vain. Paul knew the parable that the physician and evangelist Luke told about the Pharisee and the Publican. [After all, Luke was Paul's travelling companion in his missionary journeys] Paul knew that only Christ on that road to Damascus with blinding light could have blasted away his pharisaical pride. For he had been like the Pharisee in the parable: filled with self-praise, arrogance and contempt for others. But the power of God revealed to Paul his interior untruthfulness, his lack of charity and spiritual blindness. And so, Paul learned self-abasement in sincere acknowledgement of his own wretchedness without God and simple and unassuming humility. And the result was that St. Paul became the single most important person in the spread of Christianity around the Mediterranean world.

So today's word is humility. Do you know where word humility comes from? It comes from the Latin **humus** meaning earth or ground. Thus humility is having one's feet on the ground not one's head in the air. Someone who is humble is someone who is spiritually grounded not proud or haughty; not arrogant or assertive. True humility is not putting oneself down or feeding a negative self image; rather true humility is interior truthfulness, a right disposition towards God (that means listening to God) and trying to act like Christ would act. C. S. Lewis remarked in **Mere Christianity** that if anyone wanted to acquire humility; the first step was to realize that one is proud. "*And it is a bigish step, too,*" Lewis said. "*At least nothing whatever can be done before it. If you think you are not conceited, it means that you are very conceited indeed.*" So how does one become humble?

My friends, may I suggest that the way to become humble lies in imitating the mercy and compassion of our Blessed Saviour. He humbled himself to become one of us; He performed most of his miracles out of compassion; He humbled himself to die for us that we might live. I believe that when we take the lower place (as Brother John did in my story); when we are peacemakers; when we are compassionate and generous, it is then that we receive the blessing of humility. The arrogant may have power, but the humble are loveable in the eyes of good men. The proud are miserable in their greed and envy, but the humble find true interior peace and calm. The proud are blinded towards God, but the humble are justified in his sight. It doesn't matter what others do, it only matters what we do. So, go out the doors of the Church today and be like Brother John: wash those pots and serve others, and bring forth the Kingdom.

The Bishop's Confirmation Class

The Confirmation Class was paused for two weeks because of the Seminary Summer Session but will resume on Tuesday, August 4th at 5:15 p.m. Pacific Time (Note the time change from 5:00 p.m.). During our last few weeks, we will study

August 4th – the Nicene Creed

August 11th – Church Ceremonial, part I

August 18th – Church Ceremonial, part II

August 25th – The Sacraments (all but the Holy Communion)

September 1st – The Holy Communion

September 8th – Anglican Church History in the U S A

(And that's all folks – unless anyone wants more)

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.

At right,
The Bishop
celebrates Mass
zoomed by his
son-in-law at
Our Saviour, L. A.



At far right,
Father Mautner
celebrates Mass
outdoors in Saint
Peter's (Oakland)
new courtyard

The Last Word

My pastoral experience this year as a bishop has taught me a new word, Eristic. It comes from the name of the Goddess, Eris, Goddess of Discord. She is a troublemaker. She is always into other people's business. Eris may be more powerful than Mars for she brings defeat by prompting everyone to fight among themselves.

I often say to my priests, "You must be doing something right, or Eris would not be interested in you." We are not playing games when we talk of the will of God. Evil is a reality and the Eristic are ever with us. We struggle with principalities and powers, forces that rob us of unity and cheat us of joy, not only in the Apostolic Age but in our own. Our Church desires to restore spiritual authority in our common life, and thus restore personal responsibility. We believe the words in the Book of Common Prayer, "God... whose service is perfect freedom. (Morning Prayer, "A Collect for Peace," BCP. P. 71)

+Robert Sherwood Morse, Tulsa 1991