



The Shepherd's Staff

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

April 2022

The Right Reverend D. M. Ashman

Rose Sunday is the midpoint of Lent; Easter is just three weeks away. The Church takes a one day break, a lessening of Lenten austerity. Flowers are allowed and Rose vestments are worn, but churches can't always afford these outward symbols, but they are not really important because there should be an inward symbolism today. This symbolism centers around a great happiness, a great joy so hard to imagine, that the hopes and promises of Christmas are about to be fulfilled. The Collect anticipates this joy when it contrasts our evil deeds and deserved punishments with God's unlimited love and saving grace.

In the Gospel we are told that Jesus passes over the Sea of Tiberias and went up into a mountain. This happens towards the beginning of his public ministry. He had been baptized of John in Jordan; he had preached and healed many people and now on the mountain with his disciples, presumably where he preached the Sermon on the Mount, he pauses, lifts up his eyes and looks at the multitude surrounding him. And what curious fact St. John adds, it is close to the feast of the Passover. Here again we must be reminded that in the Gospels, just as in poetry, so much content is not meant to be literal but figurative or prophetic. The Passover commemorated the passing-over of the Angel of Death and the freeing of the Children of the Hebrews from the slavery of Pharaoh. In Gospel prophecy, this reference means that another great and awesome event will take place.

But before that great event, the Sacrifice of Calvary, and the destruction of death on Easter Morning, Jesus prefigures those great events on the Mount in the wilderness. He prefigures not just his death and resurrection but the Last Supper and the eternal banquet of Heaven. He does this through the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes. He takes two fish and five-barley loaves and feeds five thousand people. Saint Augustine noted that the five barley loaves signified the Old Law but the two fish signified the two types of persons that were united in Christ, priest and king; Alcuin says the two fish represent the Prophets and Psalmists and the five loaves represent the five senses of the body made perfect by heavenly food. And that is the key, that earthly food is used to represent something much more profound, heavenly food.

So it is that just a few verses later (on the next day), Saint John tells us that Jesus says that this profound spiritual bread is his own body. This great act is itself the reason that the Epistle was chosen. There are two Jerusalems, one that is of this world and one of God's. Hagar represented the former; Sarah the latter. And the former would be replaced by the latter. So it is with the Feeding of the Five Thousand. The feeding of our bodies is now replaced by the feeding of our souls and the result is eternal life. And so the Passover will be replaced by one final and perfect Sacrifice, Calvary, in which sin and death will be destroyed. And so the Last Supper and every Mass is a mystical Calvary, a feeding of our souls, a banquet foreshadowing the paradise of heaven.

So it is that the English Church has called today Refreshment Sunday to remind us of the comfort of heavenly food that gives eternal life. It truly is an event even more awesome than the first Passover. But there is one last point that needs to be made and that is our response. Saint Augustine also pointed out that once we are fed with heavenly bread our eyes are opened, our understanding increased. So we have no excuse in not following our Saviour, in not believing in his promises and not trying his works to do. We still have three weeks before the great unfolding of our redemption. My brethren, keep a holy Lent.

A Meditation from North of the Border

INNER PEACE

I believe that we have all looked for or now seek an inner peace, that quiet, confident acceptance of who we are. Our values as we knew them in days gone by have been turned upside down. There is a bombardment of information, some valid and some not. So where might one turn? Look deep inside and listen to that still, small voice. Get your bearings and step quietly and confidently because that peace begins with us.

I am sure that at some point in your lives you have heard of the event where the disciples were so worried and fearful that they would be left alone. And Christ said to them, *"Peace I leave with you; my Peace I give unto you."* These words are what we all strive for - this inner peace. This is especially true now with three major events affecting our lives. There is the on-going Covid, a rise in the cost of living and, most recently the massive troubles in Eastern Europe. This last point is brought on by those who would go back in history to re-ignite a certain dictatorship which is bringing devastation upon an independent nation. Yes, we do look for that inner peace.

Not so simple really as we are inundated with one of the great paradoxes of this modern life. Yes, our life with so many 'devices' at hand, all spewing the information other persons or groups are telling us we just must have. And how much is real and how much is sheer garbage? This along with all the "friends" we have on various platforms does not make us whole. We can and do still feel isolated and alone. We are out of touch and out of reach as a person. Using any of the myriad of devices available to us flows from a legitimate need within ourselves. Yet we do not want to get close to anyone. It becomes necessarily difficult to be truly "present" to one another. That cannot be achieved on whatever platform we might use such as Facebook.

Despite, or indeed because of all the news stories with which we are bombarded on a daily basis and confronted with a parade of horrors we can and do find ourselves truly alone, without comfort. I would suggest that because of our "smart" technology this is even more evident. In the quote from John's Gospel, perhaps what we are being told is to "be present" to one another - not the student texting in class or on our drive to work. The presence for our inner peace has nothing to do with control or manipulation for these are mistakes for "communication". No, the "presence", that inner peace is that which we need. It is openness with all our wrinkles and vulnerabilities and dreams. WE do not need to be alone as the Holy Spirit been sent to us.

"Lord grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change and the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference." (Reinhold Niebuhr) ***Just an additional point, especially for those clergy who see the grass as being greener...Niebuhr is credited with the saying, speaking religiously, *"Choose carefully the ditch in which you wish to die."* Father Peter Sandercock+



From Saint Ann Chapel

Located adjacent to the Stanford University Campus, Saint Ann's parish boasts a vibrant parish life shepherded by Father Matthew Weber and Deacon Glenn Karcher. Here are the fruits of year one of the Walsingham Garden at St. Ann Chapel! They have planted this small shade garden with classic Mary garden plants; lilac (*Ascension Flower*), bleeding heart (*Mary's Heart*), lily (*Annunciation Lily*), rose (*Mary's Purity*), columbine (*Lady's Slipper*), rosemary (*Mary's Nosegay*), impatiens (*Our Lady's Earrings*), and carnation (*Mary's Love of God*).



From a “Teaching” Deacon in Nebraska

Along with Father Richard Andrews (Priest in Charge) and Deacon Ted Powell, Deacon Ron Reno helps shepherd Saint John the Baptist Anglican Church in Omaha Nebraska. In addition to studying for the priesthood at Saint Joseph’s Seminary, Deacon Reno teaches Art History and Fine Arts at two Catholic Classical Academies in which the Deacon is able to teach both art and religion as he intermixes theology and the love of God into his classes which stretch from the first to the eighth grades. Here is a picture of one of his classes and some of their work which Deacon Reno sent in Lenten Embertide Letter.



Thanks be to God – An Ordination in Illinois

We are thrilled to announce that on March 19th, the Feast of Saint Joseph, the Most Reverend John E. Upham ordained the Samuel Oluseye Talabi to the priesthood at All Saints’ Anglican Church in Bolingbrook Illinois.



From left to right: Father Samuel Talabi, Canon Christopher Odeosun (retired Nigeria), Bishop Ben E Jones (Suffragan, Atlantic States, Archbishop Upham, Bishop Blair Schultz (Coadjutor, Atlantic States) and Archdeacon David Sweeny (Rector, St. George’s, Raleigh)

Diocese of the Western States

Thirty First Annual Synod

Tentative Schedule of Events

Note that Shuttle Transportation will be provided between Saint Luke's and the Red Lion

St. Luke's

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

9:00 a.m., Low Mass: Father Mautner

9:45 a.m., Standing Committee

11:45 a.m. hosted lunch

12:15 p.m., Board of Directors

Thursday, May 12, 2022

9:00 a.m., Morning Prayer and Mass

1:15 p.m. Clericus

Friday, May 13, 2022

3:00 p.m., Pontifical Mass

Saturday, May 14, 2022

9:00 a.m. Low Mass

Red Lion

7:00 a.m., Hospitality Room (Pick up folders)

Optional Mini Retreat

10:00 a.m., Morning Prayer: Deacon Lawrence

10:45 a.m., The Litany/Penitential Office: Dn. Shepard

11:30 a.m., First Meditation: Bishop Mitchell

Noon: free time for lunch

1:00 p.m. Second Meditation: Bishop Hansen

1:45 p.m. Readings from Scripture: Bishop Ashman

2:15 p.m. Evening Prayer: Bishop Ashman

Reception

3:00 p.m. ACW Reception

5:00 p.m. Bishop's Auction

7:00 a.m., Hospitality Room (Pick up folders)

10:00 a.m., Workshop: Fr. T Craig Isaacs

11:30 a.m. No Host ACW and Clergy Luncheon

1:00 p.m., ACW Conference

4:00 p.m., Evening Prayer

No Host Dinner

7:00 a.m., Hospitality Room (Pick up folders)

9:00 a.m., Morning Prayer

9:30 a.m. Delegate Registration

10:00 a.m., Business Meeting

12:00 p.m., No Host Lunch

6:00 p.m., Reception (No Host Bar)

7:00 p.m., Synod Banquet

Provincial A C W Fundraiser

Benefiting St. Joseph of Arimathea Seminary Session, July 18 – 29, 2022

A beautiful Dalmatic has been donated by Father Philip Ternahan from the Church of Our Saviour in Santa Barbara, California! Plus, the Provincial ACW is adding a Gift Certificate donation for the Registration fee to attend the "Seminary Session" in July for two weeks at St. Joseph's Seminary.

All money donated or received from the tickets sold will go to the Seminary.

This is the perfect way to support the Seminary and help our future priests who are planning or would like to plan to attend the July "Seminary Session" for two weeks. If you or anyone in your parish is the "Lucky Winner" but are unable to attend it's the perfect opportunity to help someone in your parish or in your Diocese with the ability to attend by giving this special gift to him. The "Gift of Love" is the best gift of all.



OPPORTUNITY TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE TO PURCHASE.

Provincial ACW Fundraiser - Benefits St. Joseph's Seminary

Contact: Nona Gourley, (209) 862-2582 * Email: lovemyminnie2@gmail.com

\$ _____

Amount Enclosed (Make checks payable to the Provincial ACW)

Ticket Donations

1 ticket, \$5, 3 tickets, \$10, 7 tickets \$20, 18 tickets \$50, 40 tickets \$100

Church _____

Name of Recipient _____

Address _____

Phone _____

This fundraiser is so easy; print this page and indicate the number of tickets you wish to buy. Duplicate tickets are printed on the next page of the newsletter if needed – or contact Nona for tickets. If you wish to make a donation, then you can send it as well; and then mail your tickets with money and/donation to:

Nona Gourley, President
2038 Carlsbad Caverns Ct.
Newman, CA 95360

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And Nona will be sending a flyer to each parish....