

Bishop's Monthly Newsletter
Diocese of the Northeast and Diocese of the Eastern United States

April, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wish you all a Blessed Holy Week and a Joyous Easter! At this holy time of the year, we pray that the saving power of Jesus Christ may be expressed to all of God's people.

The Easter Message will be distributed through normal e-mail channels and will also appear on our national and diocesan websites later this week. Accordingly, this newsletter will focus on the recent news of our dioceses.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The College of Bishops of the Traditional Anglican Communion met for five days outside Johannesburg, South Africa from February 27 – March 2, 2012. Much business was transacted in a spirit of brotherly love and affection.

The venue for our gathering was the St. George Conference Center, located approximately ten miles from Johannesburg. The venue afforded us good conference facilities with which to make necessary decisions regarding the future of the TAC. Bishops and Vicars General were from Australia, Canada, Ireland, The United States, Central America, South Africa, Zimbabwe and India were present. A quorum was clearly present and a meeting of the College of Bishops was duly convened. Those who attended from the United States: Archdeacon Alan Koller, Mr. Peter Thomas, Bishop Stephen Strawn, and Bishop Brian Marsh.

Among the most important decisions made by the College were these:

- Archbishop John Hepworth's resignation was accepted with immediate effect.
- Archbishop Samuel Prakash, as senior metropolitan of the TAC, was elected Acting Primate of the Traditional Anglican Communion.
- Bishop Michael Gill was appointed Secretary to the College of Bishops.
- Bishop Craig Botterill was appointed Episcopal Visitor to the United Kingdom.

- Bishop Michael Gill was appointed Episcopal Visitor to Zambia and Kenya.
- The College of Bishops voted to decline the Ordinariate offer from the Vatican (*Anglicanorum coetibus*) and will send a letter to that effect to the appropriate Vatican office.
- The Patrimony of the Primate was, with the establishment of the Ordinariates, terminated.
- The Concordat of the Traditional Anglican Communion is in the process of being amended.
- A new Board of Directors for the International Anglican Fellowship was elected. The Board will now include two lay members.
- The reconciliation agreement between the ACA and the APA was affirmed unanimously by the College of Bishops.
- The “moratorium” against the election and consecration of new bishops was ended, opening the door to the election of additional bishops for the ACA and, by extension, the TAC.
- Finally, and most importantly, the College of Bishops affirmed its commitment to the purpose of mission and evangelism, recognizing that this is our calling as followers of Christ.

These were the substantial issues addressed by the College. All who attended agreed that the meeting was one of the best high-level church meetings they had attended.

COMMUNICATION

Recently, I asked our Communications Director to send out guidelines for communication. It is important to keep in mind that communication happens in both formal and informal channels. Communication about our churches is strongly encouraged. Keep your websites updated, list important events and otherwise get the word out.

There are forms of communication that are, of necessity, restricted and require careful editing. This kind of communication relates to the position of the national – or international - church on sensitive issues. Any such sensitive communication should be passed by both Bonnie Turner and our Communications Director, Father Jeff Monroe.

DIOCESAN NEWS – DIOCESE OF THE NORTHEAST

The Rev. Mr. Harry E. Wellsman was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on March 10, 2012 at St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church in Conway, New Hampshire. We pray that Deacon Wellsman's ministry will be productive and joyous as he serves God's holy church.

The Rev. James Hiles, rector of Saint Paul's Parish in Brockton, Massachusetts has been received in priestly orders by Bishop Marsh. We welcome Father Hiles, who has been a long and valued friend to the diocese. He was also the convener of the very successful Convocation of Continuing Anglican Churches that took place in Brockton last November.

Deacon David Moody has completed his canonical examination for the priesthood and will take his oral examination before the Board of Examining Chaplains in June. Please keep Deacon Moody in your prayers as he takes this important step in his life and ministry.

Father Derek Park has experienced health issues recently and has requested retirement from active ministry. Please keep Father Park in your prayers.

Postulants and Candidates

Mr. Charlie Niemi has passed his canonical examination. Please keep Charlie in your prayers as he approaches his ordination to the diaconate.

Parishes Seeking Clergy

St. Luke's, Amherst, New Hampshire. St. Luke's, under the leadership of Jennifer Coppins, has completed an excellent parish profile. The parish seeks to call a new rector within the next few months. Interested clergy are encouraged to contact Bishop Marsh: spiritstage@yahoo.com.

Holy Cross, Webster, New York. Holy Cross has been interviewing candidates for the past two months. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply to Bishop Marsh.

Bishop Marsh's Schedule during April and May:

- April 15. Episcopal Visit to Christ Church, St. Johnsbury, Vermont
- April 17. House of Bishops meeting, Timonium, Maryland
- April 18. Executive Council, Timonium, Maryland
- April 24. FACA meeting
- April 29. St. Teresa. Consecration of church building.
- May 6-18. Bishops' retreat

May 26. DNE Standing Committee. Belchertown, Massachusetts
May 29, 30. Steering Committee meeting, Continuum Bishops.

DIOCESAN NEWS – DIOCESE OF THE EASTERN UNITED STATES

Clergy

By the Grace of God, The Rev. John Vaughan will be consecrated Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of the Eastern United States at St. Stephens Pro Cathedral in Timonium, Maryland on April 18, 2012. We certainly wish Bishop-elect Vaughan all the best as he assumes the great responsibility as a bishop in God's holy church.

House of Bishops and Executive Council

St Stephens' Anglican Church will be the setting for the meeting of the House of Bishops and Executive Council. Many thanks to the Cathedral Parish for hosting this important event.

The Executive Council will have a great deal to do during its session. But the canons (praise God!) are nearly completed. A committee will be appointed for the task of determining that the canons as presented represent accurately those that were approved at our General Synod last September.

The Executive Council will also hear presentations on Mission and Evangelism.

Consecration of New Church Building

Father Joe Falzone has invited Bishop Marsh to consecrate the new building at his parish. The consecration will take place on Sunday, April 29. Praise God for the new place of worship!

There is always much news to report. Our dioceses are very dynamic places. I am quite sure I have neglected to mention some important items. I encourage you all to keep your websites updated. Contact Bonnie Turner for any new news.

Many thanks to all who serve our church with dedication and love.

Your Brother in Christ,

+Brian