



The Shepherd's Staff

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

February 2020

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Mini Retreat before Synod

As already announced, the twenty-ninth Synod Diocese of the Western States will take place at Saint Augustine of Canterbury Church in Chico on May 6, 7 and 8. However, since there have been many requests for a retreat or quiet day for both clergy and laity, it has been decided to have a mini-retreat-quiet day on Tuesday, May 5. The theme is *Be Still and Know that I am God*. Reservations are appreciated and there are no fees or tickets to buy. And I will arrange a sack lunch at no cost, if you desire – but you must let me know. So, just come, set aside time to be quiet and get closer to God. Moreover, you do not need to be a Synod delegate or even from the Diocese of the Western States; and you can attend all or part of the retreat and Nona Gourley has kindly agreed to make all attendees a special identification badge.

9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer and The Litany	Father David LaBarbera
10:00 a.m.	Morning Meditation	Canon Scott Mitchell
11:00 a.m.	The Penitential Office and Bidding Prayer	Deacon Glenn Karcher
12:00 p.m.	Low Mass	Father Michael Mautner
1:00 p.m.	Afternoon Meditation I	Archbishop John E. Upham
2:00 p.m.	Readings from the Gospel of Saint Luke (Selected passages unique to Saint Luke)	Bishop Ashman - - - - -
3:00 p.m.	Afternoon Meditation II	tba (any volunteers?)
4:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Deacon Brian Faith

In between these top of the hour events, participants will be free to stay in the church (pray and meditate) or walk down the streets of Chico or sit in one of the nearby parks (Bishop Hansen will make some maps). But there is just one the rule: keep quiet; do not speak; get closer to God.

News from Saint Joseph's Seminary

Second Semester classes have begun under the auspices of Saint Joseph's Seminary. Bishop Ashman's Latin Reading Class is advancing beautifully (shameless plug!) as well as his second semester Biblical Greek class. Bishop Hansen's Church History class is well attended, and I highly recommend it – and there is still time to join and not lose too much. 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 the class. The student then presses the link and they are connected to the class. I want to offer a Diocesan-wide Confirmation Class in the late Spring? Anyone interested?

The Bishop's Travels



On Saturday, January eleventh, Bishop Ashman, accompanied by Father Daniel Canda visited Father Richard Andrew's parish of All Saints in Cheyenne, Wyoming. After the Holy Communion, the parishioners (including Father's wife Anneliese) set out a sumptuous spread worthy of the hospitality of the old west. Just unforgettable! Freezing with snow on the ground outside but warm hearts and fellowship inside. About two hours north of Denver at 6,000 feet near the buttes of Southeastern Cheyenne, All Saints located three miles off I-25 is a must see with its cowboy-mission design and its magnificent, old Spanish crucifix above the altar. The parish was founded in 2002 and opened in 2007.

The next day, Sunday January 12, Bishop Ashman visited Father Canda's Parish of Saint James. Additional APCK parish folks came from Colorado Springs and Westcliffe for a wonderful liturgy – yes! It was in a rented gym but we did not care. It was magnificent. The Bishop was assisted by Father Canda and Deacon Michael Ruffino of St. Chad's in Colorado Springs. The acolytes were Daniel Canda and Michael Watt. The volunteer church choir was simply wonderful!



The Bishop Morse Youth Camp



Remember the Youth Camp which was so important to Bishop Morse who keenly understood the importance of educating the youth in the Faith. He almost never missed camps in the early days and I am hoping that the other two diocese can help send campers this year. The dates this year are from Sunday, July 5th to Friday July 10th, 2019. They are a little later than last year but the trade off is that we can keep the same lodge we have had for the last two years.

The camp is located at Warm Beach Camp & Conference Center, 20800 Marine Drive, Stanwood, WA 98292. The theme this year is *Be Still and Know I am God*. (The same as our quiet day before Synod) **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. And a sincere and heartfelt THANK YOU to the ACW and all the parishes who help fund our campers!!!



Lenten Mite Boxes – Anglican Church Women

We hope to save a little money by sending out the Lenten Mite Box order form by email, rather than snail mail. Attached, you will find the order form, but hopefully you can email me with the number of boxes you need, and the address you want them sent to, and I will mail the boxes to you. I hope all churches will participate to give a helping hand to those who are taking part in classes at St. Joseph of Arimathea Seminary. Without our clergy, we will not get very far! Thank you all for taking part in this easy fund raising venture. Just a few coins each day during Lent can make a huge difference! - Gillian Golden

Order Now! Ash Wednesday is February 26th.

Lenten Mite Boxes are a very effective Out-Reach project for the support of the Anglican Province of Christ the King, and in recent years have been designated for student support at St. Joseph of Arimathea Seminary. If every church in the Province participates, we can raise thousands of dollars! It is easy and relatively painless if you just contribute the change in your pocket, or the savings from that latte that you gave up for Lent! Remember, the person who receives help from this fund might be from your parish! Last year, we raised over \$3500. Let's make it \$4000 this year!

Please order your boxes today, distribute them by Ash Wednesday (February 26th) and collect the full (!) boxes on Easter Sunday (April 12th). Count the money in the boxes, make one check payable to: Provincial Anglican Church Women, and mail to:

Gillian Golden
Lenten Chairman, Provincial Anglican Church Women
P.O. Box 558 Selma OR 97538-0558

Thank you for your parish participation!!!

Email Lenten Box requests to gillian.golden@yahoo.com, phone 541-597-4270, or mail to above address.

Church Name:

Mailing Address:

City:

_____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of Boxes required _____

Requested by: _____ Phone # _____

**Anglican Church Women
Diocese of Western States**

2020 Dues

All churches, whether or not they have an active ACW, are responsible for the following ACW dues. Please pay as promptly as possible so that Provincial ACW can receive the officer list in a timely manner before the synod, as is specified in the bylaws.

Diocesan Dues:	\$35.00
Provincial Dues:	<u>\$15.00</u>
TOTAL DUE:	\$50.00

Please forward your parish's check, payable to ACW DWS to:
Gillian Golden, Diocesan ACW President, P.O. Box 558, Selma, OR 97538

Thank you so much for your timely response.

(Please complete form and return with your check.)

Parish _____ has ___ has not ___ an active ACW.
ACW President, or contact name

Mailing Address

Phone #

Email address

ACW Vice President

Phone #

Email

ACW Secretary

Phone #

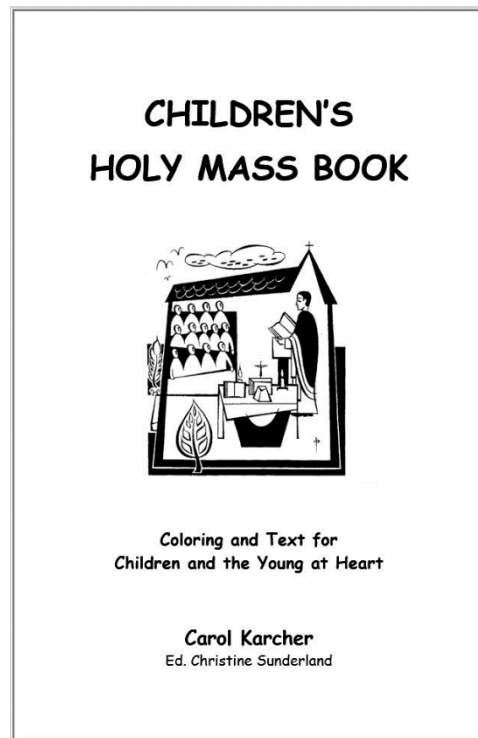
Email

ACW Treasurer

Phone #

Email

NEW RELEASE FROM
The American Church Union



CHILDREN'S HOLY MASS BOOK
Coloring and Text for Children and the Young at Heart
by Carol Karcher
An ACU Church School Series Publication

What happens when we come together to worship God in the Holy Eucharist?
With line drawings to color and text to explain, this booklet will be a
welcome addition to the narthex and the pews of any parish.

About the author:

*Carol Karcher teaches Sunday School at St. Ann Chapel, Palo Alto, California,
a parish of the Anglican Province of Christ the King; she also serves as
Librarian of St. Joseph's Anglican Theological College in Berkeley.*



40 pages, paperback; \$5.00 + shipping & handling

To order, contact:

The American Church Union, P.O. Box 40020, Berkeley, CA 94704

www.AmericanChurchUnion.com (online orders welcome)

A Sermon for the First Sunday after Epiphany

Once upon a time during the Advent Ember Days, a tired, overworked priest wrote to his bishop. He said that he was tired and worn out but most of all, he complained, he felt that he was making no substantive difference in the lives of his parishioners. "I've ministered and preached for over twenty years now," he wrote, "and I have celebrated the Mass well over four thousand times and preached well over three thousand sermons. But for the life of me I can't remember but one or two of them. I still face the same problems; the hears and moving van cancel out new parishioners; my flock is as spiritually fragile as ever. So, your Grace, I think I'm wasting my time; I think my ministry has been a failure."

The Bishop waited until the First Sunday after Epiphany to answer which seemed like an eternity to his Priest. The Bishop wrote that he too felt useless at times; that the spiritual odds were against him; that he couldn't get so many of the clergy to sacrifice never give up. I understand your feelings! "But consider this. I've been married for over thirty years now. In that time my wife has cooked some thirty-two thousand meals. But for the life of me, I cannot remember the entire menu for most of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today. Without her love and support, I would have given up life long ago. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

"But now, dear Father, consider the strength and grace your ministry has supplied. Too often we all discount the good we do; we all overlook the obvious; we all allow the devil to send us into despair. Yesterday, was the First Sunday after Epiphany. I want you to pray about three so often overlooked or misunderstood verses from the Gospel. The first is verse forty-one: *Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover.* The key words so often overlooked are **every year**. These words tell us that Jesus' parents were faithful in their observance of their religion. But these words also tell us clergy that we must never cease in our duties. As the holy parents went to Jerusalem despite any personal difficulties in their lives, so we too become holy when we follow their example; oh yes; and explain to your flock that devotion to their spiritual duty feeds them spiritually just like meals feeds our bodies."

"And consider the latter half of verse forty-six: *they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.* Where else would the Son of God be but in the Temple of God! The key words so often overlooked are **hearing and asking**. They underscore that Jesus is both listening and asking questions. Yes, he is divine, but his human nature is growing. So likewise, we as ministers (and in fact all Christians) listen and ask questions; and in the process, we grow spiritually in the Faith. You say your parish is as fragile as ever. That is normal! We must remember that when we were called to the sacred ministry, we were called to preach the good news of deliverance; the healing of all who are held captive to sin; and the opening of the eyes and ears of the blind and the deaf."

"And finally, in verse forty-nine: *How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?* The key words so often misunderstood are **my Father's Business**. These words are so much more than Jesus' assertion that he must be about the things of his Father because these words are also a call to us (which we must share) to an understanding that we must be about our Father's work, we must be about promoting our Father's glory, and spreading our Father's truth. We need to tell our flocks that we need to devote ourselves to our Father's service. And if we do that, we can never fail in our work as ministers of the Gospel or the Sacraments. If we do that, our ministries cannot fail."

"My dear Brother, we are all – clergy and laity alike – prone to be fragile, weak and filled with doubt. We fear the future instead of trusting in God's providence. But it doesn't have to be that way. So, I ask you, before you let the devil drive you to despair, consider three phrases from yesterday's Gospel: **every year; hearing and asking; my Father's business.**"