
The Shepherd's Staff

1 message

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Newsletter of the Anglican Province of Christ the King May, 2023

*The Right Reverend D. M. Ashman
The Reverend Gordon Hines, Publisher*

Combined Southwest-Western States Synod



Beginning on Saint Mark's Day (April 25th) and lasting to April 29th the Diocese of the Western States and the Diocese of the Southwestern States held a marvelously successful joint synod at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Walnut Creek, Saint Joseph of Arimathea Seminary and Saint

Martin of Tours Parish in Concord. All the events took place within a twenty mile radius.

On Tuesday at 12:30 p.m., Saint Joseph's Seminary hosted a sung mass celebrated by Very Reverend David Napier assisted by Father Franz

Longsworth and Peter Schroepfer followed by an informal luncheon given by the ladies of the parish in the New Oxford House (Back House). Then Christine Sunderland gave a tour of the Seminary and its three buildings sharing much of their history.

The tour concluded in the library where old scrapbooks were displayed and a video of Archbishop Morse's talk before the 2012 consecrations was shown. At 4:30 p.m., Canon Matthew Weber, assisted by Father Karcher and Deacon Rick Gregory, led the attendees in Solemn Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.



Wednesday morning featured a silent retreat at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Father Glenn Karcher and Bishop Ashman began the retreat with Morning Prayer and the Litany at 8:00 a.m.; then time was allowed for reflection. At 9:00 a.m., Bishop Hansen gave a short meditation followed by quiet time; at 10:00 a.m., the Penitential Office and Bidding Prayer were read by Father Philip Ternahan followed by reflection; at noon Archdeacon Mautner celebrated the Eucharist; at 1:30 p.m.; Father Karcher gave a meditation followed by a period of silent reflection; and at 2:45 p.m. Canon Edward Jones and Deacon Gregory read Evening Prayer.

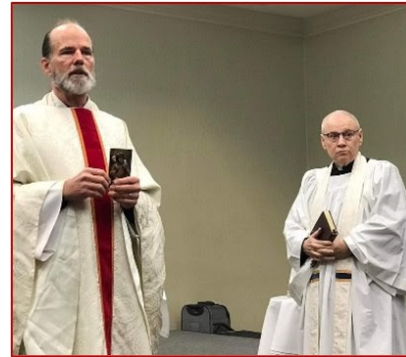
Concurrent with the Silent Retreat in the Board Room, the Standing Committees of both dioceses met in person and via zoom as one body and interviewed three deacons for advancement to the priesthood and seven laity for advancement to postulancy or the diaconate. The Standing Committees also were in favor of exploring the pluses and minuses of a potential joining of the dioceses.



At 3:00 p.m. the Anglican Church Women of both dioceses hosted a wonderful reception which formally opened the Synod and at 5:00 p.m. Archdeacon

Mautner assisted by Father Canda (Vanna) – amid roars of laughter and generous bidding – raised over three thousand dollars for the Seminary and the Bishop Morse Youth Camp at the Bishop’s Auction.

Thursday, April 27th, began at 7:00 a.m. with Morning Prayer and the Holy Communion celebrated by Canon Steven Dart and Father John LesCallet. At 10:00 a.m., while the governing boards met to discuss the budgeting for both dioceses and the potential for the reunification of the dioceses, Father (now Canon) Edward Jones gave a workshop in which he reminisced about his forty years as a priest in the service of the old Diocese of Christ the King and the subsequent Anglican Province of Christ the King.



11:30 saw the Anglican Church Women and Clergy Luncheon followed by the ACW meeting and the Clericus. At 4:00 p.m. Fathers Hart and Ternahan read Evening Prayer.







On Friday April 28th, Father Hines and Dr. Richard Kishur read Morning Prayer and registration for the combined business meeting followed. The combined business meeting was chaired by both Bishop Hansen as Episcopal Visitor to the Southwestern States and Bishop Ashman as Bishop Ordinary of the Western States. To be honest, we stumbled through a confusing format but (I don't believe) anyone could find fault as the two dioceses worked as a unit foreshadowing the possibility of an eventual reunion of the dioceses. At 2:30 p.m., the Pontifical Mass was celebrated at Saint Martin of Tours parish in nearby Concord. Bishop Hansen was Deacon of the Mass; Canon Weber was Subdeacon of the Mass and Canon Steven Dart was the Preacher.



After the Pontifical Mass, we drove back to the Embassy Suites and reconvened at 6:00 p.m. for our usual social hour and Synod Banquet with the ACW Auctions from both dioceses.





On Saturday, Father Craig Isaacs and Deacon Ron Smith celebrated a well-attended 9:00 a.m. Eucharist.



2023 Synod Address, by Bishop Ashman

On Tuesday last, Saint Mark's Day 2023 at Saint Joseph of Arimathea Chapel, I had a mystical and emotional manifestation of what we are about, as inheritors

of the vision Archbishop Morse laid down for us during his lifetime. It all centered around the Mass, the point where time touches eternity, when we are lifted up from creatures of this world to the life of supernatural splendor. The transcendent and palpable love that permeated Saint Joseph's Chapel filled me with the joy and wonderment that I felt as a child in old Latin rite Midnight Mass at Christmas and rekindled the awe and majesty that I found again in 1974 at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles in the glowing splendor of the Mass of the Epiphany.

Under the leadership of Bishop Morse, we traditionalists left the fleshpots of ECUSA and marched out into the desert to worship God. I often wonder about the Episcopal Church clergy who lost their vision and stayed in Egypt, who bowed down to false gods; what must they have thought at the moment of transition from this life to eternity? When Father Laurence Mann, an old English priest and mentor of mine, died some thirty years ago (his ashes rest in the Columbarium at the Parish of Saint Mark in Portland), his wife Mary persuaded the rector of Saint Mark's Church in Glendale to allow me to celebrate his requiem mass. It was quite a story, but before the service, in the parish library, I met one of the architects who had persuaded Episcopal parishes nationwide to sign over their property to ECUSA. I will never forget his expression when he saw me: haughty contempt mixed with scornful pity for a young priest who had rejected mammon and followed **that man**: the "infamous" Robert Sherwood Morse.

At every synod we honor the memory of Archbishop Morse and all the faithful saints who helped him build what we now nurture and cherish: the Anglican Province of Christ the King. We especially remember Bishop Albert Chambers who gave us Apostolic Succession. This synod is a joyful celebration of two of our three dioceses which contain twenty-nine parishes and missions. Some of our parishes struggle and others are well off; some parishes are small and others are large; some occupy historic old buildings; some rent storefronts and others are newly built. Some have endowments and some live from collection to collection. But they are all working toward the same goal: bringing the flock to the Good Shepherd.

And that mystical vision of Saint Mark's Day continued to permeate the next two and one half days and has borne much fruit. The Bishop's Auction and the generosity of the bidders was simply astounding! The members of the two Dioceses have interacted like fellow laborers in the Vineyard ought to interact. The two Standing Committees worked as one interviewing two Deacons for the Western States and one Deacon along with six postulants for the Southwestern States. The two Boards of Directors acted as one. The two Anglican Church Women groups have intermingled as sisters in Christ. We worked together, we worshipped together, laughed together, broke bread together and lived as one family. It has simply been an astonishing week of grace.

If we are honest and look at our statistics, the last few years have been wearing and grinding. But cheer up! **These are also the good old days!** These are the days that we stood for truth and the Faith once delivered to the saints. As we meet our challenges and come into collision with the forces of Mammon, we are indeed running the race that is set before us. Let us pray for our loved ones

who have gone to God, especially Archbishop Upham. Let us vow to help our brothers and sisters who are struggling in body, mind or spirit. Let us denounce ABC (Attendance, Buildings, Cash) Theology and recognize that he who sends the most souls to Christ is the real winner. Let us remember Bishop Morse's old axiom, All is Grace.

I began with Saint Mark; let me end with the Collect for Saint Mark's Day. *O Almighty God, who hast instructed thy holy Church with the heavenly doctrine of thy Evangelist Saint Mark; Give us grace that, being not like children carried away with every blast of vain doctrine, we may be established in the truth of thy holy Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Chancellor McNeely reported that an optional survey regarding reunification was handed out at the Registration Desk. Forty surveys were returned. Those in favor: 37; those opposed: 2; undecided: 1. Surveys from the DSWS were all in favor: 10. Of the surveys returned from the DWS: 27 were in favor; 2 were opposed and 1 indicated the need for more information before casting an opinion.

γ Easter At Church of Our Saviour Los Angeles





Taddled Found in Some Old Papers at Saint Joseph's Seminary Memories and Dreams

Love Song by Rev. James Pearson—printed in *The Living Church* magazine a long time ago...

I love the Episcopal Church, and in spite of the desirability of the onrushing ecumenism, perhaps I secretly hope that I may die in her arms. I love her, not conditionally or with calculation, not with careful reservations, but freely, joyfully, wholeheartedly.

I love the stone and brick Victorian stateliness of her old city parishes, even when they get down at the heels because “the neighborhood has changed.” And her tatty little small-town churches, smelling faintly of mice and damp, kept going somehow in the face of great difficulty by devoted, self-giving souls. And her gleaming, spanking-fresh suburban churches too, whose self-conscious cautious modern architecture speaks of tearful compromise.

I love her High-Church places with their clouds of smoke from the incense pot and their ranks of statues. And no less do I love her low-church parishes, all furniture polish and gleaming brass and memorial tablets — and the restrained but curiously exuberant dignity of choral Morning Prayer.

I love her doctrine, her emphasis on sound learning, her devotion to scripture and tradition, and the glorious Elizabethan periods of her language. But I love

too the freedom which she grants her children, her openness to the new, her breadth of humanity.

I love the bright young families proudly arranged in their pews on Sunday morning, and the sparse little congregations on weekdays whose hushed devotion to their Lord is an almost palpable radiance. And her old priests whose eyes show the compassion taught them in a lifetime; and her young priests who are so sure that the world can be won in five years at the outside.

I love the names of her heroes — Laud, Hooker, Pusey, King, Gore, Weston, Seabury, Breck, DeKoven, Kemper, Rowe. And a hundred others, including some private ones of my own. I love the letters to The Living Church which begin, “Dear Sir: It is high time...” and the solemn nonsense with which the Executive Council launches a new project; the billowing sleeves of the bishops’ rochets and the whole mad range of possible headgear that clerics can wear. I love the battered Prayer books in the pew racks that so often turn out to be Hymnals.

I love the eccentric old ladies in city parishes who dress in liturgical colors. And the uproarious stories about departed dignitaries that are told wherever priests gather and have time for small talk.

I love the hands of young and old reverently raised to receive the sacrament.

I really can’t help it. I don’t know if everybody ought to be an Episcopalian; it may be that other people feel as strongly about their Churches as I do about mine. I do know that I love the Episcopal Church, that I am sworn to her, forsaking all others.

Editor’s Note: I don’t know for sure when this was written, probably in the days when the Episcopal Church was contemplating ecclesiastical and theological suicide; about the time I found the Episcopal Church and joined. But when I read this, I know what has been lost and what our raison d’être (reason for being) is in this unhappy world. May we all be inspired to labor in the vineyard until we are called home to heaven. +dma

Bishop Morse Summer Camp Announcement

When: June 26th to June 30th - Plan to arrive Sunday the 25th
and Leave Friday the 30th

Where: Redding, CA – St. Luke’s Parish

- We are renting a houseboat on Lake Shasta which can accommodate about 15 people
- (Lake Shasta is FULLER than it has been in years)
- We guarantee the food we shall cook will be much better than the food in Washington was

- The fee is \$300.00 and there is some scholarship money available
- The Parish Priest is responsible for vetting the campers
- APCK campers have priority. Age range is 14 to 20 but call if there are questions.
- We will have some day trips to Shasta Caverns and other places like Burney Falls – hiking, fishing and other adventures included
- We will coordinate travel from airports to Redding but parishes are responsible for getting their campers to Sacramento, Redding or Lake Shasta.

Time is short

If you are interested, call Bishop Ashman 818-749-8139 – bishopashman@gmail.com

Final Notes



Please keep Father Larry Shaddix (shown with the Bishop) in your prayers as he is fighting esophageal cancer – that’s why he missed synod. Father is doing well and looked great when this picture was taken on Easter III.

Please also keep Tyler John Wang, from Father’s parish of Saint Francis in Livermore in your prayers as he is fighting a severe case of Leukemia. Tyler is fourteen years old and wants to play football.

We also need to pay tribute to Saint Paul’s Church in Bend, Oregon, which has (the hearse and moving van) been forced to close operations. They fought a good fight for more than a decade under Father John Pennington who went to God on January 28, 2020.

Note that Father Mautner is now the Archdeacon of the DWS (the Venerable); and that Father Weber is now the Canon Musician of the DWS (the Rev. Canon); and that Father Edward Jones is a Canon of the DSWS (the Rev. Canon.) These men join Dean Napier, Canon McNeely, Canon Dart and Canon “Rusty” Dillion as our senior clergy in the DWS and DSWS.



Anglican Province of Christ the King

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