

# PRIMARY THINGS

*A Liturgical Conference of  
The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin  
New York City*

*Michaelmas 2008*



# PRIMARY THINGS

The clergy at Saint Mary's believe there is a particular need for ongoing formation for those who have been set apart by the Church to be pastors, priests and teachers. Because of the heritage and ongoing life of Saint Mary's, it seems appropriate for this parish to be a place where priests can come together to renew their attention to several fundamental issues in worship and sacramental theology.

**Primary Things** is not a conference about "smells and bells" but time for pastors to reflect on what it means to be stewards of the sacraments and servants of the assembly. That said, little things do make a difference. The care and knowledge with which priests approach presiding at worship profoundly affects the nurture of the local community and its ministries to others.

An address by the Right Reverend Frank T. Griswold, XXV Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, will reflect on the liturgical ministry of presbyters within the parish settings as "pastors, priests and teachers." An address by the Reverend Stephen Gerth, rector of Saint Mary's, will focus on the parish priest at worship as "Servant of the Assembly." Stephen and his colleagues at Saint Mary's will lead a workshop on practical ceremonial and the criteria used to make decisions about the worship in the communities we serve.

Since its founding Saint Mary's has been in the vanguard of the liturgical movement in the Episcopal Church. We believe that the regular worship of the Church sustains our life in the Body of Christ and is a primary source for evangelism in his name. We invite you to join us for **Primary Things**.

# Conference Schedule

Sunday Evening, September 28, 2008

## **The Eve of Saint Michael and All Angels**

5:00 PM - Solemn Evensong & Benediction

*Sermon by the Reverend Dr. Clayton L. Morris,  
Program Officer for Liturgical and Spiritual Resources,  
The Episcopal Church Center*

6:00 PM - Opening Reception & Welcome

*Saint Joseph's Hall, Parish House*

Monday, September 29, 2008

## **Saint Michael and All Angels**

8:30 AM - Sung Morning Prayer

9:00 AM - Continental Breakfast

*Saint Joseph's Hall, Parish House*

10:00 AM - Pastors, Priests & Teachers

*Address by the Right Reverend Frank T. Griswold  
Arch Room, Mission House*

12:00 PM - Noonday Prayer

12:10 PM - Sung Mass

*Sermon by the Reverend Stephen Gerth, Rector*

1:00 PM - Lunch

*Saint Joseph's Hall, Parish House*

2:00 PM - Servants of the Assembly

*Address by the Reverend Stephen Gerth  
Arch Room, Mission House*

4:00 PM - Details Matter

*Discussion led by the Clergy of Saint Mary the Virgin  
Church and Chapels*

5:30 PM - Organ Recital

6:00 PM - Solemn Pontifical Mass

*Sermon by the Right Reverend Frank T. Griswold  
A reception follows in Saint Joseph's Hall.*

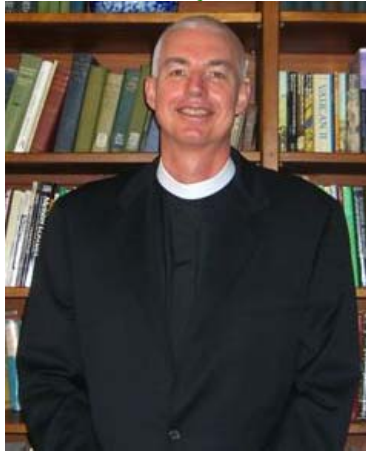
## Keynote Speaker



*The Right Reverend Frank T. Griswold  
XXV Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.*

Frank Griswold was ordained deacon in 1962 and priest in 1963 after being educated at Harvard College, the General Theological Seminary and Oriel College, Oxford. He served three parishes in the Diocese of Pennsylvania before being ordained bishop coadjutor of the Diocese of Chicago in March 1987, where he served as bishop from 1987 until becoming presiding bishop and primate of the Episcopal Church in 1998. Since his retirement in 2006, he has continued a ministry in the Episcopal Church and in the wider fellowship of the Anglican Communion. Bishop Griswold has a particular interest in worship. As a priest he was a member of the Standing Liturgical Commission that prepared the present Prayer Book and as a bishop he served as chair of the commission from 1992 until 1997.

## Saint Mary's Rector



*The Reverend Stephen Gerth*

Stephen Gerth became rector of the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in 1999, having served parishes in Texas, Louisiana and Indiana. He graduated graduation from Nashotah House in 1983, where he studied and worked with the Reverend Louis Weil. Stephen is not an academic, but a parish priest with a particular commitment to parochial worship. As rector of Saint Mary's he has continued the renewal of the parish's worship that began under his predecessors.



*Saint Mary's is a place where the parish community, clergy, resident sisters of the Community of St. John Baptist and visitors pray the Daily Office together throughout the week. There are two or more celebrations of the Eucharist daily, and all the greater festivals of the Church year are celebrated here with special richness. Saint Mary's is committed to making its worship one expression of the best thinking about liturgy and evangelism in the Church today.*

**The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin**  
**145 West 46<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**New York, New York 10036-8502**  
**212.869.5830      [www.stmvirgin.org](http://www.stmvirgin.org)**

# Primary Things - Registration Form

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The conference is designed for active parish priests of the Episcopal Church and is limited to fifty persons. Others interested in liturgical study are also welcome.

The conference fee is \$150.00. The fee includes refreshments at the reception following Solemn Evensong on Sunday night, as well as breakfast and lunch on Monday during the conference.

To register, please fill out the form on the reverse side of this card and send a check payable to The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin marked for "Primary Things" to:

**The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin  
145 West 46<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10036**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parish:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enclose a check of \$150 for the registration fee, payable to  
The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin  
marked for "Primary Things".**