



The Shepherd's Staff

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

April 2021

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Synod Highlights

The Thirtieth annual Synod of the Diocese of the Western States will begin with a Quiet Day Retreat on Tuesday, April 20th at Saint Augustine's Church in Chico CA. Father David LaBarbera will open the retreat at 9:00 a.m. with *Morning Prayer* and the *Litany*, followed by a time of meditation and reflection. Participants are free to remain in the church or walk to one of the local parks. This pattern will follow each retreat activity. At 10:00 a.m., Canon Scott Mitchell will deliver a meditation followed by quiet and meditation. At 11:00 a.m., Deacon Glenn Karcher will lead the *Penitential Office* and the *Bidding Prayer* and at noon Father Michael Mautner will celebrate the *Eucharist*. After a quiet lunch, Archbishop Upham will deliver a second meditation at 2:00 p.m. and at 3:00 p.m., Bishop Ashman will read selected passages from the Gospel of Saint Luke. The Quiet Day Retreat will conclude at 4:30 p.m. with Deacon Brian Faith reading Evening Prayer.

On Wednesday morning, Bishop Hansen assisted by Father Ben Brown will celebrate the Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. followed by a 10:00 a.m. meeting of the Standing Committee in the Vestry. There will be a hosted light lunch for members of the Standing Committee and Board of Directors. The latter will meet at 1:15 p.m., also in the Vestry. At 3:00 p.m., the Anglican Church Women will hold a reception in Canon Reed Hall with refreshments served at 5:00 p.m., along with the Bishop's Auction. The evening will be no host at a choice of Chico's restaurants.

On Thursday at 8:00 a.m., Archbishop Upham, assisted by Canons Ben Jones and Scott Mitchell, will celebrate a Chrism Mass, and bless Sacred Oils for our churches. Canon Mitchell will be bringing oil stocks for us. At 10:00 a.m., the Archbishop will conduct a workshop in Canon Reed Hall on the ways in which our Canons govern our Church and at 11:30 a.m. the ACW luncheon will be held at the Hotel Diamond. The ACW will meet at 1:00 at the Hotel Diamond and the clergy will return to the church for a 1:15 p.m. Clericus. Evening Prayer, read by Deacons Glenn Karcher and Ben Lawrence, will follow at 3:30 p.m. in the Church and the evening will be free for dinner on the town with the clergy and wives meeting at Tres Hombres Restaurant.

Synod Registration for delegates begins on Friday at 8:00 a.m. (Folders may be picked from Tuesday on). At 9:00 a.m. Fathers Napier and Shaddix will lead Morning Prayer during which there will be a special recognition YOU will not want to miss. The Synod Business Meeting and Episcopal Elections will take place at 10:00 a.m. and, following a lunch break, the Pontifical Mass and Consecration will follow at 3:00 p.m. The Social Hour and banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Almendra Winery.

Finally, on Saturday, at 8:00 a.m. the Eucharist will be celebrated by our new Suffragan Bishop followed by breakfast at Mom's (or wherever) as we say goodbye until next year.

A Sermon for Good Friday

Today, Good Friday is pay day! Let me illustrate. Once upon a time, a boy was walking along a country road when he came upon a man who was sitting on the side of the road with a large birdcage. The boy noticed that the cage was full of birds of many kinds. "Where did you get those birds?" he asked. "Oh, all over the place," the man replied. "I lure them with crumbs; I pretend I'm their friend then, when they are close, I net them and shove them into my cage." "And what are you going to do with them now?" The man grinned, "I'm going to prod them with sticks, and get them really mad so they fight and kill each other. Those that survive, I'll kill them too. None of them will escape."

The boy looked steadily at the man. He looked into the man's cruel, hard eyes. Then he looked at the birds, defenseless, terrified and without hope. Suddenly the boy asked, "Can I buy those birds?" The man hid a wicked smile, aware that he could be on to a good thing, if he played his cards right. "Well," he said hesitantly, "The cage is pretty expensive, and I spent a lot of time collecting these birds. I'll tell you what I'll do; I'll let you have the whole lot, birds, cage and all for ten dollars and that jacket you're wearing." The boy paused; ten dollars was all he had, and his jacket was new and very special; in fact it was his prized possession. But slowly, he took out the ten dollars and handed it over to the man, and then even more slowly he took off his jacket, gave it one last look and handed that over as well. And then as the man went down the road (well, you've guessed it) he opened the door and let the birds go free.

Now the theological version of the boy giving all that he had to free terrified birds is as follows: The Enemy of the world, Satan, was on the side of life's road with a very large cage. And he saw a man coming towards him who could not help but notice that the cage was crammed full of people of every kind, young, old, rich, poor, good and bad from every race and nation. "Where did you get these people?" the man asked. "Oh, from all over the world," Satan replied. "I lure them with drink, drugs, lust, lies, anger, hate, love of money and all manner of things they think they want. I pretend I'm their friend, out to give them a good time, then when I've hooked them, into the cage they go."

"And what are you going to do with them now?" asked the man. Satan grinned a terrible grin. "I'm going to prod them, poke them, provoke them, get them to hate and destroy each other; I'll stir up racial hatred, defiance of law and order; I'll make people bored, lonely, dissatisfied, confused and restless. Entitlement and instant gratification have worked very well for this last generation of these human vermin. It's easy. There're so selfish they will always listen to what I offer them and (what's better) blame God when they get neither what they wanted nor even a shred of happiness!" "And then what will you do?" the man asked. "Those who do not destroy themselves, I will destroy. None a single one of them will escape me."

Then suddenly, the man stepped forward and looking into Satan's cruel, fiery eyes said, "Can I buy these people from you?" Satan snarled, "Yes, you could buy them, but they aren't worth it. They are puny, weak and of no value to you whatsoever. The man said again, "Yes perhaps, but how much?" The devil paused with an evil smirk and finally said (with a glow of triumph), "You may buy them, but they will cost you your life." So, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, said to Satan, "Paid in Full!" And then, having given his life on the cross on Calvary, he gave freedom to the countless men and women, his brothers and sisters made in his image, condemned to death in Satan's birdcage. So, time was intersected by eternity and our Blessed Lord swung open the door of everlasting life to all of us, whom Satan has deceived and caged.

So, you see, today really is pay day. It is the day when Jesus paid the debt of Adam's transgression; it is the day he was contented to be betrayed and suffer death upon the cross; it is the day he saved us not just from the devil but from ourselves. The birds wanted out of the cage. Instinct told them so but we are humans not birds. We must fight our selfishness and want to be released from Satan's birdcage. So let us make this our pay day by helping our Blessed Lord to pay-in-full for the release of not just ourselves but our brothers and sisters by loving them as we would want them to love us. I like pay days; don't you? I guess that's why we call this one the Good Payday.

Well Done, Thou Good and Faithful Servant

We are saddened to announce that the Reverend Canon David T. F. Rodier went to God on March 21st, 2021. Born in 1938, Father Rodier (seen at right with Archbishop-Emeritus Morrison) earned his B.A. from Durey University and his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Vanderbilt University. His life and ministry can best be summed up by two words: **kind and gracious**. Nevertheless, he was a brilliant scholar and longtime faculty member of Saint Joseph of Arimathea Theological College in Berkeley. Canon Rodier was ordained a priest in 1975 and served congregations in Maryland and Virginia and was vicar of Christ the King Anglican Church in Washington, DC. He was appointed Canon Theologian for the Anglican Province of Christ the King. He retired to Arizona in 2006 where he shepherded St. Alban's Anglican Church in Peoria near Phoenix.



Anglican Churchwomen Notes

Easter already! To me, the very word 'Easter' brings forth feelings of joy and expectation. Christ is risen and death has lost its sting. Perhaps this year, more than other years, it brings feelings of hope and enthusiasm. We have been locked down for over a year, and at last we are seeing signs of the world opening up again. Soon, we will have our Synod, and be able to meet face to face and celebrate our commitment to APCK. There is much to be done but let us face the future with confidence.

My heartfelt thanks to all who have so generously contributed items for the ACW Drawings. A brochure has been mailed to every church, although I know that many of you will be unable to attend synod this year. Tickets are only \$2.00 each, or \$5.00 for the beautiful dinner service, generously donated by Ellen Ashman. If you want to take part, but have no tickets, you can send a check and description of the item you would like to: Gillian Golden, P.O. Box 558, Selma OR 97538. Make the checks out to ACW-DWS. Remember that I need to receive them no later than Friday, April 16th, and your name will be entered in the drawing.

I will email copies of the brochure to everyone on my ACW email list, and for those unable to come to the annual ACW meeting, we will add a ticket for our meeting drawings for each church not able to be represented and hope to see you next year!

Easter blessings to you all, Gillian Golden (And see the flyers attached to the newsletter)

The Last Word

The April *Shepherd's Staff* is being sent out on Maundy Thursday on which we commemorate the Institution of the Holy Communion our spiritual meat and drink in our earthly pilgrimages. And intertwined with the Lord's Supper is our duty to forgive and serve one another. So tonight, we are told that Jesus, knowing that he would be betrayed and suffer death on the Cross, got up after supper and took a basin and towel and washed his disciples' feet. Jesus tells Peter that, unless he allows his Lord to wash his feet, Peter cannot have any part of Jesus. Then Jesus says to all his disciples, *If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.* Brethren, we cannot receive the Holy Communion and harbor jealousy, anger, resentment, and hatred in our hearts and have any part of Jesus. But, if we wash the feet of our brothers and sisters in charity, fellowship, humility, and forgiveness then we are truly Jesus' brothers and sisters and we will rise up to meet him on Easter morning. Christ is risen; He is risen indeed!

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