



FORWARD *in* MISSION

A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth

Lent 2007

Equipping the Saints

A new Litany and Prayers of the People focus on mission

To celebrate the blessing of 10 years' ministry with our companion dioceses of Northern Mexico and Northern Malawi, the diocesan World Mission Committee has published a special *Litany and Prayers of the People* for use in services emphasizing mission work. The liturgies were composed with the assistance of Dean Ryan Reed and Fr. Timothy Perkins and approved for use by Bishop Iker.

The project was inspired by a need for prayers for mission in the Holy Eucharist and other liturgies,

says WMC chair Lollie Twyman. "We would be delighted to see other dioceses adopt these prayers for their own use," she adds.

The *Litany and Prayers* were published in a commemorative booklet and distributed to all clergy and lay delegates to Diocesan Convention in November. For those who may want to pray them daily or include them in a service bulletin, they are available on the World Mission Web site at www.fwworldmission.org.

Prayers of the People for Mission

In peace, let us pray to the Lord our God.

For the growth of God's Kingdom throughout the world,

We pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the ministry of the Holy Church of God to make disciples of all nations,

We pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all baptized Christians, that they may discern their vocation to spread the Gospel at all times and in all places,

We pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have not yet heard or believed in the Gospel, and those who may have the opportunity to declare it to them,

We pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For Anglican Frontier Missions, Global Teams, the South American Missionary Society,

New Wineskins Missionary Network, Christian Formation Ministries, and _____, and all whose ministry it is to respond to human need and suffering and for all who preach the Gospel and teach the truth,

We pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For an increase in evangelism and ministries of mercy in our local community and abroad, that all people may come to know and enjoy your blessings,

We pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For greater awareness of the persecuted Churches and the injustices that they endure,

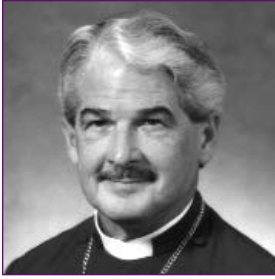
We pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the poor, the hungry, and the oppressed people of the world, and all who suffer for the sake of the Gospel,

We pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.



From the Bishop

We are witnesses to the authority of Holy Scripture

by the Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker, Bishop of Fort Worth

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am pleased to note the striking consensus between the reaffirmations in the Communiqué issued by the Primates of the Anglican Communion at their February meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and the deliberations and decisions of our Diocesan Conventions over the past several years.

1. The Communiqué reaffirms that the 1998 Lambeth Resolution 1:10 is the standard teaching of the Christian Church on human sexuality. It restates the traditional teaching of the church that “in the view of the teaching of Scripture, [the Conference] upholds faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman in lifelong union, and believes that abstinence is right for those who are not called to marriage.” Our Convention affirmed Resolution 1.10 in 1998 and again in 2006.
2. The 2004 Windsor Report called upon the Episcopal Church to adopt moratoria on the blessing of same-sex unions and the consecration of any bishop living in a same-sex relationship. Our Convention affirmed these recommendations in November of that year. Now, because the 2006 General Convention failed to do so, the Communiqué asks the House of Bishops to adopt these moratoria in clear, unequivocal language by Sept. 30, 2007. This is again fully consistent with the resolutions of our Conventions. Like the Primates, our diocese sees compliance with the Windsor Report as the way forward in healing and reconciliation in the Communion.
3. Our Convention of 2006 appealed to the Primates for some form of Alternative Primatial Oversight, and in their Communiqué the Primates have responded with plans for the Primates to establish a Pastoral Council that will oversee the ministry of a Primatial Vicar, who will in effect act as the Presiding Bishop for those who are unable to accept the ministry of Katharine Jefferts Schori. The Primates have affirmed the need we expressed.

In addition to the above, the 2005 Primates Meeting established a Panel of Reference to deal with controversies concerning “congregations in serious dispute and unwilling to accept the episcopal ministry of their bishop” and “dioceses in serious dispute with their provinces.” Our Diocese appealed to the Panel over the 1997 canonical amendments by the General Convention that made the ordination of women priests and bishops mandatory in the Episcopal Church. In December 2006, the Panel issued recommendations in our favor and declared that:

1. “while the Communion is in a process of reception, no diocese or parish should be compelled to accept the ministry of word or sacrament from an ordained woman”
2. “The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Presiding Bishop and the other Primates of the Anglican Communion should publicly commend the adequacy of the Dallas Plan.”
3. “theological views on the ordination or consecration of women should not be a ground on which consent might be withheld” in the election of a bishop opposed to the ordination of women.

Where does all of this place us as a Diocese in our relationship with the rest of the Anglican Communion? But in the eyes of the Primates, clearly we are a mainstream Anglican, orthodox diocese that stands shoulder to shoulder with them in witness to the authority of Holy Scripture and the Lordship of our only Savior, Jesus Christ. Last fall The Episcopal Church’s Executive Council tagged us a “problem diocese.” But instead The Episcopal Church has now been recognized as a “problem province.”

The Primates’ Feb. 19 Communiqué is posted at fwepiscopal.org.

Sunday School field trip

Middle school group joins nursing home residents for worship

by Kathryn McDaniel

Editor's Note: A group of 12- and 13-year-old Sunday School students from All Saints', Fort Worth, joined residents of Southwest Nursing Home for a Sunday worship service in October. Here is an account of their visit, as told by one of the students.

On the bus ride there, we ate bagels and donuts, attempted to learn the hymns, and went over the schedule. As we arrived I looked out the window. The nursing home looked like a warm, cheery place with pumpkins, haystacks, and smiling scarecrows. We walked in and kind receptionists greeted us like we were their good friends. This made me feel warm and welcome.

We walked into the living area, and I was surprised at how well decorated it was. There were shelves filled with books, beautiful pictures on the walls, and a cupboard in the corner of the room. I was immediately fascinated by this because in it were about 20 bright, colorful birds. These birds made chirping noises that gave me a sense of comfort. The residents seemed in awe of these birds and obviously loved looking at them.

The people started coming in; some in wheelchairs, others with canes and walkers, but all looked happy and ready to pray. It amazed me as I watched the people filing in, how they could be so old, tired, and aching, yet still get up out of bed to come worship with us.

We immediately began our worship, and one of the Sunday school students, a boy named Josh Giles, accompanied us on the piano as we sang. After the song ended, my teacher said a prayer, and a student came up to the pulpit and read the first lesson.

Then I read the second lesson, which was from Hebrews. As I read it slowly, letting the words sink in to the resident's minds, I realized that the

reading had a nice meaningful message, a message that people should listen to, no matter what their situation is. This Scripture, these stories were a gift from Him and we should appreciate and learn from it.

My teacher said a few words about these readings, and Jason played another song for us. We passed the peace, and all the students went around the room and greeted each and every one of the congregation. We all touched the shoulder or hand of all the residents and said, "God's peace be with you." Although some were not able to respond, I felt that it had touched them in some way. I know it had touched me.

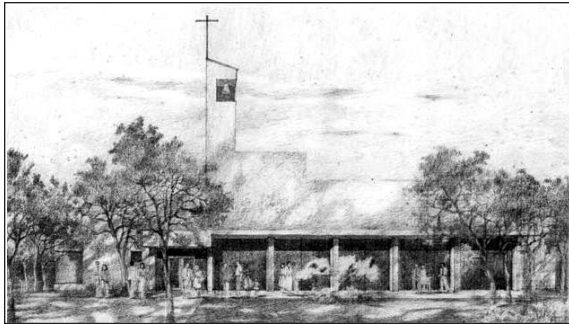
After this short but meaningful visit, I couldn't help but think how happy and comfortable these people seemed. I hope that we might be able to come back and join another worship service.

I would like to thank my Sunday School teachers, Annie Nichols and David Doremus, our bus driver Mr. Maples, and his wife, Mrs. Maples, for taking pictures. Thanks to all of you; this visit meant a lot to me.



The combined 7th and 8th grade Sunday School class from All Saints', Fort Worth, pauses for a group picture during its Oct. 15 visit to Southwest Nursing Home. The smiling scarecrow in the back row obviously couldn't resist a "photo op."

Around the Diocese



St. Barnabas to break ground in 2007

The congregation of St. Barnabas the Apostle looks forward to breaking ground in the first phase of construction on its property later this year. A capital campaign, titled Christ Our Cornerstone, returned \$365,000 in pledges at the end of 2006. Phase I (above) is to include a sanctuary with seating for 250, six classrooms, a limited-service kitchen, and fellowship space. Fr. Louis Tobola is the vicar of St. Barnabas, which serves the Alliance Corridor in north Tarrant County. For more, see www.stbarnabas.us.

COLLOQUIUM *and Jubilee Mass*

on the occasion of **CANON JOHN HEIDT'S
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION**

ST. VINCENT'S CATHEDRAL • JUNE 1 & 2

Preaching at Friday Evensong

THE RT. REV. LINDSAY URWIN

Saturday keynote address by

DR. PETER KREEFT

See the CANON'S CORNER on PAGE 6.

Download a Colloquium brochure at

www.fwepiscopal.org/jubilee

Chili Cook-off

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew at All Saints', Fort Worth, has picked Saturday, April 21, as the date for this year's Chili Cook-Off. Teams up to five persons are encouraged to register (\$25) by April 16 and come ready to compete for cash prizes. The day begins with Morning Prayer at 7 a.m. Serious cooking begins at 8:30 a.m., following breakfast and set-up time. Bring your own gear, ingredients, and sunscreen – the cook-off takes place on the church lawn. For those who'd rather eat than cook, a ticket costs \$3. Contact Joel Bailey at (817) 294-0743 or jbaileyclu@prodigy.net for more information.

Golf Tournament on Friday, June 1

The date is set for the 7th Annual Bishop Iker Challenge Golf Tournament. The place, once again, is the Squaw Valley Golf Club in Glen Rose. For the past three years the tournament has been a sellout, with a waiting list of players, so mark your calendar for Friday, June 1, round up a foursome, and send in your entry soon.



The tournament format will be a four-person scramble. Information Packets are being sent to all parish coordinators.

This year's tournament proceeds will be used to provide 40 Camp Crucis summer camp scholarships for those with financial need, as well as to enhance the existing facility with capital improvements. This is a fun way to further God's work with the next generation of Christians.

Saint Michael's Conference for youth

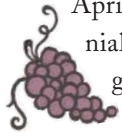
The second annual Saint Michael's Conference Southwest is scheduled for June 24-30 at Camp Crucis. The conference is a week of learning and fun with the purpose of forming young Christians in the knowledge of their faith and equipping them to be witnesses to Christ in the world.

The conference is led by clergy of our diocese and is open to all those between 12 and 19 years of age. Registration begins March 15; the cost of the week is \$300. See www.stmichaelsw.org.

Around the Diocese

New Wineskins Conference in April

If foreign mission is your passion, don't miss the New Wineskins 2007 conference being held April 11–15 in Ridgecrest, N.C. This triennial event brings together over 1,000 Anglicans, including an inspiring list of featured speakers from Africa and the Pacific Rim. Leaders of the 2007 conference will include Bishop Benjamin Kwashi of Nigeria and representatives of SAMS, Global Teams, Five Talents, and Gateway Mission Training. Over 60 workshops will be offered. The registration fee is \$195. A group from All Saints', Fort Worth, is arranging for a charter bus; contact Fr. Chris Culpepper at 817-732-1424 or culpepper@allsaintsfortworth.org. For accommodations and other information, see www.newwineskins.org.



Special wrapping for Christmas deliveries

In December two Fort Worth parishes, St. Anne's and Trinity, donated over 50 handmade Christmas stockings to the Labor and Delivery department at the downtown campus of Baylor



Jane Mossbarger and Ernestine Conley

All Saint's Medical Center. For a number of years, members of St. Deborah's Guild at St. Anne's have stitched stockings for the hospital so that newborns could go home in jingle bell style during the holidays. This year Trinity member Sue Crouch vol-

unteered to make two dozen of the baby-sized stockings so that there would be enough to include those born at the Baylor All Saints Southwest facility, too. Stockings were delivered to the two hospitals by Ernestine Conley, a Board member of the hospital Auxiliary and member of St. Anne's, and Trinity's Jane Mossbarger, the President of the Auxiliary. The volunteers expect to need even more stockings for Christmas 2007, after the downtown facility opens its new Andrews Women's Hospital. If this project appeals to you, contact one of these 'lead stitchers' right away.



Building project completed

For a parish in love with its new church building, what could be better than a Valentine's Day dedication? The pews at St. Mark's, Arlington, filled with church members and visiting clergy on the evening of Feb. 14, following the official opening of the church doors by Bishop Iker. In his homily, Fr. Timothy Perkins, rector of St. Mark's, joyfully envisioned the generations to come who would worship and grow in faith and service within the church's walls.



Caring Ministry workshop March 24

Anyone interested in becoming a better listener and Christian caregiver to those in need is invited to attend half-day workshop sponsored by Stephen Ministries on Saturday, March 24. The program will be led by Tiffany Wright, a Stephen Ministry leader from Dallas, and runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at All Saints', Fort Worth. The cost is \$15 for an individual, or \$50 for a group of four or more from the same parish. Register online at www.caringministry.org, or call 314-428-2600.

Calling all "veteran" campers

Camp Crucis celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2007, and the search is on for "veteran" campers and their golden memories. If you are a former camper of any age and have any vintage camp memorabilia or historical information (or trivia!) to share, contact the 60th Anniversary Committee through Juleigh Davenport at juleighd@allsaintsfortworth.org. And mark your calendar for Saturday, Sept. 15, when everyone is invited to a 60th Anniversary Eucharist, picnic, and play day at the camp.



The Canon's Corner



By *The Rev. Canon Charles A. Hough III*,
Canon to the Ordinary

Clergy changes in the diocese include *Fr. Gregory Sherwood*, who has resigned as rector of St. Gregory's, Mansfield. *Fr. William O'Connell* has been appointed as the interim priest. Fr. O'Connell moved to our diocese after retiring from the Diocese of Southwest Florida.

Fr. Felix Akinkugbe has retired as founding vicar of St. Philip's, Arlington. We congratulate Fr. Felix and his wife, *Margaret*, on their retirement and wish them Godspeed. *Fr. Ernest Oramasionwu*, who is Director of African Ministries in the Diocese of Dallas, is the interim priest at St. Philip's.

In addition to serving as vicar of St. Peter's, Possum Kingdom, and Holy Sprit, Graham, *Fr. John Phelps* has assumed duties as priest-in-charge at St. Luke's, Mineral Wells. All three congregations are working together as they share the same priest.

And finally, St. Timothy's, Fort Worth, has welcomed *the Rev. John Richards* as the congregation's new deacon.

It is my personal joy to announce that the Commission on Ministry has concluded its Canonical Examinations of the Rev. Deacon Bill Estes, Randall Foster, and my son, Charles A. Hough IV. Deacon Estes will be ordained to the priesthood in the near future. He is canonically resident in the Diocese of Fort Worth but is serving as curate at Grace Church in Monroe, La.

Randall Foster is currently teaching at St. Vincent's Cathedral in Bedford, and Chuck is a student at Nashotah House Seminary who will graduate in May. Both of them will be ordained deacons at St. Vincent's Cathedral on Saturday, March 3, at 10 a.m. Mr. Foster will continue with his teaching position at the Cathedral, and Chuck will be assigned by the Bishop to a diocesan curacy position this summer.

We are excited, too, about the upcoming Golden Ju-

bilee Celebration (50th Anniversary to the Priesthood) of *the Rev. Canon John Heidt*, Ph.D., who serves as Canon Theologian to Bishop Iker. The celebration is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 1 & 2 at St. Vincent's Cathedral. Everyone is invited to attend the festivities honoring Canon Heidt, his wife Katherine, and his family. The Diocese of Fort Worth, and the Cathedral are sponsoring a Colloquium and Jubilee Mass. Guest speakers at the Colloquium on Saturday include, *Dr. Peter Kreeft*, author and apologist at Boston College. *The Rt. Rev. Keith Ackerman*, Bishop of Quincy, *The Rt. Rev. Lindsay Urwin*, Bishop of Horsham, England, and our assistant bishop, *The Rt. Rev. William Wantland*. Also included is *The Rev. Dr. Thomas Holtzen*, theology professor at Nashotah House.



Bishop Urwin

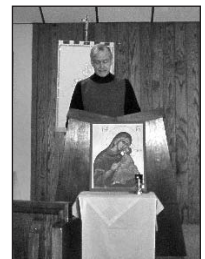


Bishop Ackerman

The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Kirk, secretary, Forward in Faith, UK. *The Rev. Dr. Cornish Martin*, former rector of St. Paul's K Street, Washington, D. C., and *The Rt. Rev. Donald Parsons*, former bishop of Quincy. The Colloquium will revolve around the theme "How Can We Sing the Lord's Song?" Topics include Anglican Spirituality, Authority of Scripture, Interpretation of Scripture, Christian Tradition, and Catholic Ecu- menism. This historic gathering and discussion is open to all. The Diocese of Fort Worth is receiving registrations for the event on our Web site at www.fwepiscopal.org, or by calling Gala Pryor at 817 244-2885. Registration fee is \$50 per person, which also includes meals.

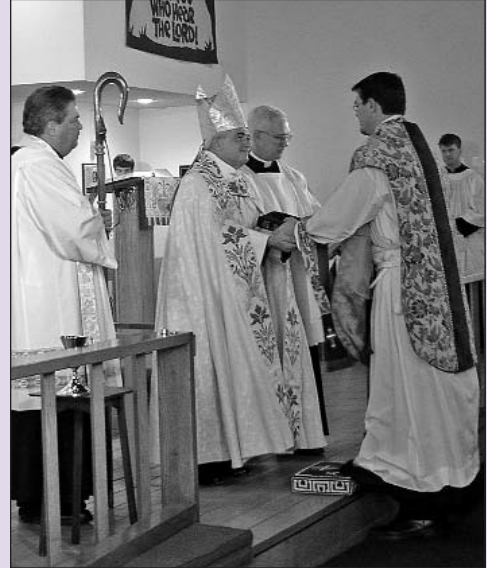
Information will be sent to all parishes and missions, and is included elsewhere in this issue. Please consider being a part of this gathering on June 1 & 2 at our cathedral.

The clergy of the diocese gathered Jan. 22-25 at the Montserrat Retreat Center for their annual retreat. Their retreat leader was Fr. Nicholas (right) of the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield, England.



FALL ORDINATIONS

Right: Bishop Iker congratulates Fr. Jon Jenkins after the new priest receives his vestments, at St. Peter & St. Paul, Arlington. The Bishop is flanked by the Rev. Canon Charles A. Hough III and the Rev. Dr. Thomas Hightower, rector of St. Peter & St. Paul, where Fr. Jenkins is serving his curacy.



Above: On Saturday, Sept. 30, as Dean Ryan Reed (left) looks on, Bishop Iker ordains a new priest and deacon – a “first” for Bishop Iker’s 13-year ministry. Fr. John Jordan, son of Fr. Terry Jordan, is pictured on the Bishop’s right. Deacon William Estes is on the Bishop’s left. also pictured are Canon Hough and Deacon Kerwin Wade (holding crosier). The new Fr. Jordan is now a curate at St. Vincent’s Cathedral in Bedford, where the ordinations took place.

Right: Deacon Estes is pictured with his wife, Lisa, and children following the ordination service. They are (l-r), Stuart, Liam, Mhari Hannah, Morgan, and Patrick. Deacon Estes serves at Grace Church in Monroe, La., where he will be ordained a priest this spring.



DIOCESAN CALENDAR - LENT 2007

Boldface type indicates Bishop Iker's visitations • Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings are held at the Diocesan Center for Ministry

<i>January</i>	3/3	10 a.m. Ordinations of Randall Foster and Charles A. Hough IV to the diaconate, <i>St. Vincent's Cathedral, Bedford</i>
<i>February</i>	3/4	GOOD SHEPHERD, Wichita Falls
<i>March</i>	3/11	Discretion
<i>April</i>	3/18	ASCENSION AND ST. MARK, Wise County (Bishop Iker) ST. TIMOTHY'S, Fort Worth (Bishop Wantland)
<i>May</i>	3/19	9:30 a.m. Commission on Ministry 1:30 p.m. Standing Committee
<i>June</i>	3/21	11 a.m. Finance Committee 2 p.m. Executive Council
<i>July</i>	3/25	TRINITY, Dublin, and ST. MATTHEW, Comanche
<i>September</i>	4/1	<i>Palm Sunday</i> – Discretion
<i>October</i>	4/3	10:30 a.m. Mass of Collegiality, St. Vincent's Cathedral, Bedford
<i>November</i>	4/7	<i>Easter Eve</i> Bishop Iker at St. Vincent's Cathedral, Bedford
<i>December</i>	4/8	Easter Sunday ST. BARNABAS, Fort Worth

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