



FORWARD *in* MISSION

A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth

Lent 2014

Looking at the provisional 'Texts for Common Prayer'

More than just a greeting!

by the Rev. Christopher T. Cantrell, SSC

Blessed be the kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Those are the opening words of the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, which has been used since the

fourth century and is celebrated today by Orthodox Christians around the world. Everything that follows in the liturgy is in the light of this beginning, the opening acclamation.

Bishop Iker recently asked me to take a look at the new rites being prepared for use in the Anglican Church in North America, and specifically at the opening acclamation and at the salutation.

The ACNA's proposed Eucharistic rite begins:

Celebrant: Blessed be God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

It is very similar to the opening acclamation we find in the 1979 Episcopal Church *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP), but there is a substantial difference. The 1979 book has:

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The difference is this: Grammar matters. By omitting the definite articles and adding the colon, the BCP gives the impression that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are simply but three modes of being God. That is a condemned heresy known as

modalism (i.e. a belief that God is one but has three names or modes).

Like any habit, what we say tends to become what we believe. So we ought to be careful about such things as these.

The use of the definite article "the" in the ACNA rite makes it clear that we are speaking of the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It preserves the mystery of God the Three in One and One in Three.

When the opening acclamation was added to the BCP rite, a definite nod was given in the direction of the Orthodox practice as a rationale for it. That may have been the intent, but I do not believe it was successful. I believe the ACNA rite succeeds in proclaiming the truth to which we should bear witness. It is a necessary corrective.

Regarding the salutation, the BCP offers two different responses to the words, "The Lord be with you." In Rite I the response is, "And with thy spirit." In Rite II it is, "And also with you."

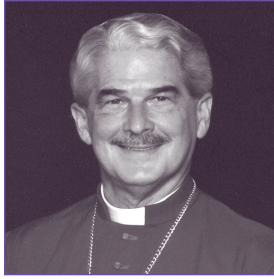
In 1979 the reason given for introducing the contemporary "And also with you" in Rite II was that we were being ecumenical by using the text agreed upon by the ICET (International Consultation on English Texts). Even the Roman Catholics adopted this form, as did some Lutherans.

An unintended consequence of having two responses was to drive a wedge into the liturgical life of the Episcopal Church and to render our prayer a bit less "common." This was brought home for me in the first parish I served as rector, where there was a Rite I Sunday congregation at 8 a.m.

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The provisional *Texts for Common Prayer* are available for study on the ACNA web site, anglicanchurch.net.

In this diocese, use of the texts for worship requires the permission of the Bishop.



From the Bishop

Keeping a devout and holy Lent

by the Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker

On Ash Wednesday we begin a spiritual journey together called Lent. It is a pilgrimage that we will pursue for the next six weeks. It begins in ashes and penitence; it will end in alleluias and Easter joy. It begins with a somber reminder of our mortality; it will end with a joyous celebration of our immortality in Jesus Christ. Ash Wednesday reminds us of what we deserve in our sinfulness – judgment and death. Easter reminds us of God’s gracious gift to us in Jesus Christ – forgiveness and new life in Him.

As with any journey, there is a certain amount of uncertainty about what lies ahead. None of us can know for certain what we must undergo in the weeks ahead – what temptations or tragedies we must endure, or what challenges and opportunities await us. Life is unpredictable and fragile. Sometimes the journey becomes dangerous and difficult in unexpected ways.

In our Christian pilgrimage, Lent reminds us that we must choose many times a day. Life involves continual decisions and choices, which determine which way we will go. We must make decisions every day about what we will do and about what we will not do. We must do the right thing, and we must avoid the wrong thing. The path we choose in the days ahead, in little things and in great things, will either lead us closer to God or more distant from Him.

To strengthen and guide us in what lies ahead, the Church calls upon each of us to adopt a Lenten Rule of Life – a discipline we will live by for the next six weeks. It will help us keep a devout and

holy Lent. It involves taking on certain specific things and giving up certain other things in order to strengthen our will power, to co-operate with God’s power. It is a choice to simplify our lives and to pursue such things on a day to day basis, which, in the end, will bring us closer to God and to His will for our lives.

As with any journey, we will need food and drink to nourish and sustain us along the way. So a Lenten Rule may involve receiving Holy Communion more often than usual, perhaps coming to a weekday Communion service in addition to our Sunday worship. Surely we will want to read and study the Holy Scriptures more diligently than usual, feeding daily on God’s Word as our daily bread. Surely we will want to practice the three spiritual disciplines which Jesus himself practiced and commended to His disciples – fasting, prayer and almsgiving. All these things will help us and guide us in our Lenten journey.

“Lord, give us the gift of holy discipline this Lent, that by your grace, we may do those things we ought to do and avoid those things that are harmful to us and our relationship with you. Save us from all wrong choices, and enable us by your Spirit to please you in word and deed, through Jesus Christ who saves us. Amen.”

The Scriptures appointed for Ash Wednesday are:

PSALM 32, 95 102, 130, 143 JONAH 3:1-4:11 HEBREWS 12:1-14 LUKE 18:9-14

Equipping the saints

A booklet to enhance Holy Week and Easter in your home

For some Christians, the Church Year means Christmas and Easter. Then there are the enthusiasts who deserve the T-shirt that says: “I Survived HOLY WEEK at my parish!” For all of us however, the Church Year defies the category of “been-there, done-that.” However much we already know about our yearly Christian celebrations, we cannot exhaust their meaning. That is why we are not just to study the Church Year; we are to live it.

The link between the Church Year and daily life is the focus of this new booklet series called *Let Us Keep the Feast: Living the Church Year at Home*. Written by a team of Anglican writers for each season of the Church Year, these concise guides introduce the historic traditions of the Church and offer resources for practicing them in our everyday lives. The newest guide, for Holy Week and Easter, is now available for order and will be mailed out during Lent. The section on Holy Week was written by former Nashotah House employee Jennifer Snell, a clergy spouse in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

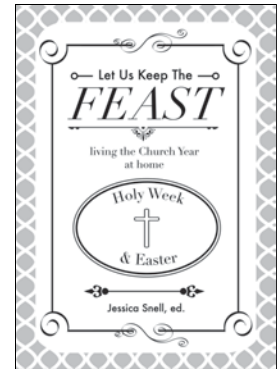
Jennifer’s handbook comes with the endorsement of Bishop Iker: “This wonderful little book ... will be helpful to anyone who wants to better understand and experience the spiritual growth that

comes from living out the Christian Calendar. Each chapter ends with a number of suggestions to enrich the season, and this provides a variety of resources appropriate for children and families at home – music, fun activities, poetry, prayers, Scripture verses, and other suggested readings.”

Jennifer is excited to share the fruit of her research into Holy Week. She explains, “What’s unique about this book is that it describes the traditions of the Church’s high holy days in everyday, non-specialist language. This makes it a great gift for Christians who aren’t already familiar with the Church Year. Also for that reason, this book is a fresh take on the power and the beauty of the sacramentals that accompany our liturgy.”

Jennifer and her fellow writer, Lindsay Marshall (author of the section on Easter), hope their project inspires everyone to appreciate the deep meaning of our worship and to live out that relevance in our daily lives.

For more information and to order the books, visit keepthefeast.net. Discounts for bulk orders are available. Please contact Jennifer Snell at jenn.snell@gmail.com.



More than just a greeting!, *cont. from page 1*

and a Rite II one at 10:30. Whenever we were together in one service, the response to my “The Lord be with you” was cacophonous!

The new ACNA rites have addressed this issue. The proposed response to the Salutation is now, “And with your spirit.” That is a tremendous improvement, in part because it is a direct modern English translation of the Latin “*et cum spiritu tuo*” from the Western Catholic Liturgy – going way

back into Christian antiquity. By restoring this usage we move more into the mainstream of Christian tradition rather than further out of it. And lo and behold, the Roman Catholics have just done the same thing in the recent liturgical revision.

I’m glad to say that in both these recommended changes, the provisional liturgy is moving us in the right direction.

Fr. Cantrell is rector of St. Matthias Church in Dallas.

Around the Diocese



On Feb. 9 Bishop Iker ordained Vicki Goodale (front row, left) to the diaconate. Five other diocesan deacons took part in the service at All Saints', Wichita Falls, where Fr. John Munson (left) is priest in charge.



Richard Moseley, second from right, was ordained to the diaconate on Feb. 15 at St. John's, Fort Worth. Fr. David Klein (seated), who is recovering from foot surgery, is rector. Also pictured are Fr. Bill Estes (left) and Margaret Moseley.

Lenten Quiet Days

The Diocesan Church Women are sponsoring three events around the diocese this Lent. The first is set for Saturday, March 8, at St. Andrews, Breckenridge. For full details on each Quiet Day, see diofwparishes.org.

DOK Spring Assembly

The Daughters of the King will hold their Spring Assembly on Saturday, May 3, at St. John's Church in Fort Worth. The theme is "The Great Commission," and all Daughters and Junior Daughters are welcome. Registrations are due by April 25.

Fore!

Save the date! Friday, June 6, is the date of the 14th annual Iker Challenge Golf Tournament, to be held at the Squaw Valley Golf Courses in Glen Rose. Proceeds benefit capital improvements and the Summer Camp scholarship fund at Camp Crucis. Sign-up materials will be available from parish coordinators in April. Come and play a round for the kids!

diofwparishes

Activities around the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth



New blog lists diocesan activities

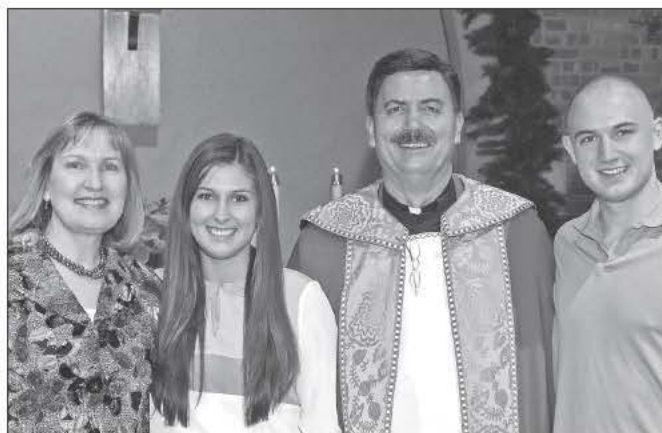
You are cordially invited to events around the Diocese of Fort Worth! Check diofwparishes.org regularly to see the latest opportunities – from Cursillos to chili cook-offs, and every good thing in between!

"Take My Yoke Upon You"

The diocesan World Mission Committee is hosting a Missions Conference on Saturday, March 29, in the gym and schoolrooms at St. Vincent's Cathedral School in Bedford. Bishop Bill Atwood will be the keynote speaker for the conference, which begins at 8 a.m. and includes three workshop periods. Register at fwepiscopal.org/mission.

Diocesan Altar Guild

The Diocesan Altar Guild will hold its annual meeting Saturday, March 29, at St. Vincent's Cathedral. Bishop Iker will preside at the 10 a.m. Eucharist, and Fr. Robert Young will offer a program on vestments. RSVP to Kathy McGee at kathrynmcgee2@gmail.com.



Fr. Edward Kresowaty, rector of St. Alban's Church in Arlington, celebrated the 30th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood at a service of Choral Evensong on Dec. 15. Pictured with him here are his wife, Lynn, and their children.

Around the Diocese



Camp Crucis

Retreat and Conference Center
A Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

For many of us, 2014 has come on like a freight train, and Camp Crucis is no different. Having the holidays behind us now, we can focus on Summer Camp preparation and planning. With this comes the task of getting both the camp facilities and the camp staff in order so that that we can have a safe and successful program.

However, I write to you today not about the effort under way for Summer Camp, but about the reason we are putting forth the effort: the campers themselves. Camp Crucis' main mission is to enrich the lives of youth by helping to bring them closer to Christ. There are many, many people who would testify to their experiences here at Camp Crucis – both laity and clergy alike – about how they have grown in their walk with the Lord and grown closer to Him. Our desire is to help current and future campers do the same.

What could be more wonderful than a Summer Camp that is full to capacity of boys, girls, and young adults who are experiencing the love that Christ has for us? With your help, I believe that this is a very doable goal. If you know of a young person who has not been to Camp Crucis before, or if you would like to sponsor a youth for Summer Camp, act on it. Take time to think about who you know – someone who might want to come to Camp Crucis. It is our commitment that no child will be turned away due to financial difficulties.

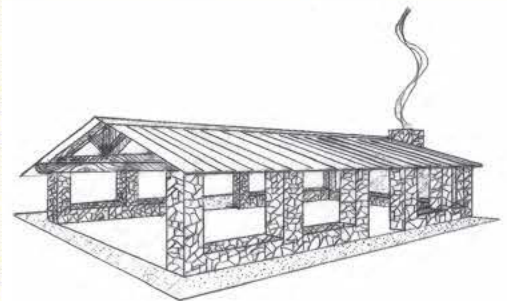
Please continue to pray for the ministry of Camp Crucis, and continue to lift up the youth who will attend in your prayers.

For more information about Summer Camp 2014 and camp schedules, go to www.campcrucis.org

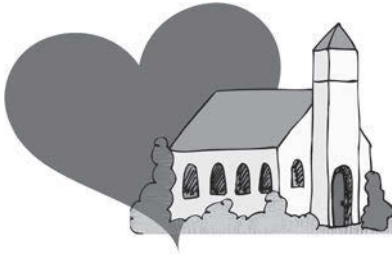
In Christ's Name,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Craig".

Philip Craig
Executive Director



New in 2014: A pavilion with fireplace is under construction now at Camp Crucis. The open structure, with wooden beams and stone walls, is being built in memory of Scotty Geiger by her children. Scotty attended the first camp session in 1947 and was a lifelong friend of the camp.



Beyond the tithe

St. John the Divine in Burkburnett: Little church with a big heart

Most Sundays, there are 21 members in church at St. John the Divine. The mission congregation in Burkburnett – outside Wichita Falls – has an annual income of about \$66,000. Some would say that's barely enough for subsistence, but at St. John's there are abundant resources to fund nearly two dozen outreach projects. In all, about a quarter of the congregation's income goes to outreach each year, and the membership is receptive to new opportunities as they arise.

After the church's founding in 1962, the very first vestry resolved to tithe to outreach, but that commitment weakened after just a few years. When Air Force master sergeant Nolan Bell and his wife, Kerry, were stationed in the area some years later, Kerry urged the vestry to recommit itself, based on her personal experience of tithing.

"While we lived in Bossier City, La.," Kerry recalls, "a couple at our church gave their testimony on tithing. It was an eye-opening talk, and we looked at our finances to see how we could manage it. We were told to give God His money first, and the rest just seems to fall into place. At the time we had four children at home. We were kind of living payday to payday, and sometimes it seemed the funds wouldn't stretch.

"But we both felt led to do our best and started giving God His money first. It worked. Then one month the dentist bill for the kids was high, and I thought I would pay it before we gave our check to the church. Everything went wrong – the car broke down, and all kinds of weird things happened. I looked at the check book and saw that if I paid the tithe we would have \$10 left. We wrote the check, and everything worked out.

"When we transferred to St John's, I agreed to be the church treasurer. At my first vestry meeting, I discussed tithing. We all agreed to start small and work our way up. Looking around, we decided we

should give to the local drug store to help people pay for their prescriptions. We supported our local Ministerial Alliance, the Senior Citizens organization, and the food pantry, which also helps folks with utility bills and other minor emergencies.

"Each year, when we proposed the budget, we would raise the amount for outreach. When we agreed on which places we would support, we left some funds undesignated in case something would come up later in the year. At the end of each year, we made sure that all of the funds we budgeted for outreach were donated. As time went on and the outreach budget grew, we added more places to donate to. One was Christ's Home Place Ministries, a Christian counseling center started by Fr. James Rogers and his wife, Susan. Recently we have added SAMS and student support for the Gainesville School for Boys to the monthly payment list. We make other donations periodically as well, usually in a lump sum for the year."

Kerry appreciates the example set by their vicar, Fr. John Munson, who supports the outreach and donates time in the community. Fr. Munson is a chaplain for the police force, board member for Grace Ministries, and a member of the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

The church doesn't need to conduct fund-raiser events. When a Methodist friend asked Kerry about this, Kerry recalls, "I told her we have found that if we give God His money first, we never have need to raise funds. All of our needs are met and then some. When I hear of churches having money problems, the first question I ask is, 'How much is your outreach?' Sadly, they tell me there isn't any because they can't pay their bills."

St. John's hosts two events for the community each year. The Christmas Gift Shop is a tradition going back to the 1960s and provides needy children with a chance to select gifts for their parents or

guardians. While the gift is wrapped, the children enjoy a party and visit with Santa Claus. On Shrove Tuesday, St. John's opens its doors for a free pancake supper.

"There used to be a fee charged for that," Kerry notes, "but as our outreach grew, we realized that this was another area where we could serve the community. All of Burburnett is invited to come and have pancakes with us. It is really a fun time that we get to see our friends and neighbors!"

Equipping the saints

Engaging the next generation

by Fr. Alan Horton

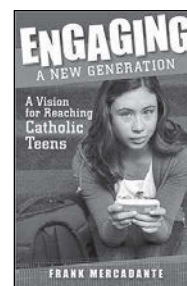
I recently had the pleasure of reading *Engaging a New Generation: A Vision for Reaching Catholic Teens* by Frank Mercadante, and of presenting it to a meeting of diocesan clergy. It is full of insight concerning the generation now growing up in our parishes.

Mercadante begins by identifying the source of the current disconnect between our young people and the Church. Although it's easy to blame others, Mercadante asks leaders in the Church to look in the mirror and understand where we have failed. Personally I have lamented that our consumer culture causes people to look for what the Church has to offer them, as opposed to what they have to offer. To Mercadante, this is a wonderfully pious and completely unreasonable sentiment. People will be involved, he says, to the extent they feel they are benefitting from that involvement. In our parishes we need to foster intentional and meaningful communities committed to action so our members can reap spiritual benefits.

Next, the author describes the typical teenager in our parishes today. The Millennial generation, born between the early 1980s and early 2000s, is more interested than Generation X in the corporate good. They are coming of age in a time when the world is shrinking and international news is at

Over the years, the tithe has been met and exceeded. Currently about \$11,000 goes to projects outside the diocese, while another \$5,000 is given to support World Mission programs and seminary students.

"God is so awesome the way He provides for all of these things," Kerry says. Despite the congregation's small size, she says, "We feel it is our mission to support our community. And through it all, we have been truly blessed!"



their fingertips, and in an environment where they are hovered over by "helicopter" parents, having their needs taken care of. They are closer and more open with their parents than any of the past several generations. They are drawn in by intimate relationships; the big-tent events that appealed to previous generation have very little pull on our current teens. Mercadante urges us not to ask ourselves, "What are we doing for our teens?" but "How are we providing opportunities for our teens to be meaningfully involved in the life of the parish?"

Mercadante identifies four stages of faith, moving from experienced faith of childhood, to the immensely important affiliative faith of adolescence and young adulthood, to the searching faith that occurs when a person begins to move out on their own, and finally the full conversion of an owned faith in adulthood. In response, Mercadante calls for several changes in methodology, including a move from evangelization to "immanualization" – that is, from "individual belief as evangelistic entry point" to "community belonging as entry point." The book includes chapters on preparing leaders and rethinking catechesis. I recommend this short read for anyone serious about engaging the young people in their parish.

Fr. Horton is an assisting priest at St. Vincent's Cathedral.



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3/5	Ash Wednesday	January
3/9	ALL SAINTS, Monroe	February
3/16	ST. ANDREWS, Breckenridge	March
3/17	9:30 a.m. Committee on Ministry	April
3/20	1:30 p.m. Executive Council	May
3/22	10:30 a.m. Institution of Fr. Christopher Woodall as Rector of Holy Comforter, Cleburne	June
3/23	GOOD SHEPHERD, Wichita Falls	July
3/29	8 a.m. Mission Conference, St. Vincent's School Gym 10 a.m. Diocesan Altar Guild, St. Vincent's Cathedral, Bedford	August
3/30	ST. BARNABAS, Fort Worth	September
4/6	HOLY COMFORTER, Cleburne	October
4/12	DCW Quiet Day and meeting, St. Andrew's, Grand Prairie	November
4/13	Palm Sunday	December
4/15	10:30 a.m. Mass of Collegiality, St. Vincent's Cathedral, Bedford	
4/20	Easter Day	
	ST. TIMOTHY'S, Fort Worth	

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

DIOCESAN CALENDAR - LENT 2014