



FORWARD *in* MISSION

A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth ————— *Pentecost 2007*



Life & times of a Missionary Vicar

The “Godfather of Sports” is on the air

When Fr. Mark Stockstill graduated from Nashotah House seminary, he asked Bishop Iker for a rural assignment. This son of All Saints’, Weatherford, wanted to serve a church in one of the small towns in the diocese. The Bishop granted his wish and more, blessing Fr. Stockstill with two mission congregations: St. Matthew’s, Comanche, and Trinity, Dublin. Before long the new priest and his family were settled and getting to know their neighbors.

About halfway between the church and the county courthouse, along Comanche’s Austin Avenue, the vicar discovered another anchor of community life: the home of KYOX 94.3 FM and KCOM 1550 AM, sister radio stations serving Comanche County. The Episcopal clergyman went in to introduce himself, and it wasn’t long before his gift of gab, love of sports, and habit of rising early earned him a spot in the broadcast booth each weekday morning on KYOX – “The Ox.”

It’s a truism that radio personalities never “look” the way they “sound.” Nevertheless Fr. Mark makes a point of showing up in the studio in black suit and clerical collar – a habit (pardon the pun) that prompted Richard Niblett, the station’s general manager and morning show host, to dub him the “Godfather of Sports.”



The broadcast day begins in the Stockstill living room where, at 6:30 a.m., Fr. Mark phones the radio station to read the overnight scores, leading off with the local high-school teams. If there’s still time, he may give the results of yesterday’s Dallas Mavericks or Texas Rangers contests, too. He pulls up a stool in the studio by 7 a.m., joining co-hosts Richard and Pam Niblett to discuss the day’s news and weather forecast. He guesses at the daily trivia question, announces birthday greetings to listeners, and on Fridays sings along with the “Friday song” before reminding his audience of Sunday services. Twice each hour Fr. Mark reads the scores and announces the day’s high-school game times. About halfway through the show, he slips out and heads up the street to church to say Morning Prayer. Then he’s back at the station, where he tapes two sports round-ups and goes back on the air for 20 minutes more before wrapping up at 8:45 a.m.

The “Godfather of Sports” doesn’t receive a paycheck from the station. He is paid for his efforts in local goodwill and a 30-minute time slot for Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday. You might say it was an offer they couldn’t refuse.



“Dallas Plan” amended by bishops

St. Francis, Dallas, joins diocese through “Dallas-Fort Worth Plan”

Since 1996 the “Dallas Plan” has provided for women in the Diocese of Fort Worth who seek ordination to the priesthood to be referred to the Bishop of Dallas, the Rt. Rev. James M. Stanton, for vocational discernment. Currently at least two women who participated in the Plan are rectors of parishes in the Diocese of Dallas. (Provision is made, too, for a woman priest who might be called to serve in a parish here to be under the authority of Bishop Stanton; to date, none have been called.) At the beginning of this year, the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Panel of Reference gave the Plan its unanimous endorsement.

In March Bishop Iker and Bishop Stanton made the arrangement reciprocal: The amended “Dallas-Fort Worth Plan” now makes pastoral provision for those in our neighboring diocese who do not approve of the ordination of women to the priesthood. The first parish to come under Bishop Iker’s episcopal care is St. Francis, Dallas. (The arrangement could also apply to any Dallas-based candidate for the priesthood who struggles with the question of women’s ordination.)

St. Francis is a Forward in Faith parish of 200 members, located at 3838 Walnut Hill Lane. Fr. David Allen has been rector there since 1993. The parish is the home of the School of Spirituality, a 10-month program open to lay people in both dioceses through the Episcopal Renewal Center.

“We have great respect for Bishop Stanton,” Fr. Allen says. “It takes a lot of courage not to take [a thing like this] personally.

“We don’t feel bitterness, but a block in our relationship. We can’t fully receive all of Bishop Stanton’s ministry as a ministry we can approve of. The involvement of our young people in diocesan events [has been limited by this]. And I’ve felt in good conscience I could not attend the Chrism Mass. I have difficulty renewing ordination vows with people I don’t view as priests.”

In a March 26 announcement to the clergy, Bishop Iker said, “Bishop Stanton and I believe this is a very important step forward, and it provides a model for other parts of the church that remain divided on this issue.”



On Tuesday in Holy Week Bishop Iker and the clergy of the diocese gathered at St. Vincent’s Cathedral for the annual Mass of Collegiality, or Chrism Mass. All the clergy renewed their ordination vows and gathered at the altar for a concelebration of Holy Eucharist. Later, Bishop Iker blessed holy oils for the priests’ use in the year ahead.

THE MASS OF COLLEGIALLY



Getting involved in our diocese

I say there, old chap – what is a deanery?

by Fr. Bill Taylor

I realize the term “deanery” is quite familiar to some of you and a complete mystery to others. In any event, my reason for writing about this unit of our diocesan structure will become clear as we proceed.

Different dioceses have different names for geographic clusters of parishes and missions, which are, in effect, subdivisions of the diocese – like counties within a state. In the Diocese of Fort Worth, these clusters are called “deaneries,” while in the Diocese of Dallas they are called “convocations.” Convocations of the Diocese of Dallas are led by “Convocation Chairpersons,” some of whom are clergy and others lay, and by “Convocational Clericus Convenors,” all of whom are clergy. In the Diocese of Fort Worth, “Deans,” all of whom are priests, fill both of the above roles, and they are appointed by the Bishop. Lay “Sub-Deans” are elected at Deanery Council meetings to assist them. In addition, in the Diocese of Fort Worth the deans receive the title “Very Reverend” like other deans, i.e., deans of cathedrals and seminaries. It is also customary for deans in our diocese to wear red piping on their cassocks and beanies. One thing all these positions have in common is that they carry no additional financial compensation.

As required by diocesan Canon 35, each Deanery Council consists of all members of the clergy residing in the deanery who are entitled to vote in diocesan Convention, all the elected Convention delegates of the churches of the deanery, and the Lay Deanery Representative to the Executive Council of the Diocese.

Early in his episcopacy, Bishop Iker initiated measures to revitalize the deaneries in order to enhance the flow of information, ideas, and policy throughout the diocese, and encourage some diffusion of leadership and participation in diocesan decision-making. The council of each deanery is to meet annually prior to Convention to elect Clergy and Lay Representatives to Executive Council. The Deanery Councils also meet in February, April, August, and December. Prior to Bishop Iker’s initiatives, the members of Executive Council were all elected at-large at Convention. The purposes of the changes are easy to discern. The Deanery meetings are scheduled to alternate with Executive Council

meetings. This should make it possible for Executive Council representatives to keep the Deanery Council informed of matters being considered and decided in Executive Council, while also taking ideas and proposals offered at the Deanery level to Executive Council for consideration. The Pre-Convention Deanery meetings are occasions where clergy and other delegates are informed of matters to be considered at Convention. Feedback on such matters is noted, so Delegates arrive at Convention well-informed and feedback is accounted for in proposals actually made to Convention.

From my perspective, what has worked best among these changes is the Pre-Convention Deanery Meetings. The quality of conversation and debate at Convention has improved noticeably, and the feedback has led at times to appropriate and constructive changes in resolutions and other matters presented at Convention. What has not worked as well, at least on any consistent basis, is the flow of information and ideas from the grass roots level up through the Deanery to the Executive Council and diocesan leadership. Thus, I was quite encouraged at the February meeting of the Fort Worth West Deanery Council when Dean Christopher Cantrell indicated that this problem has been recognized by the Executive Council and diocesan leadership, and that Executive Council wants and expects to hear proposals and other ideas which have been raised at the Deanery Council level. For such a process to be effective, the Deanery Council meetings need to be genuinely open forums for the presentation and discussion of ideas and proposals regarding significant diocesan matters, such as the budget. The February meeting of the Fort Worth West Deanery Council became just such a meeting.

I hope that this practice continues as it would put into practice the whole purpose of Bishop Iker’s initiatives of the mid-1990’s to have a more open exchange of ideas and broader participation in the decision-making process across the diocese. You can do your part by communicating your questions, concerns and thoughts about diocesan matters to your Convention delegates. Also, please pray for all those who serve in our diocese at every level.

Fr. Bill Taylor is the assistant priest at Trinity, Fort Worth.

Around the Diocese

Ecumenical Benedictine Retreat

The 10th annual Dallas Benedictine Experience Retreat is a chance to get away from it all and spend time with God, or even explore a vocation to life in a religious community. This silent retreat takes place Wednesday through Sunday, June 13 – 17, at the Catholic Conference Center in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas. The retreat is presented by The Friends of St. Benedict, an international organization, and endorsed by The Benedictine Community of the Holy Savior, which meets at Dallas' St. Matthew's Episcopal Cathedral.



The retreat chapel

Participants live at the conference center, forming a temporary monastic community to experience the balanced way of life of the Rule of St. Benedict, which divides each day into private and group prayer, study, work, and leisure. Four daily offices (lauds, sext, vespers, and compline) will be sung each day in Gregorian chant. There will also be two presentations each day on Benedictine spirituality.

Leading the retreat are two nationally-known religious figures. Sister Mary Donald Corcoran, O.S.B.Cam., is the Prioress of Transfiguration

Monastery (Roman Catholic) in Windsor, N.Y. Sister Mary Donald is making her fourth visit as a leader of this retreat program. She holds a Ph.D. in Theology from Fordham University, and she has directed the M.A. program in spirituality at St. Louis University. Brother Abraham Newsom, a Texas native, is a monk at St. Gregory's Abbey (Episcopal) in Three Rivers, Mich. He was a leader of the retreat in both 2002 and 2003 and has led other quiet days and classes in the Midwest and New England. He is the co-editor of *Singing God's Praises: The First Sixty Years, a History of St. Gregory's Abbey*.

During classroom time, Sr. Mary Donald and Br. Abraham will give presentations on Benedictine values and their applications to life today. They will offer spiritual direction for those who wish it. The cost of the retreat is about \$300 per person, including meals and lodging. For more information, write to dallasbenedictine@yahoo.com or call 214-339-8483.

Camp Crucis to celebrate 60th anniversary

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Sept. 15, when Camp Crucis will celebrate its 60th anniversary with a Eucharist and picnic. Banners representing each congregation in the diocese will be part of the 10 a.m. procession to the outdoor Chapel of the Transfiguration, where Bishop Iker will preside at a joyous service of Holy Eucharist. Then stay for a picnic lunch and other fun at our diocesan camp and conference center.



ECW Ingathering adds ARDF option

The annual ECW ingathering will include two outreach funds beginning this year. As an alternative to the United Thank Offering (UTO), each congregation now has the option of taking up an offering for the Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ARDF). Coin boxes are available for both funds; contact your ECW representative. Donations will be collected for presentation at the diocesan Women's Congress on Saturday, Oct. 13.

COLLOQUIUM and Jubilee Mass

June 1 & 2
ST. VINCENT'S CATHEDRAL
Bedford, Texas

Friday *Evensong and Benediction*

THE RT. REV. LINDSAY URWIN, *Preaching*

Saturday *Keynote Speaker:*

DR. PETER KREEFT on "The Tyranny of Relativism"

Jubilee Mass with the music of Mozart, Parry, and Vaughn Williams

Afternoon COLLOQUIUM

Panelists include THE RT. REV. KEITH ACKERMAN
THE REV. RICHARD CORNISH MARTIN
THE RT. REV. DONALD J. PARSONS

Registration \$50 *Details at* jubilee.fwepiscopal.org

Around the Diocese



Strengthening Centurion connections

Fr. Johnson Shannon, vicar of Our Lady, Laguna Park, and St. Mary's, Hillsboro, recently sent a disposable camera to his Centurion partner in the Diocese of Northern Malawi. A few weeks later Fr. Chilongozi (pictured above) of St. Jacob's, Usisya, returned the camera with a short list of the subjects he had photographed. One trip to Wal-Mart later, Fr. Shannon's flock was feasting its eyes on the smiling faces, stunning vistas, and daily pursuits of their Malawian brothers and sisters in Christ.

Silent retreat offered in September

A traditional silent retreat for women and men will be held over the weekend of Sept. 21 – 23 at Camp Crucis. The retreat will be led by Mother Miriam, the superior of the Eastern Province of



Mother Miriam

the Community of St. Mary, a religious order for women in the Episcopal Church.

Such a retreat can be an important part of moving ahead in one's life of spirituality and mission in the name of Jesus. By keeping silence, the participants will be freed from the distraction of conversation and enabled to focus more deeply on the themes of the meditations and worship.

Mother's meditations will draw on several of the mysteries of Christ's life and the psalms that traditionally have been seen as prophetic of these mysteries, weaving in the theme of our response through our baptismal vows.

ACCEPT THE BISHOP IKER GOLF CHALLENGE!

The 7th Annual Bishop Iker Challenge golf tournament, benefiting Camp Crucis, will be held Friday, June 1, and needs your participation.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

To provide 40 scholarships for those needing financial aid, enhancement to the swimming pool, and new activities at the camp.



HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

- Play a Round for the Kids: Adult golfers-\$100, Juniors-\$50
- Sponsor a Hole for as little as \$250
- Sponsor a Junior Golfer: Only \$50
- Sponsor a Child at Summer Camp: \$0 a Day, \$360 a Week
- Financial Donation: You may make a financial donation to help underwrite expenses incurred in hosting this major annual event benefiting our kids.

MAKE A POINT of being a part of this day of purpose, golf, and fellowship. Contact your Parish Coordinator for additional information and to sign up. Come join the fun!

Mark your calendars now for this opportunity. Reservation forms will be available very soon.

Pentecost Fund supports the Bishop's expenses

Offering envelopes will be available in churches on Sunday, May 27, the Day of Pentecost, for anyone wishing to contribute to the Fund for the Episcopate. This is an endowed fund established in the 1880s which forms the cornerstone of diocesan support and self-sufficiency. Interest from the fund is used each year for a portion of the expenses of the Bishop's office, helping to defray the amount needed in annual diocesan assessments from each congregation. Your gift becomes part of the corpus of the fund; it is never spent, but continues to generate interest to support Christ's Church in perpetuity. "Where the Bishop is," said St. Ignatius, "there is the Church."



Equipping the Saints

New Wineskins conference offers encouragement, challenges to the Church

During Easter week, over a dozen clergy and lay people from the diocese attended the triennial New Wineskins for Global Mission conference in North Carolina. The conference draws together Anglicans from North, Central, and South America, as well as Europe, Africa, and Asia, to encourage and equip individuals to fulfill Christ's Great Commission to "make disciples of all nations."

Those in attendance included clergy and lay people representing the congregations of Good Shepherd, Granbury; Our Lady of the Lake, Laguna Park; St. Mary's, Hillsboro; and St. Andrew's and All Saints', Fort Worth. Also representing the diocese were Canon Charles and Marilyn Hough and Lollie Twyman, the head of our World

Mission Committee. The team carried with it 1,000 copies of the new Prayers of the People and Litany for Mission, developed here in 2006 to celebrate our companion diocese relationships. The booklets were used in worship by the entire New Wineskins conference.

"New Wineskins," Lollie Twyman reports, "was a celebration of Anglicans from across the globe – people from at least 30 states in the U.S. and nine countries, with one focus: to join together in response to the Great Commission. It was an exhilarating opportunity to see the Church in the power of the Spirit. We had a time of joy, praise, empowerment, and learning – a foretaste of the time promised in Rev. 7:9."

The conference envisioned mission initiatives in urban settings, refugee camps, Muslim cultures, Africa, Asia, and even Western Europe. Participants enjoyed inspiring plenary sessions, corporate worship, and a choice of dozens of

workshops on topics from physical healing to political reconciliation, mission fund-raising to micro-enterprise, parish-level vision to church planting and leadership development.



New Wineskins participants

"I would say that this conference has set me on fire for mission," says Jason Bontke, the Director of Camp Crucis. "I was already mission-minded, but it has given me a new sense of urgency for the youth of the diocese. It was amazing to see what the Holy Spirit is doing on a global scale."

Fr. Chris Culpepper, of All Saints', Fort Worth, wants to issue a challenge to each individual Christian in the diocese, to recognize the global need for mission and ministry, to embrace the call of Scripture, and to seek new ways to respond.

"In response to my now third trip to New Wineskins (1996, 2004, 2007)," Fr. Culpepper writes, "I have been pondering the thought that the Diocese of Fort Worth has something to offer the world in the way of 'Evangelical Catholic' Christianity, and we need to get about the business of offering it on a much larger scale than we presently are."

"In the world today, over 1,700 people groups have no church to invite them to the Lord's table. Included in that number are 600 million Muslims and 400 million Chinese. As the Rt. Rev. Ben Kwashi, Bishop of Jos, Nigeria, said in his compelling plenary address, 'I know that I am going to die one day. That issue is settled. The question is, 'How will I live?'"

"Who will share the Good News," Fr. Culpepper asks, "that the Banquet is prepared for everyone?" Jesus calls us.

Save the dates:

**Regional Mission Conference
at the University of Dallas
Saturday, Oct. 27, 2007**

**New Wineskins
in Ridgcrest, NC
April 11-15, 2010**

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. Rev. 7:9

Names added to

THE BISHOP DAVIES BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

OCTOBER 8, 2005 THROUGH OCTOBER 14, 2006

ST. ALBAN'S, ARLINGTON

Frank Morris Matthews

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL, ARLINGTON

Joy Marie Gully

ST. ANDREW'S, BRECKENRIDGE

Floyd James Bullock

Alice Taylor Stoker

ST. JOHN'S, BROWNWOOD

Jean Lowe Hicks

CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES, FORT WORTH

The Rev. Walter Beste

Dick Johns

Evita Roessler

Bill V. Frey

Jo Ellen Haywood Smith

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S, FORT WORTH

Vera Ruth Lee

Hilda Clara "Terry" Davis

John Granville Woolley II

Jim Darby Kunke

Marylucile Rogers

Vanda Lee Guardalabene

Charles B. Fyock

Virginia Dickerson Hunicutt

John P. McCallister

Madeline M. Brown Woolley

Fara Ruth Dutton

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, WICHITA FALLS

Jack R. Eason

Paul Grady

FRIEND IN CHRIST

Leila Lewis

Editor's note: Any church or individual may have the name of a deceased loved one inscribed in *The Bishop Davies Book of Remembrance*. This leather-bound volume is maintained at the Diocesan Center for Ministry, and names are added either according to the congregation to which the individual belonged or in a special section for Christians from outside the diocese (whether they lived out of town or belonged to another denomination). Each congregation is represented by a hand-painted shield, and names are inscribed by a professional calligrapher. Preferably, names are added soon after death, but there is no time limit. For each name added, a contribution of at least \$15 is asked; the accumulated funds are used for the education of our seminarians. To have a name added to the *Book of Remembrance*, call the diocesan office at 817-244-2885. Additions are published annually in the *Forward*.

DIOCESAN CALENDAR - PENTECOST 2007

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

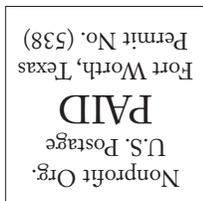
<i>January</i>	5/20	TRINITY, Fort Worth 6 p.m. Organ dedication and concert, <i>at St. Mark's, Arlington</i>
<i>February</i>	5/21	9:30 a.m. Commission on Ministry
<i>March</i>	5/27	<i>The Day of Pentecost</i>
<i>April</i>		ST. PETER-BY-THE-LAKE, Possum Kingdom
<i>May</i>	5/28	<i>Memorial Day holiday, Diocesan Center closed</i>
<i>June</i>	6/1	Seventh Annual Bishop Iker Challenge Golf Tournament, <i>at Squaw Valley in Glen Rose</i>
	6/1-2	Colloquium and Jubilee Mass, <i>at St. Vincent's, Bedford</i>
<i>July</i>	6/3	ST. LAURENCE, Grapevine (Bishop Iker) ST. ANNE'S, Fort Worth (Bishop Wantland)
<i>August</i>	6/10	ALL SAINTS', Weatherford
<i>September</i>	6/17	GOOD SHEPHERD, Granbury
<i>October</i>	6/18	9:30 a.m. Commission on Ministry 1:30 p.m. Standing Committee
<i>November</i>	6/20	10 a.m. Finance Committee
<i>December</i>	6/24 – 7/21	Bishop Iker's Vacation

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