



FORWARD *in* MISSION

A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth

Fall 2012

Equipping the Saints

Vocations conference may be first step to priesthood

by Fr. Alan Horton

On an early-August weekend, nine young men from around the diocese and as far away as Oklahoma and Mississippi gathered at Camp Crucis for a conference that should help them as they discern whether God is calling them to ministry in the priesthood.

The vocations conference, led by Frs. Tom Hightower, Andrew Petta, Mark Polley, and Alan Horton, began on Friday evening with introductions and icebreakers and ended with Sunday morning Mass.

The clergy staff was joined by several speakers, each with special insight on some aspect of discernment. The weekend was full of important conversations as well as time for the participants to worship, pray, and reflect about God's call on their lives.

Fr. Hightower, head of the diocesan Commission

on Ministry (CoM), opened the conference with a talk on the different ways we can serve God: as we are, serving as lay leaders and ministers; feeding the poor and caring for the world as deacons; or serving at the altar in a sacramental role as priests. He then covered some of the specifics on the process of becoming an aspirant to the priesthood.

Saturday's Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Iker, who stayed to have lunch with the group.

JoAnn Patton, a lay member of the CoM, discussed the expectations of the average parishioner looking for a priest and various ways of listening to God's call. Frs. Petta, Polley, and Horton recounted their personal stories of discernment leading to ordained ministry.

Deacons and lay ministry leaders joined the conference Saturday afternoon to discuss their own callings to ministry and ways they are living out those calls, illustrating the variety of service opportunities outlined earlier by Fr. Hightower. Dr. Glen and Mrs. Debbie Petta spoke about God's timing and cooperating with His plans.

The conference concluded with Sunday worship and a short talk about practical steps to continue in the discernment process.

It was very energizing and inspiring to see so many young men dedicated to serving God in His Church. Though none of them is ready to begin seminary right away, the enthusiasm of the participants and the faithful guidance of the leaders bore witness to the promise of a bright future for the Diocese of Fort Worth.



Nine young men took a summer weekend to consider God's calling on their lives.

“Love one another with brotherly affection”

Senior Ministry enriches lives of older church members

While visiting a Houston parish in 2005, Rita Palm noticed that it sponsored a thriving ministry to its senior members. Rita and her husband, Ed, have been meeting the needs of seniors most of their adult lives. Ed develops retirement living facilities, while Rita holds a masters degree in guidance and counseling, working in advocacy and social service roles.

Back home in Fort Worth, Rita discussed the possibility of a Senior Ministry with her rector, who gave her a small office, a page in the parish’s weekly newsletter, and enthusiastic support.

It was soon clear that the ministry was “not about meeting financial need” or running a senior center with “bingo and crafts,” Rita says. Among the early successes were computer classes and a stroke screening – held at church rather than a clinic – that saved at least one life. Things were clicking; ideas sparked. The parish’s Memorial Fund, once fallow, is now administered by senior members.

Everyone stays informed through the newsletter page, which is full of variety – from event announcements to spiritual encouragement, health notes (exercise, exercise, exercise!), and other information of particular interest to seniors, such as downsizing or medical directives. Birthday cards, always appreciated, provide “a means of connecting” with those who are rarely seen at church. For those who do stop by, the little office is cozy and chic, a spot to leave a note or borrow a puzzle or large-print book.

A good listener, Rita sometimes has long phone conversations with elderly members coping with crises. She has special concern for shut-in members and has explored a number of transportation solutions to get them to church on Sunday.

The “senior” category spans ages from the 60s through the 90s, so needs and interests vary.

“Those over 75 are less interested in trips,” Rita notes.

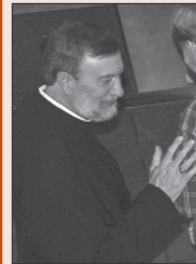
Ah, the trips! There are frequent day trips to points of interest such as museums or the National Archives. The first overnight trip, a tour of Texas’ famed Painted Churches, was a way to spend extra time with a group. Since that time, about 80 individuals have participated in at least one excursion by bus or boat. Destinations have included coastal Mexico, Charleston/Savannah, Alaska, and most recently the Crystal Bridges museum in Arkansas.

One group of travelers has dubbed itself the “Go-Gos.” The name, says member Gay Williams, “means you better ‘go’ while you can, because someday you may not be physically able.” She describes the trips as “well-planned and fun. ... You make new friends, renew former friendships, and have a wonderful time seeing new sights.”

To anyone planning such an adventure, Rita advises taking a co-leader, since emergencies can come up, requiring immediate attention. Two leaders can split up for a few hours, if necessary, so that the group as a whole can carry on.

Clergy News

Fr. Christopher Cantrell was installed as Rector of St. Matthias, Dallas, in August. **Fr. Joel Hampton**



Fr. Cantrell

will be installed as Rector of Church of the Holy Apostles, Fort Worth, during the Sunday service on Nov. 4.



Fr. Hampton

Save the dates!

Youth Rally

Youth Rally is for all those in grades 6 – 12. Come out to Camp Crucis and experience Christ and Christ-centered fellowship in a fun and relaxing setting. This year's Rally takes place Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 8 & 9. Fr. Andrew Petta and Fr. Mark Polley will be our leaders for spiritual discussions and activities inspired by our theme, "Here I am, Lord." Register through Dec. 1 at a rate of \$45 per person. The "walk-on" rate is \$60.

Diocesan Altar Guild

The 2013 meeting of the Diocesan Altar Guild for will be held Saturday, Feb. 23, at the Church of the Holy Apostles in Fort Worth. The Rt. Rev. Keith Ackerman will be the keynote speaker. More information will go out to parish Altar Guild directresses later in the year.

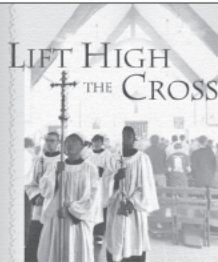
Daughters of the King dates for 2013

The annual diocesan DOK Lenten retreat is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, March 2 & 3, at Camp Crucis. The Daughters will hold their Spring Assembly on Saturday, April 13, at St. Peter & St. Paul, Arlington.

For more, contact Darlene Pruitt at metro 214-725-0061 or Dorothy Gregory at 817-675-0812.

Anglicans for Life adult curriculum

Anyone interested in Project Life, the pro-life instruction series offered by Anglicans for Life, is invited to attend a meeting of pro-life parish coordinators at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 12, at the Diocesan Center. More information is at anglicansforlife.org, or contact Deacon Gail Kleinschmidt at gck46@att.net.



THE 30TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Friday and Saturday, Nov. 9 & 10, 2012

St. Vincent's Cathedral Church and School, Bedford

Our 30th Annual Diocesan Convention takes place Friday and Saturday, Nov. 9 & 10, at St. Vincent's Cathedral Church and School in Bedford. This year's theme is "Lift High the Cross." Each parish and mission will be represented by its clergy and the lay delegates elected during January's annual meetings.



Fr. Maneikis

The Rev. V. Stanley Maneikis, senior priest in the diocese, will preach at the Convention Eucharist, which begins at 5 p.m. Friday in the Cathedral. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Plenary Business Session takes place Saturday. For those who wish to attend, visitor seating will be provided. Also, the meeting will be streamed live over the Internet. Go to the diocesan home page (www.fwepiscopal.org) to link to the stream.

The meeting will be gavelled to order at 9 a.m.; Bishop Iker is expected to give his annual address at about 9:30. Other Convention business includes passage of the 2013 budget, reports from diocesan committees and ministries, and election of members to the Standing Committee and Ecclesiastical Court.

See more at <http://www.fwepiscopal.org/diocesanconvention/12convention/main12.htm>

The Christian life

One right reason to consider Vestry service

by the Rev. Canon Dwight D. Duncan

In the near future, we will be casting ballots which will have a decisive impact, for better or for worse, on our future ... and I am not referring to that quadrennial circus known as our presidential election. I am referring to our election of Vestry members in our parishes.

Given the nature and purpose of the Vestry it cannot but be the case that its make-up will decisively impact a parish's welfare. The Vestry is not an honorific with no responsibility. No, the Vestry is a body of laity which holds authority over the

"I believe there is only one right reason for allowing oneself to be considered for vestry, and that is this: You love God, His Church, and your parish so much that you are willing to bleed for them all."

temporality of the parish (the parish property and assets) and which serves not only as a council of advice to the rector but forms with him a team whose purpose is to discern through prayer and dialogue God's will for the parish and to lead it there. The importance of such a body therefore requires of those who are approached for nomination as well as of the electors a knowledge of what we might call the "right reason(s)" for standing for election and of the qualities of a candidate which

should be "in place."

I believe there is only one right reason for allowing oneself to be considered for vestry, and that is this: You love God, His Church, and your parish so much that you are willing to bleed for them all. After all, we worship and serve a Lord whose leadership required, quite literally, his bleeding for us. And he has said it: "... whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matt. 20.27 If you are not willing to bleed for the glory of God and the well-being of His Church and your parish, then you do NOT belong on the Vestry, and no one should consider nominating you for it.

What does a willingness to bleed for your parish look like in action? Simple: It looks like someone living the Christian life in the way required of every Christian, but which too many excuse themselves from doing. In point of fact, what should be required of Vestry members and by Vestry members of themselves is nothing more than that which should be characteristic of every parishioner. Which is what? Well, to note but a few:

One's lifestyle and morals should conform to those expected of a disciple of Christ. If that doesn't require bleeding, I don't know what does, given the fact that we are all still "saints in process" and so have within us a lot of disorder, screwiness and sin yet to be eradicated.

One's ways of dealing with and relating to others must be positive and constructive. Negativity, gossip, uncharitableness towards others in word or deed, unwillingness or inability to keep confidentiality, holding to one's own opinion as if it were "Custer's Last Stand", unwillingness to listen to and seriously/prayerfully consider the insights of others, having an agenda and maneuvering behind the scenes to secure it... these and other vices must be repudiated not just in principle but in fact.

One's involvement in the parochial life of worship, education, fellowship and service must be full and faithful. That means much more than "regular". It means worship every

Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation ... it means participating in opportunities to grow in one's knowledge and practice of Christianity, since none of us are yet finished products who know everything there is to know about being a Christian and living like one ... it means gathering with one's fellows in fellowship and serving with them the parish's needs and its service in the world. It means being someone who is

doing this regardless of what anybody else is or is not, and being among the first to do it.

One should be a tither, putting at the least 10% of one's real income to the service of God and His Church. If you have a problem with that, take it up with God. He's the One who has commanded this of us and it is going to be one of the things for

which you are going to have to answer to Him on the Day of Judgment.

A willingness to bleed for God, His Church, and one's parish: That is the right reason for being willing to serve on the Vestry. And it is the right reason for nominating and voting for some fellow-parishioners for this office and not for others. It has always been blood which has been required for the on-goingness and the vitality of the Church. It started with Jesus and it will end with Him ... and on the way to The End, it is what the Church needs from those who would lead her.

Canon Duncan retired in 2011 after 34 years as rector of St. Matthias Anglican Church in Dallas.



“Defend us in the day of battle”

Saint Michael’s Conference forms Anglican youth

by Joseph Francis

The Saint Michael’s Conference is a seven-day program bringing youth aged 12 to 19 together in a community of prayer, worship, support, and education.

When my parents dropped me off at Camp Crucis for my first St. Michael’s Conference, I was greeted by



a group of 10 or so priests in cassocks and birettas. I had been to summer camp before, but it was immediately evident that St. Mike’s wasn’t your typical church camp. We were awakened the next morning to pray as the sun rose, then dress in a shirt and tie for Mass. It was apparent that this week

was going to be like none other.

After all, where in the world do you see teenagers passionately chanting and singing hymns at Mass, or devoutly kneeling at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and lining up one-by-one for the Sacrament of Confession? Where do you see them eager to hear a lecture on Church history or the biblical origins of the Sacrifice of the Mass, excitedly discussing the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception or the works of G.K. Chesterton? St. Mike’s is truly unique in that it speaks to the youth of today who are desperately searching for the truth of the Gospel and the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

A typical day at the conference is marked by Morning Prayer, Solemn High Mass, three hours of religious classes, free time for recreational activities, Choral Evensong and a faculty talk, discussion groups, an evening activity, and Compline. The intention of the conference is not to do something “new,” but to faithfully hand on that which has been given to the Church- the catholic faith. Our worship and practice are therefore unapologetically Anglo-Catholic, and our teaching orthodox. St. Michael is a good choice

for patron, as he symbolizes a strong religion, where true joy is to be found.

Many would say St. Mike’s is too “old school” for teenagers – that they would rather be given a simplified Christian message and contemporary music. Yet attendance grows every year, raising up more and more strong Anglican youth that go back to their parishes energized about the catholic faith. The Conference exemplifies what it means to truly be a Church camp. We spend a lot of time having fun and fellowship, but we also spend many hours seriously talking about God and worshipping Him devoutly.

This past summer I attended my fourth and final year as a conferee, or “Michaelite”, at the age of 19. St. Mike’s has truly been the single most influential experience in my life as a Christian, and it is largely due to my formation there that I have been discerning a call to the priesthood. I honestly believe that the conference is desperately needed by our church in order to raise up the next generation of Anglicans, and I highly encourage all youth to attend.

For more information, visit www.stmichaelsw.org.

Joseph Francis is a member of St. Peter & St. Paul, Arlington, and a sophomore at Texas A&M.



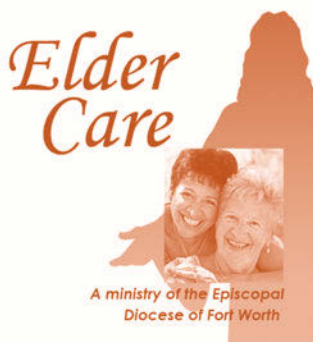
Clergy relish their role as instructors at the Saint Michael’s Conference each summer.

Equipping the Saints

Guidance offered for needs of the aging

by the Rev. Zeke Rogers

The Elder Care Committee was formed to be a resource for our priests and parishioners who are dealing with difficult and emotion-filled decisions associated with the aging process.



Our committee will act as a resource to connect families who are struggling with the difficult choices of elder care with the people who can help them. Our goal is to provide the people of this

diocese with the resources to meet the needs of each unique situation associated with aging.

We are looking to partner with you in two ways that will benefit the whole diocese.

First, we hope you will to identify resource people within your church. We are asking for your help in identifying those in your church who are advocates for the elderly, as well as those already assisting them. These might be attorneys who can help execute a power-of-attorney document or medical

directive; a professional who can navigate through Medicare coverage options; or a hospice caregiver – to give just three examples. We want to develop a broad and deep network of resource people, so that no one will be overburdened and each part of the diocese will be locally served. If you have members to recommend, please ask them to contact Fr. Zeke Rogers or one of the other committee members listed on their web page (see below)

Secondly, our committee members are available to consult with you or with a church member, or to visit your church and speak on various topics of interest such as

- legal,
- housing,
- health,
- pastoral care, and
- financial resources.

Please keep the Elder Care committee in mind when you are planning your fall or Lenten programs. For more information, visit our web page <http://eldercare.fwepiscopal.org/ecaremain.html> or contact me (Fr. Rogers) at 817-473-6205.

9/11 tribute

This year on Sept. 11, St. Vincent's Cathedral in Bedford tolled its tower bell once for each of the 2,996 people who died in the terrorist attacks on that day in 2001. The bell rang once every 10 seconds for eight hours and 32 minutes.

Administrators' Workshop

All clergy, parish treasurers, and finance officers are encouraged to attend the annual Adminis-

Around the Diocese

trators' Workshop presented by the diocese. Topics include insurance and human resources updates and IRS requirements. This informative workshop is set for Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013.

Anglican Aggies

Students and other Anglicans in College Station, Texas, are invited to attend Sunday afternoon Eucharist twice a month with the Anglican Aggies. See anglicanaggies.weebly.com.

DIOCESAN CALENDAR - FALL 2012

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

<i>January</i>	11/1-4 Cursillo, <i>Camp Crucis</i>
<i>February</i>	11/4 CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES, Fort Worth
	11/9-10 30th Annual Diocesan Convention, St. Vincent's Cathedral, Bedford
<i>March</i>	11/11 ST. ANNE'S, Fort Worth (Bishop Iker); CHRIST THE KING, Fort Worth (Bishop Wantland)
<i>April</i>	11/15 1:30 p.m. Executive Council
<i>May</i>	11/17 10:30 a.m. Ordination of Gloria Whitson to the permanent diaconate, <i>St. Francis, Willow Park</i>
	11/18 ST. MARK'S, Arlington
<i>June</i>	11/19 9:30 a.m. Commission on Ministry
<i>July</i>	1:30 p.m. Standing Committee
<i>August</i>	11/22-23 Thanksgiving Holiday, <i>Diocesan Center closed</i>
	11/25 ST. MICHAEL'S, Richland Hills
<i>September</i>	12/2 ST. THOMAS, Jacksboro, and ASCENSION/ST. MARK, Wise County
<i>October</i>	12/9 ST. PHILIP'S, Arlington
<i>November</i>	12/16 ST. PAUL'S, Gainesville
	12/23 ST. GREGORY THE GREAT, Mansfield
<i>December</i>	12/24 Diocesan Center closed for Christmas; <i>offices reopen on Jan. 2</i>

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