



The Shepherd's Staff

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

October 2021

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The Diocese of the Atlantic States Meets and Elects a New Bishop

The Diocese of the Atlantic States Anglican Province of Christ the King held its tenth annual Synod at All Saints' Anglican Church in Bolingbrook Illinois from Tuesday September 15th to Friday September 17th, 2021. The Synod included the usual meetings (Standing Committee, Board of Directors, Anglican Church Women and Clericus) with three creative workshops. The first was a roundtable discussion around the topic of *How did your parish handle the Pandemic*. The second was a workshop focusing on ideas on how to start a parish and the third explored the virtue of humility and the Gospels of Trinitytide which produced ten recommendations which will be *The Last Word* for this issue. The Synod Banquet was held at the hotel but the all clergy-delegate dinner the evening before was held at White Fence Farm – for So Cal readers, a midwestern Knott's Berry Farm. Nevertheless, the highlight of the Synod was the election of the Right Reverend Blair W. Schultz as Bishop Coadjutor of the Atlantic States and the election and consecration of the Reverend Canon Benton Elwood Jones as Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of the Atlantic States at the Solemn Pontifical Mass on Friday which was followed by a buffet luncheon hosted by the parishioners of All Saints' Parish.



The Synod Business Meeting



The Consecration of Bishop Benton Elwood Jones



Participating Clergy

(Standing, left to right): Bishop Donald M. Ashman (DWS, Deacon), Father Carlton Clarke (DAS), Archdeacon David Sweeny (DAS, Preacher), Father Matthew Weber (DWS, Litanist), Bishop Scott D. Mitchell (DWS), Bishop Peter F. Hanson (DWS, Sub Deacon), Bishop Benton E. Jones (DAS), Archbishop John E. Upham (DAS), Bishop Blair W. Schultz (DAS), Canon Michael Church (DAS), Father Shannon Clark (DAS, Crucifer)

(Kneeling, left to right): Deacon Samuel Talabi (DAS), Father Greg Koon (DAS), Deacon Stephen Holly (DAS).

In addition, Archbishop Emeritus Frederick Morrison and Bishop William Wiygul sent letters of consent.

Archdeacons Sweeny's Sermon

Given at the Consecration of Bishop Benton E. Jones

What an important and exciting day this is! All of us here are participating in a service the seed of which was planted over two millennia ago by Jesus Christ Himself when He commissioned His disciples to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” [St. Matthew xxviii. 18ff] Jesus was certainly with the disciples in spirit when shortly after the Resurrection they prayed fervently to the Lord to guide them in choosing a worthy successor to Judas Iscariot. In Acts of the Apostles we hear: “And the lot fell upon Matthias.”

As the Church subsequently grew, these original Apostles ensured appropriate oversight and continuity of the Gospel by selecting and ordaining godly men as elders and overseers for local congregations. These roles soon evolved into the functional equivalent of what we understand the office of bishop to be. By the mid-second century, the three ministerial orders of deacon, priest, and bishop were firmly established upon this apostolic foundation. Through Apostolic succession of bishops, who are defenders of the Faith, our branch of the Church Militant is inextricably linked to the “faith once delivered to the saints.”

And today, God willing, we will forge one more link in that unbroken lineage of faith through the consecration of Canon Ben E. Jones, Jr. as Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of the Atlantic States, Anglican Province of Christ the King. All of what we experience this morning is evidence of the Holy Ghost working in our Province to ensure that Jesus' command to St. Peter to “feed my sheep” is carried out by a person duly called to walk as an humble Shepherd of the flock after the example of our Lord. We must remember that the “call” for a bishop emerges first through the action of the Holy Ghost within the Council of Bishops of the Province and the Standing Committees of our Dioceses to identify and ratify through our canonical processes an appropriate candidate for the episcopacy. Only then does the Holy Ghost work within that person to accept that call, no doubt with fear and trembling.

And with the election at our Synod yesterday, the lot has fallen upon Canon Ben Jones—now our Bishop-elect. Recently, someone new to our Anglo-Catholic traditions said to me: “Father Dave, do you want to make bishop some day?” When I finally stopped laughing, all I could think of to respond was “Nobody in their right mind wants to be bishop.” But here you are, my Brother. Of course, my reply was somewhat facetious, only because I know from observation and report how challenging the office of bishop can be. However, in another sense, my statement is true in that someone who wants to “make bishop” as if they were climbing the corporate ladder to CEO, or seeking the additional medals and perks that come with military promotion to the rank of Lieutenant General, is not in the right frame of mind to be a humble servant of God. The mind of Christ is necessary for the proper feeding of sheep as a bishop. And what is the mind of Christ but that of humble service to others in a hierarchy of obedience – all for the greater glory of God and His kingdom. Remember what our Lord did at the Last Supper? He took a towel and basin of water and washed the feet of 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. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.” [St. John 13: 14-17]

Of course, you remember also that St. Peter didn't want Jesus to wash his feet. He was embarrassed that his Master would do something so lowly, something only a slave should be doing. This worldly frame of mind of St. Peter had to be totally transformed by the Holy Ghost in order for him to become an effective leader and Apostle following the Resurrection and Ascension of our Lord. It also took a direct interaction with the risen Christ for Peter to be re-grafted to the mind of Christ following Peter's denial of Jesus three times. The last chapter of St. John's Gospel records Jesus appearing to the disciples a third time following His resurrection.

Peter and six other disciples have gone fishing one night but don't catch anything until Jesus appears on the shore in the morning and tells them to cast the net on the right side of the boat. The result is a huge catch of fish. This prompts the disciple whom Jesus loved to say to Peter, "It is the Lord." Peter immediately splashes to shore while the other disciples land the boat, dragging the net of fish. Jesus invites them all to have breakfast on the shore. No one had to say anything for they all knew in their hearts it was the Lord. Following breakfast, Jesus puts the question to Peter: "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these." In other words, to whom do you give your ultimate loyalty, love, and obedience? Is it to the sinless Man and divine Son of God standing before you, or is it to good but fallible men? The same basic question is put to Peter two other times, and three times Peter answers in the affirmative, seemingly frustrated by the repetition of the question. And in response, what does Jesus tell Peter to do? "Feed my lambs," "Feed my sheep," "Feed my sheep." Peter is now, in effect, forgiven his denial of Jesus and consecrated anew to lead the band of disciples with the mind of Christ. He is to love Jesus by loving the people of God and by feeding them with the holy Word of God's kingdom revealed through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Ghost. "Feed my sheep."

Such is the charge to all clergy, but especially bishops. Bishop-elect Ben Jones is here before us today to be consecrated Bishop Suffragan because he has met all canonical requirements, and has an exemplary track record of good work for our Diocese and the Province. He has worked tirelessly to study the Word of God and preach it and teach it to others. He has worked with great dedication as Vice Provost of the Seminary, and behind the scenes, as mentor to candidates for Holy Orders. As administrative assistant to the Archbishop, he has been tremendously helpful. He is always happy to fill in for other priests when circumstances, like vacations or illness, take those priests out of their parishes for a time. Of course, works 5 alone aren't the whole story. Faith and character are of vital importance. Recall the criteria for bishop we heard enumerated in St. Paul's First Epistle to Timothy. Our Bishop-elect is too humble to acknowledge the ways in which he fits those criteria. There's another qualification that he meets that isn't in our canons—he has taken coursework in agriculture in the past at NC State University and knows something about feeding real sheep. So it isn't much of a stretch to say he can identify with the figurative aspects of tending the sheep of God's pasture.

He knows that godly "sheep" are eager to be fed with the eternal Word of God uncontaminated with foreign substances like the latest social science theories or political ideologies of the moment. Sadly, not everything is bucolic bliss all the time in God's flock. When the rams start butting heads over who is the greatest, our Bishop-elect knows how to use the timeout pens effectively. He also knows that even godly sheep can get complacent and lie around chewing their cud until a "good shepherd" rouses them and leads them to greener pastures. He knows that some sheep act more like goats and try to escape the sheepfold, getting their heads stuck in fences trying to get to where they don't belong. He knows the discipline of fences are necessary and must be maintained with sturdy fence posts of right doctrine, but he also knows when godly counsel and the Sacrament of Penance are the right medicine for the soul. And when sheep get sick, as they always seem to do, he knows the power of prayer, holy oil, and the Eucharist.

St. Peter had something important to say about shepherding and feeding the flock of God. In chapter five of the First Epistle General of St. Peter, we read: "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." [5:1-4] It is indeed a "good work" that you are about to enter into, Brother Ben. Embrace it "willingly" with all your heart, soul, strength, and "a ready mind." In doing so you embrace Jesus Christ, who is always by your side in the feeding of the sheep. AMEN. And now unto God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, be ascribed all might, majesty, honor, and dominion, as is most justly due this day, both now and forever, Amen.

Saint Joseph of Arimathea Chapel

Saint Joseph of Arimathea Chapel is vibrant and alive. In addition to their fine music, we are happy that the Crew Team is back and serving Dean Napier at Sunday Mass. Bishop Morse would have been so pleased.



Saint John the Baptist, Omaha, Nebraska

Saint John the Baptist Anglican Church in Omaha is also alive and well and welcomes all visitors and travelers. Here is a picture of Deacon Reno presenting a Lay Reader's License to Mr. Kevin Powell.



Did I Hear an Echo?

We are the Church of Jesus Christ; the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church! The force of love, mercy, and grace is given to us by our Savior. A force to change the world, not conform to it. We have received the great commission from our Lord and Savior to go into all the world making disciples of all persons, teaching about the Kingdom of God, and baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are to live the example of Christ in a lost and dying world, being in it but not being conformed to it.

I appreciate many are living in anxiety, fear, uncertainty, and in some cases, hopelessness as they observe what is occurring in the world around them. It has never really been any different. Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world, you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." [Jn. 16:33]

The one true Catholic Church stands as the bastion of hope in the face of all these concerns and fears. Her teachings all point to the only way to the Kingdom of God through Christ Her Lord. We are to bear with one-another in charity, that includes issues where we may disagree. In issues of true doctrine according to our church as established through the ages and handed down to us from the councils and church fathers beginning with Christ himself; I will not compromise. The teachings of St. Paul in the Epistles gives more than adequate instruction on how we are to live together as God's people.

It is the work of Satan and his henchmen to divide and create discord, especially within the church, if possible. We are to be on guard against this through prayer and discernment and then stand against him in the power of the Holy Spirit with the weapons given to us as described by St. Paul in *Ephesians* 6:10-18. Pray. Avail yourself of the Holy Sacraments. Study and meditate on the Word of God. Seek Him while He may be found. Grow in faith, virtue, especially charity, patience, and love for one-another. That is the path of peace, hope and blessing and is pleasing to God. +SDM

The Archangels

On September twenty-ninth we celebrated the ***Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels***. In our tradition the three most important archangels are Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.

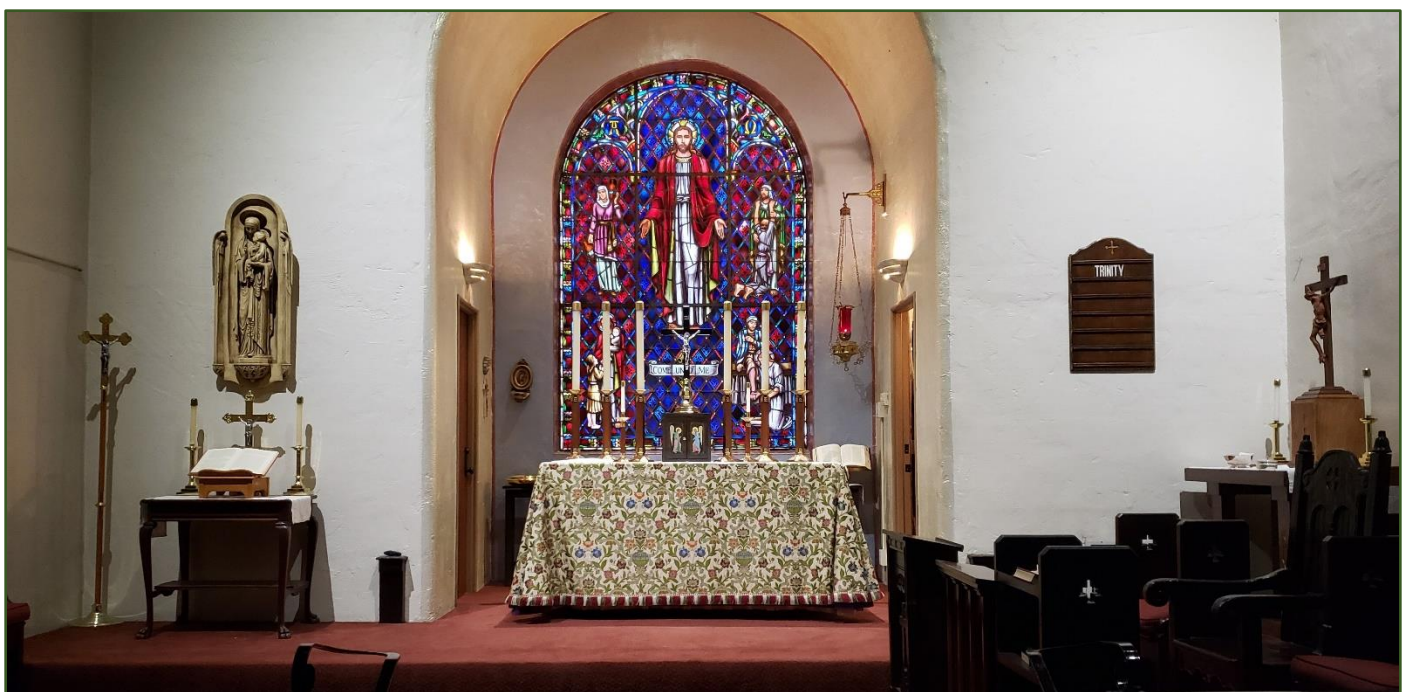
Michael means *who is like unto God* or *who is equal to God*? Archangel Michael is given the title Archistrategos or supreme commander and is usually shown holding a spear in his right hand and a green palm branch in his left. At the top of the spear there is a linen ribbon with a red cross. In art, he is often shown slaying Satan. The Orthodox faithful consider Michael the Guardian of their faith and a warrior against heresy. In the Book of Daniel he is referred to as one of the chief princes. The word prince here is the ancient Hebrew word *sar*, which means: a head person (of any rank or class), a chief or general.

Gabriel means *Man of God* or *Might of God*. Archangel Gabriel is the messenger of God, especially of the Incarnation. (Luke 1. 30-33: *And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*) Archangel Gabriel also appears to Zacharias and foretells the birth of John the Baptist. In art, Gabriel is shown holding a lantern in his right hand and in his left hand, a mirror of green jasper, which signifies the mystery of the wisdom of God.

Raphael means *God has healed* or *God is the Healer*. The Archangel Raphael appears in the apocryphal *Book of Tobit* and is associated with healing and sometimes equated with the angel mentioned in the Gospel of John as stirring the water at the healing Pool of Bethesda. Raphael is said to guard pilgrims on their journeys and in art is often depicted leading Tobit (whose blindness he cured – *Tobit* 3. 17) with his right hand and holding a physician's alabaster jar in his left.

The Church of Our Saviour, Los Angeles

Thirteen years ago in 2008, a drug searching vandal broke into Church of Our Saviour smashing one of the twin stained glass windows (right) in the Narthex Doors in search of (according to LAPD officers) money or valuables to pawn for drugs. The vandal cut his wrist and bled down the nave all the way to the altar where he ruined the fair linen and smashed (desecrated) our old tabernacle dating to the 1960s. The doors of the tabernacle had just been painted with angels by Nancy Hudson who painted our Stations of the Cross. This most unusual and changeling repair job took thirteen years to complete but finally, thanks to the services of John Jacobson of our sister Church of Our Saviour in Santa Barbara, the Tabernacle has been beautifully restored and was re-consecrated on September 26th (Trinity XVII) before Mass by the Bishop.



2022 Ordo Kalendars

The 2022 Ordo Kalendars are prepared and are available for ordering. The Ordo Kalendar conforms to the 1928 Prayer Book and the American and Anglican Missals and is in full color and edited for Church use by Father Matthew Weber of Saint Ann's Chapel in Palo Alto. There is space on the front of the Kalendar where a parish may, if desired, insert a picture, its name and other information after receiving the Kalendars. Nona has mailed out order forms but if lost or you didn't get an order form, you may direct inquiries to Mrs. Nona Gourley (209) 862-2582 or email our Ordo Kalendar website: order1928bcpcalendar@gmail.com.

ACW Notes, October 2021

Fall is almost here, and the days are getting shorter and the nights cooler. Here in Southern Oregon, we have been blessed with a hot summer, but no major fires. We had a stormy day a couple of weeks ago, which brought much needed rain, and we have since had a day of light rain, which has lowered the fire danger to moderate. We are truly blessed, as I know our friends in California and other Western states have not been so fortunate. At present, we are having clear, sunny days and cool nights, and it is hard to believe that anyone can think there is no God. Walking outside in the woods, it clearly seems that "God's in his heaven, all's right with the world!" Unfortunately, turning on the news changes that idea, but enforces in us the importance of prayer in our lives. Pray for our church and clergy, pray for our country and pray for one another. We know that prayer works!

Don't forget to send pictures of your ACW or church events to Bishop Ashman for Shepherd's Staff. We are all interested in what is happening in other parishes. If you haven't ordered your Ordo Kalendars for 2022, now is the time! Ordo Kalendars are an important fundraiser for Provincial ACW, as well as a necessity for keeping up with the church calendar. Contact Nona Gourley at lovemyminnie2@gmail.com if you don't have an order form.

- Gillian Golden, ACW President

The Last Word

At one of the workshops at the Diocese of the Atlantic States Synod the editor had the privilege of attending a workshop on the topic of humility. We talked about those special people who taught us humility in our lives and about Jesus' examples of humility and compassion in the Trinitytide Gospels. So here are the ten recommendations we came up with.

1. Always make time for others, friend and foe.
2. Always show respect for friend and foe alike.
3. Always be kind and compassionate.
4. Always put others before ourselves.
5. Lead by example – **BE** the example.
6. Don't think that we are better than others.
7. Don't boast about our talents and achievements.
8. Acknowledge that we are fallen sinners redeemed by our Blessed Saviour.
9. Always be conscious of God's loving kindness and everlasting mercy.
10. Finally, Let us never play God and leave the judging to **HIM**.

