

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Concelebration in the Episcopal Church

Illuminations

ILLUMINATION for the Gospel Lesson The Third Sunday in Lent, Year A, March 7, 1999 John 4:5-26 (27-38 optional), 39-42

Breaking with cultural tradition, Jesus speaks with and teaches a foreign woman. He offers her the living waters of baptism, which bring the promise of life in its fullness.

A reading from the Gospel according to John:

(Lead in with) RSV and NRSV: Jesus came to a city in Samaria...; Jerusalem: On his way, Jesus came to ...; NEB: Jesus had to pass through Samaria...

Conclude with The word of the Lord or Here endeth, etc. If read by an ordained person as the eucharistic gospel, conclude with The gospel of the Lord.

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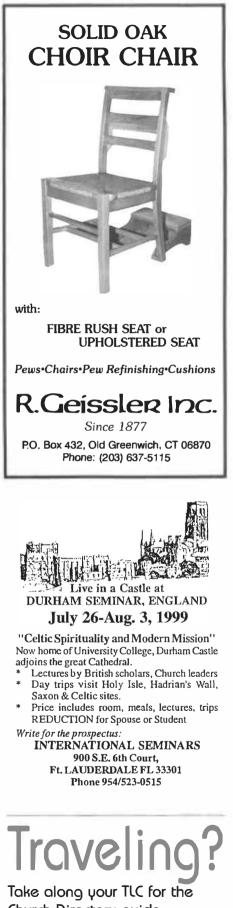
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SUNDAY'S READINGS

Spiritual Rebirth

"...how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things" John 3:12

Lent 2

Gen. 12:1-8; Ps. 33:12-22; Rom. 4:1-5(6-12) 13-17; John 3:1-17

The texts of holy scripture for this day present us with numerous rich themes for reflection or preaching. The call of Abram to go forth from his country and kindred and God's promises of blessing and inheritance are presented in the reading from Genesis. In the passage from his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul uses the example of the same great patriarch to speak of "the righteousness of faith" over against the notion of being "justified by works." Then, the gospel presents the encounter of Nicodemus with Jesus and their rich dialogue concerning spiritual rebirth, being "born of water and the Spirit" as is necessary to "enter the kingdom of God." Each of these ideas is worthy of deep consideration.

Yet, taken as a whole, it seems that the crucial common theme from scripture for this Sunday is that of faith itself. That which motivated Abraham to go forth, what enabled him to hear and receive the promises of the Lord, was his faith. It was, as the apostle demonstrates, this faith that was "reckoned to him as righteousness."

Faith is also a central issue in the gospel reading. This is demonstrated when Jesus questions Nicodemus concerning his ability to believe, to have faith. "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?" Faith is the essential response which the gospel evokes, "that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

The season of Lent reminds us all of our need to repent of sin and turn to the Lord, and we would do well to realize that this turning to him is a matter of faith. This faith is as the very core of our seasonal observance. The bidding of Ash Wednesday makes this particularly clear when it speaks of "the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith" (BCP 265).

Look It Up

In the Romans passage, St. Paul quotes Genesis 15:6 to speak of the example of Abraham's faithfulness. Read the 15th chapter of Genesis. How does the hope of "reward" relate to the notion of faith?

Think About It

In what way are you using your observance of Lent to renew your faith?

Next Sunday

Lent 3 Exod. 17:1-7; Ps. 95 or 95:6-11; Rom. 5:1-11; John 4:5-26 (27-38) 39-42

BOOKS

CIVILITY

Manners, Morals, and the Etiquette of Democracy By Stephen L. Carter Basic. Pp. 338. \$25

Many deputies and visitors to the 72nd General Convention commented on the "civility" with which business was conducted. Indeed I was one of those making such comments. In his most recent book, Stephen L. Carter, an Episcopalian and William Nelson Cromwell professor of law at Yale, provides us with an extremely stimulating and helpful examination of civility that might well serve to shape the future dialogue on the difficult course that lies before the Episcopal Church. The second in a series of books on character that began with Integrity. *Civility* explores the tools we need for interacting with others, for living together in community.

Prof. Carter writes with passion and deep conviction on the need to return to a more civil way of dealing with one another. He is a committed Christian, a moralist, an intellectual, a historian, and a gifted storyteller who is not afraid to tell his own story to illustrate his argument. In our "secular" culture, this combination of qualities seems unusual and makes this book and its author even more worth celebrating.

Prof. Carter argues that religious values centered in self-discipline and self-sacrifice have been supplanted by the self-centered values of politics and the marketplace. The values of the community have been displaced by valuing only the individual person.

We have turned "every dispute into a battle of rights which is powerfully antithetical to civility" (p. 81). In that shift we have lost the ability to partic-



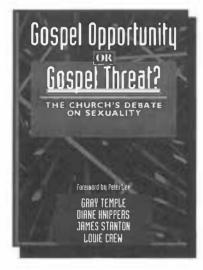
ipate in true dialogue. We have become unwilling to sacrifice our own points of view in order to listen and weigh "the other's."

This is a superb and important book. I would hope that Prof. Carter's 15 "rules" of civility, so carefully developed and explicated, will provide significant insight into how we may deal with each other.

Prof. Carter presents his book as "a kind of prayer." He concludes with an "Amen." I will say amen to the example and model he holds up for us and strongly recommend his work to our bishops, deputies, and all others committed to living a life of Christian charity and integrity.

(The Rev.) Kenneth J.G. Semon Vail, Colo.

Gospel Opportunity or Gospel Threat?



Gospel Opportunity or Gospel Threat?

The Church's Debate on Sexuality Gray Temple, Diane Knippers, James Stanton, Louie Crew

Foreword by Peter Lee

The authors were the speakers at the third Burning Issues Conference, held in 1997. This Conference was established as a memorial to Robert Gibson, Bishop of Virginia 1960-1974, who was an advocate and witness to racial justice and church unity. The topic of the first conference was racism and the second was assisted suicide. The addresses in this third conference represent a balanced view of the issue of sexuality before the church today.

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What the Liturgy Might Become CDSP Holds Conference on the Future of Anglican Worship

A cautious and scholarly look at what the church's liturgy might become was shared with approximately 400 people, including Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, at "Unbound," a workshop sponsored by the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP). A series of workshops by liturgists from around the world explored "Anglican worship beyond the prayer book" at the Berkeley, Calif., seminary Jan. 28-31.

The Rt. Rev. David Stancliffe, Bishop of Salisbury in the Church of England, said that the "shape and structure are more important than the text" of liturgy.

"Many in the Anglican Church rather suspect that the demise of the prayer book may be a necessary evil, or a blessing in disguise," added the Rev. Elizabeth Smith of Australia. She suggested that more attention must be paid to feminist tradition in liturgical development.

In Anglicanism, "women's presence is still often muted, often tentative, often unobserved, often incidental to the mainstream of liturgical change," Ms. Smith said.

Children will also be more included in new liturgies, suggested the Rev. David Holeton, professor of liturgy at Charles University in Prague. Children have an "unabashed reverence" and "can teach us to be a gracious receiver of grace," he said.

"Liturgy tends to be planned by people who are seriously under-represented in the world," he added. "The liturgy should be planned so that at some time, every member will feel fully engaged."

The Rev. Carolyn Fairless of the Diocese of California added that the involvement of children in the liturgy "is not a question of hospitality. It is a baptismal right. What develops is a ministry of children, and not adult ministry to children."

The Rev. John Baldovin, professor of liturgy at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, said that the Book of Common Prayer has done an excellent job of "capturing a baptismal spirituality. The baptismal covenant is the most eloquent statement of faith and mission in Christian liturgy." But, he added, "liturgy is something done, not said." Fr. Baldovin urged re-examination of the liturgy using "non-verbal" aspects such as music, posture, gesture and architecture.

The conference was developed by the Rev. Louis Weil, professor of liturgy at CDSP. He noted



Dick Snyder photo

The Rev. Clayton Morris, liturgical officer for the national church; Prof. David Holeton; Prof. Louis Weil; and the Rev. Jaci Maraschin of Brazil.

that the "classical model" — clergy processing, a gathering rite, reading of scripture, preaching, intercessions and the Eucharist — is not going to disappear. That model "needs to be the foundational one, but not the only model, for the celebration of the Eucharist. If we focus on the forms, it is quite easy for love of the liturgy to become a type of prayer book idolatry," he said.

Fr. Weil said he recognized that the effort to create a new form of liturgy, a new prayer book, will not be an easy one. "It is certainly true that throughout the history of Anglicanism — don't forget the reaction to the 1549 prayer book liturgical change has not been generally accepted easily. Liturgists have been pressing on the church matters which the church does not want." Fr. Weil urged "liturgical formation," or development of an "understanding of the spirit of liturgy" by the church's lay and ordained leaders.

The need for education was also sounded by Ms. Smith, who said, "In liturgical creativity, the question of quality and accountability cannot be avoided."

Bishop Griswold, in his public comments on the conference, suggested that liturgical reformers should not take themselves too seriously. Citing a 1960s' "eucharistic think tank" which he attended, and which devolved into a less than satisfactory experience, Bishop Griswold said the event "reveals the tyranny of our own creativity, which sometimes can become as binding as the unbinding we are talking about.

"So one has to be very careful about 'What

'Liturgy tends to be planned by people who are seriously underrepresented in the world.'

(Continued from previous page)

energies am I bringing to this eucharistic event,' and also the intention." That said, Bishop Griswold noted the "tension" between the eucharistic "experience of a particular community" with an event "which takes place in relationship to something universal." As a diocesan bishop. he said that he could "tell a tremendous amount about the life of the congregation by entering into its worship."

But some experimentation may be helpful. he said.

"There is the example of scripture, which on one occasion is absolutely barren and on another is filled with life. What's the difference? The difference is where you are in relationship to the scripture, and the same thing happens to us in relation to the liturgy." Bishop Griswold said.

"We are never in exactly the same place twice. Which is one reason I think it's very important that we offer a variety of liturgical styles because people are in different places." Offering "different ways in which to encounter Christ can serve the community much more richly than one particular pattern."

Reaction from conference participants was generally positive.

The Rt. Rev. Steven Plummer. Bishop of Navajoland, said the conference was "helpful" in his efforts to form a Navajo liturgy, which he plans to develop with his Area Mission Council.

"The spirit seems to be positive," said Donn Morgan, president and dean of CDSP. "Our challenge was to give good education. That's what we're all about. And it was an opportunity for us to honor Louis Weil." Fr. Weil was installed as James F. Hodges Professor of Liturgy at CDSP during the conference.

Also held in conjunction with the conference was the opening of "Keys to Worship," an exhibit of historic prayer books, starting with the Book of Common Prayer edition of 1662. The exhibit is housed at the Graduate Theological Union library at Berkeley. Dick Snyder

Northern Michigan Elects Next Bishop From Within

In an overwhelming display of support for one of its own, the Diocese of Northern Michigan elected the Rev. James Arthur Kelsey, diocesan ministry development coordinator, to be its next bishop.

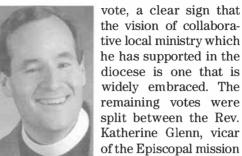
"What excites me most about this election is that it means we have

made a choice to continue on together," said Fr. Kelsey in his comments after the election. "We have discerned that we are ready to affirm a shared leadership from within our midst... We have been chosen to make a difference to our world and to allow our ordinary lives to be transformed into an offering of thanksgiving ... and to continue on together as an amazingly powerful ministering community."

The convention, held at St. Stephen's Church, Escanaba, Feb. 6, was the first at which a voting procedure, adopted in 1993, was used. Prior to this election, voting in matters considered particularly weighty, such as the election of a bishop, was done by orders. The new procedure calls for a twothirds majority of all votes cast. and a simple majority vote of delegations present. Fr. Kelsey was elected on the first ballot with 82 percent of the delegates' vote and 85 percent of the congregations'

BRIEFLY

During an eight-day visit to the Middle East, the Most Rev. George **Carey**, Archbishop of Canterbury, told worshipers at a mosque in Damascus, Svria, that Christians and Muslims need to avoid "demonizing" one another. He said such "demonizing" ignores



Katherine Glenn, vicar of the Episcopal mission in San Luis Vallev in the Fr. Kelsey

Diocese of Colorado. and the Rev. Canon Meredith Hunt, canon at St. Paul's Cathe-

vote, a clear sign that

widely embraced. The

dral. Detroit. Fr. Kelsey, 46, went to Northern Michigan in 1989 from the Diocese of Oklahoma, where he helped establish a diocesan-wide strategy for cluster ministries. After graduating from General Seminary in 1977, Fr. Kelsev served in the Diocese of Vermont. first in the southwestern part of the diocese and then in the northwest until 1985 as rector of Holv Trinity, Swanton, and priest-incharge of three missions. He and his wife Mary (Cruse) are the parents of three children: Nathan, 20; Lydia, 18; and Amos, 16. They reside in Marquette, Mich.

Fr. Kelsey will be consecrated July 24. He will succeed the Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Rav. with whom he has worked closely to support the ministry of the baptized in daily life through the development of local ministry support teams.

Lois Prusok

the contributions both religions can make to the world.

Correction: Because of a reporter's error, the Briefly item on the remarks by the Rev. Canon John Peterson [TLC, Feb. 14] were incorrect. The remarks attributed to Canon Peterson were not made by him.

Traditionalists Consider Forming New Province

Potential Bishop Nominated at Meeting That Brings Together Many Groups

A group of 36 traditionalist church leaders joined in an alliance at a Feb. 1 meeting in Atlanta, Ga., sponsored by the organization First Promise. They met to nominate a potential bishop to oversee a proposed new province within the Anglican Communion. The Very Rev. John H. Rodgers, retired dean of Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry, is the nominee.

Significant to this meeting was the coming together in solidarity of several "continuing" churches, bridging issues that heretofore created boundaries. Along with First Promise, representatives of such organizations as the American Anglican Council, the Episcopal Synod of America, Episcopalians United, Concerned Clergy and Laity of the Episcopal Church, and some now independent church leaders participated. They could form, if the Episcopal Church does not reverse what they perceive as liberal trends, "an Anglican constituency in (the United States)," said the Rev. Jim

Beard, of Pawleys Island, S.C., a representative of First Promise.

"It kind of devolved down to me," Fr. Rodgers said, after the organization was unable to find a retired bishop who could accept the duties. He said his nomination came after "avoiding it for several years," as he worked with the Association of Anglican Congregations on Mission (AACOM), a group of "continuing" churches committed to orthodoxy, as a theological consultant. "I'm trying to retire instead of taking on new jobs," he said.

He has not decided whether he will accept the nomination because First Promise and its allied organizations need to wait for a decision by a group of Two-Thirds World bishops. They must make decisions about crossing boundaries and whether or not they want a bishop here to facilitate visitations, Fr. Rodgers said.

If Fr. Rodgers accepts the nomination, and if the foreign bishops decide



John Koulbanis photo

Acolytes from St. Thomas', Alton, and Ascension, Wakefield, participate in the Rededication of Acolytes ceremony during the Acolyte Festival, hosted by the Diocese of Rhode Island's Narragansett Deanery. Acolytes gathered at Christ Church, Westerly, Jan. 30, for a festival procession, Morning Prayer and luncheon. The Rt. Rev. Geralyn Wolf, Bishop of Rhode Island, presided at the rededication ceremony.

to support the alliance and to consecrate him, Fr. Rodgers would, function similarly to the "flying" bishops who minister in the Church of England. He would still require the permission of a local diocesan in order to visit, until such time as a new province is established, should that become necessary.

As reported in the Washington Times, the Rt. Rev. Mark Dyer, professor of theology at Virginia Theological Seminary, said recently that the Archbishop of Canterbury "would never recognize this group." Fr. Rodgers responded that Bishop Dyer made his statement before he saw the documents. He added that if the Anglican Communion doesn't start the new province, it will not happen. There is no intention that this be a "continuing" church, he said, so if the Anglican Communion starts a new province, the Archbishop of Canterbury will recognize it.

Fr. Rodgers said the Anglican Communion needs help to face its theological problems. Those problems are not exclusive to the United States. "Western culture has deeply compromised churches," he said.

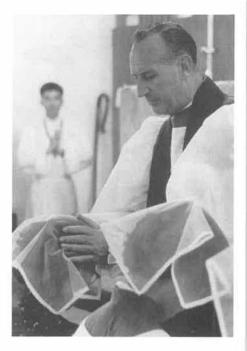
Members of traditionalist groups appealed to Anglican bishops around the world in December, seeking protective oversight for parishes in disagreement with revisionist bishops, and priests threatened with presentment and trial. Questioned on whether the "flying" bishops would come from Rwanda, other African dioceses or Singapore, Fr. Rodgers said, "We've invited them and urged them to come."

Fr. Rodgers holds out the possibility of "orthodox" bishops coming to give counsel until these issues are resolved at the next General Convention. Citing Lambeth resolution III.6, regarding conflict and crisis within dioceses, and the resolution on boundaries passed on the last day of the Lambeth Conference, Fr. Rodgers said, "We're trying to play by the rules."

SHAPERS OF THE CHURCH IN THE 20TH CENTURY (One of a series)

'Harry Honolulu' The RT. REV. HARRY SHERBOURNE KENNEDY

By Furman C. Stough



Bishop Kennedy confirms a young woman in Taiwan. RNS photo

The Rt. Rev. Harry Sherbourne Kennedy, affectionately known by some as "Harry Honolulu," was the principal architect of the Episcopal Church in the Pacific basin as we know it today. Almost single-handedly, he established or reestablished it from Hawaii to East Asia and points in between. Working tirelessly and traveling thousands of miles, he shared the sacraments and God's love with countless people.

As Bishop of Hawaii from 1944 to 1969, he confirmed people in Quonset huts in Korea, under field tents in Vietnam, on tiny Pacific atolls, in churches in Taiwan smelling of bamboo, on Okinawa in churches standing atop lofty cliffs, in the sweltering heat of the Philippines, in churches with open sides, and in cosmopolitan churches of Tokyo.

Every bone in his body was pastoral.

While the ministry throughout the Pacific basin was underway, he was faced with a diocese that had suffered neglect because of isolation and the war. The material fabric of the cathedral, diocesan buildings, and many of the churches was in dire need of repair. Financial resources were minimal. The morale of the clergy was low. There was no vision, no sense of common objectives. A feeling of abandonment was pervasive.

Yet, he did not succumb to these forces. With enormous energy, courage and faith, he faced them, calling for change and renewal. By the sheer strength of his dominant personality, Bishop Kennedy mobilized the entire diocese to literally clean up and rebuild its structures. God had blessed him with charm, friendliness and a sincere love of people. These qualities enabled him to exercise the kind of leadership to which people would respond.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1901, the bishop's life is a story of ever moving west. As an infant, his family moved across the Hudson to Rahway, N.J., where he spent his early years. When the day for his higher education arrived, he moved further west to Colorado State University in Greeley, and there he earned a B.A. in English and Spanish.

In order to supply an ample number of clergy for their dioceses, the bishops of the West had established St. John's Theological College in Greeley. It was from this institution that Bishop Kennedy earned his B.D. That same year, 1927, he met and married Katharine Jane Kittle of Greeley. This was followed by service in Kansas (a seven-mission circuit), and back to Colorado, including St. Thomas' Church, Denver, and a multiple cure: Grace Church, Colorado Springs, and St. Stephen's Mission, Colorado Springs. With the advent of World War II, he entered the Army chaplaincy and was assigned to the 40th armored division.

At the 1943 General Convention in Cleveland, he was elected Bishop of the Missionary District of Honolulu, including jurisdiction over American Samoa, some 2,600 miles to the southwest (a portent of things to come).

It was not until 1944 that he arrived in Honolulu because of wartime travel restrictions. And thus began a 25-year epis-

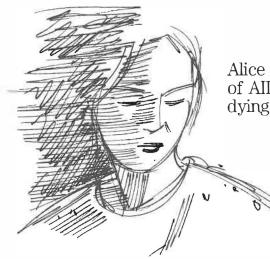
copate. Years before the words were in vogue, Harry Kennedy was a "builder" and a "church planter." During his episcopate,

there was an 80 percent increase in members, new churches, parish halls, rectories, schools and educational buildings. When he retired in 1969 (it had now become the Diocese of Hawaii) one would not have recognized the landscape of the Episcopal Church.

People marveled at his ability to do all of this, but many wonder why. The answer is fairly simple: It never would have occurred to him not to. Every bone in his body was pastoral, and this engendered a passion in Bishop Kennedy to share the sacraments and the fellowship of the church wherever and with whomever. Above all he was a pastor.

The legacy of Harry Sherbourne Kennedy still affects our times. The Rev. Carol M. Amey, in an honors paper on the episcopate of Bishop Kennedy presented to the School of Theology of the University of the South, in 1995, closes with a reflection on the learnings from that earlier era: "We are learning how to separate the Good News of the Gospel from the assumptions of Western cultural patronization. If the church can remember the vision and energy of the generation that came before us, perhaps we can again reach out to people and offer the church as a place of love of God and our neighbor." Harry Kennedy lived that.

The Rt. Rev. Furman C. Stough, retired, is the eighth Bishop of Alabama.



Alice knew that she would not be healed of AIDS, but God used the years of her dying to heal the wounds of a lifetime.

An armchair retreat for the midweeks of Lent

The Overshadowing

(First of a four-part series)

By Katherine Clark

Deborah Yetter art

raditionally, Lent is the time for calling ourselves to account, for laying the plumbline across intention and performance. It is a time we know well, and to some extent even welcome.

My hope in these meditations, though, is to suggest a Lenten retreat that will be a little different. I would like to look not at our failings but at God's presence to us, to consider together and give thanks for grace itself, long given, long received. It is this showering of grace, this inner dwelling of the Holy Spirit that Lancelot Andrewes called "the true 'It is finished' of the Lord's own life — the first fruit of his passion."

The idea for the retreat, once I had agreed to do it, came to me one morning as I was ending my prayer time. "The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and the power of the most high will overshadow you." As soon as I heard the words in my mind, I knew they were what I needed and most wanted to hear. Perhaps for that reason I feel as if I am offering these reflections to you not so much as conductor of this armchair retreat as fellow listener.

"The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." An enormous assurance, I realized, for our lives, not only for Mary's. We live in that overshadowing — sometimes we know it, sometimes we begin to see it, only after a long portion of time has begun to pass.

Some years ago, perhaps 30, I experienced such an image of this that I've never forgotten it. I was driving through an early morning fog so deep, so dense, I literally could see nothing ahead. I had moved into it — a curve and dip in the road, and I was simply there, enclosed. I was afraid to stop. The road ahead was hidden. And then I realized that I could see in front of the car a little space, it seemed no more than inches, but it was enough to move forward, imperceptibly, steadily, into the little space that kept opening. When I looked into the rear-view mirror, I discovered to my surprise that the road behind me was completely clear.

I realized later that the experience of that fog had been very much a gift of the overshadowing. I think, in fact, I realized it then. So much of our life is spent not knowing what the future will be, how the future can be. That morning I realized — very simply — the future isn't ours to know, but what is ours to know is that little space that kept opening before my car as I drove through the fog, the little space that allows us to do what is next to be done, the little space that is enough.

Recently I had another experience of the overshadowing I would like to tell you about. It was awing to me, because it showed a lifetime of God's care for a person who had not had much chance to recognize him, and very little reason to expect his goodness.

For more than two years, I had been visiting Alice, a young

woman who was suffering from AIDS. One long afternoon, she told me the story of her life. In a voice that was calm, almost matter of fact, she spoke of abuse, abandonment, cruelties I could hardly take in. As I listened, as I held her hand, watched her face, I marveled at her courage, her resiliency. When the narrative was over, I told her how awed I was by her story, and how certain of the amazing grace that had brought her to this moment, able to love and to be loved. She knew exactly what I meant.

Last July at the graveside, about 30 people gathered at noon. Many were friends of Alice whom she had met during treatment or come to know during her illness. One was the mother of her best friend who had died of AIDS the year

before. One was a young woman whose husband, like Alice's, had died of AIDS. She had brought a poem to read, and read it, so bravely. A man

who looked about 50, perilously thin, was taking her dog into his own home, a trailer a little down from Alice's.

It was very hot that day in late July, the sun strong, unremitting. But it was cool in the old cemetery. We stood in shadows that were deep and welcoming. Love was in that place, almost tangibly. I thought of *Ubi Caritas*, the lovely Taize melody — where love is, there is God. Alice had touched many lives in the years of her dying. Her courage was enormous. She knew that she would not be healed of AIDS, but God used the years of her dying to heal the wounds of a lifetime — in her life, and in the lives of so many of those who now stood about her grave.

I saw Alice a week before she died. Her face was tilted down. As I stood above her, my hands on her head, I knew I had never seen a face more lovely. To me she looked like a Madonna, a statue of Blessed Mary herself. There was a purity there, a beauty that was the beauty of holiness.

Ah, dear people: Alice's life is the overshadowing. And so too is ours. Bad things happen to good people. How could they not? Bad things happen to good people because they are people. We read about starvation in Somalia, genocide in the Sudan. We hear of the wide-scale persecution of Christians in so many parts of the world — now, in our own day, not in some faroff time, shrouded in history.

We know the sorrows and changes in our own lives — deaths that have nearly destroyed us, losses of job, of friends, changes in those we most need, changes in ourselves. We know hurts from the past that cast long shadows into the present. We know them in our lives. We know them in the lives of those who confide in us. These things are the stuff of our humanity.

There is no answer to why a particular suffering comes — we all know that. Pain is simply part of the

common lot, the working out of our own wrong choices, the wrong choices of others, inseparable to the body's own vulnerability and mortality.

But for us there is indeed a balm in Gilead. God took our pain for his own by being



born among us, flesh of our flesh. In our human nature, God himself knew rejection, he knew the sorrow of not being understood by those who were closest to him. He knew the agony of the cross. He knew the weight of our sin, even sin's final darkness: "My

The artisan took the cup and melded it together, making a new creation of incredible strength and beauty. God is waiting, always waiting, to do this for us.

God, my God, why have you rejected me?" There is no place we can go, no sorrow we can feel that God himself has not known, and that God does not pity.

There is a passage in Matthew's gospel that touches me each time I read it. Word has just come to Jesus and the disciples about the death of John the Baptist. Jesus spoke of John very briefly, and then said to his disciples, "Let us go now to a place apart." Some things cannot be borne except in that place apart, that still place of mind and heart, where we can rest in him who is our rest — not seeking answers, simply letting ourselves be held, letting ourselves be.

It is God's very nature to mend, to restore, to make all things new, even ourselves, even hearts that are broken. There is a beautiful Chinese legend of a porcelain cup that was broken into pieces, seemingly destroyed. The artisan took the cup and melded it together with thin lines of purest gold, making a new creation of incredible strength, incredible beauty. God is waiting, always waiting, to do this for us, watching for signs that we are ready.

I remember coming to one of those moments in my own life when I knew that a long period of darkness had ended, that God was rescuing me in a tenderness I could feel and reach out to. A sentence came into my mind, sudden, absorbing all thought. God is saving you in this life, for this life, for himself. This sentence has been a talisman, a touchstone for me.

I think, you see, the words are right; they ring true for all of us. He is saving us in this life, for this life, for himself. This is the overshadowing. In this holy feast of Lent may we recognize it, claim it, and may we move forward beneath it with that gladness and singleness of heart we pray for.

Katherine Clark is a member of St. Andrew's Church, Valparaiso, Ind.

FEASTS, FASTS & FERIAS

Make Holy Week Different This Year

When all is done well, we go home late Saturday night or early Sunday morning, knowing that it was worth the pilgrimage of Lent.



With the beginning of Lent, parish planners must start to think about Holy Week, so that it may be a powerful and worthy climax to this holy season. It is not enough simply to say, "We'll do it all like last

year." Yes, established customs and traditions may deserve respect, yet there are always things that can be improved, and an innovation here and there can add freshness and vitality to the whole observance.

This solemn week begins with Palm Sunday, and on that day, barring rain, we should seek to have a real procession out of doors. It may start from the porch of the rectory or the nearby home of a parishioner. A park or open space two or three blocks from the church may offer a good point of departure in a city. If, as is the case in many cities and towns, one or two other churches are close to ours, a procession together may be planned, with several brass instruments to enhance the music.

Ever since early times, the palm procession has had a special appeal for children, from whose lips "sweet hosannas ring." Attention should be given to them in passing out palms or other branches. It is curious that the biblical accounts of the triumphal entry do not speak specifically of children, but their part during the subsequent cleansing of the temple, and Jesus' approval of them, appears in Matt. 21:12-16. This year, as we have Matthew's account of the triumphal entry, the reading can appropriately be extended five verses to include this reference to children. (The rubric always permits lengthening of a lesson; see the bottom of p. 888 in the prayer book.)

Maundy Thursday deserves careful consideration. Many parishes now include the foot washing, which is simple enough and only takes a few minutes. It is objected by some that this is an ancient Middle Eastern custom and is no part of our American culture. Indeed, it isn't. In Holy Week we are celebrating events in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago, and it does not hurt us to remember that. In the holy city nowadays, it may be noted, the foot washing, as performed by various patriarchs and bishops of the ancient Eastern churches, is a solemnity attracting great popular attention.

The foot washing not only conveys a blessing on persons washing, but also on those washed. Some years ago, in the tiny rural church served by this writer, most of the members of the small congregation had their feet washed. Then the warden, a farmer who lived down the road from me, said, "Father, can I wash your feet?" I will never forget the blessing conferred on me by his action.

What about the Maundy Thursday communion? It should be a very reverent and thankful commemoration of the instituting of the holy sacrament. It is also the eve of our Savior's passion. By Jewish reckoning, a day begins at sundown on the previous day (Gen. 1:5). From this perspective. Maundy Thursday evening is really the first part of Good Friday. Receiving the sacrament then is our Good Friday communion. This calls into question the practice of many parishes in offering communion from the reserved sacrament during the main liturgy of Good Friday. Good Christian people, in different times and places, have had differing interpretations of these things. Yet, if Good Friday is the re-experiencing of our Lord's death, departure and absence from us, it seems odd then to receive him in Holy Communion. We do not go to the altar rail to receive tokens of a dead Christ, but to receive him as the Living Bread (John 6:51) whose returning life we do celebrate two days later at Easter.

By this ancient Semitic reckoning, Easter begins Saturday evening. All of the Easter services of the church are important, but if we examine the prayer book, pp. 284-295, it is evident that the Easter Vigil is the most exciting, dramatic and theologically rich service of the year. Unfortunately, many Episcopalians have not experienced it, or at least not experienced it in a well-executed manner.

It is suggested where parishes are contemplating celebrating the vigil for the first time and rectors have not done it before, that the clergy, directors of music, members of altar guilds, trainers of acolytes, and others attend some other church this year where the vigil is well established, beautifully carried out, and followed by a real party. Every parish, however, need not do it in exactly the same way. Part of the joy of this service is the opportunity for imaginative planning and creativity in ceremonial, the music, the decoration of the church, and so forth. When all is done well, we go home late Saturday night or early Sunday morning, knowing that it was worth the pilgrimage of Lent to come finally to this, to behold in our hearts the empty tomb, and to meet the risen Lord in the breaking of bread.

Call Waiting

Some of you may recall that I am contacting subscribers by telephone in order to get some opinion on how we're doing. Ever since we unveiled the

redesigned TLC last September, I've been calling one subscriber per week to determine whether there are delivery problems, and to find out what these folks think about the changes we have made.

For the most part, the response has been overwhelmingly positive. People are receiving their magazine on time and, with the exception of some wanting the letters to the editor moved back to the front of the magazine, readers seem satisfied.

When I made a call the other day, I got more than I had bargained for. I wound up being interviewed. I selected at random a subscriber in one of the Pennsylvania dioceses.

"I've been expecting your call," he said. Huh? "Ever since you wrote that you'd be calling people I figured you'd get around to it. That's why I put my phone number on that sheet that comes with the renewal form, in case you were using that information to call people."

He was already way ahead of me. He was retired military, he said, only in his 50s and now doing some consulting work. He said he's been traveling around this country for some 30 years and has "a pretty good idea of the state of the Episcopal Church." Right away I knew where this conversation was headed.

Before I could ask him if he liked the changes we had made to the magazine, he started firing questions at me. "Do you think this church is headed in the right direction?" he asked. I said I was not convinced that it was. "Why not?" he added, before I could finish my response to the earlier question. I told him I thought the church, in its attempt to be inclusive, had gone overboard and now was forcing out people who had been loyal members.

We found out that we were both lifelong Episcopalians and active lay persons. That seemed to be all the information he needed.

"Name one way in which the Episcopal Church is better now than it was 25 years ago," he said.

"The prayer book," I answered quickly. He told me he disagreed with me and that it was the prayer book which was the first step in the downward spiral.

"No," I argued. "It was this prayer book that put the rightful emphasis on the Eucharist. That's the best thing the church has done."

We bantered civilly for a few moments, but it was obvious we were going to go nowhere with this and he sensed it. I needed to ask him if TLC was arriving at his home on time, but he was already asking me to name another improvement in the church during the past 25 years. I had to do some quick math, figuring 25 years ago was 1974. I raised topics like increased interest in spirituality, greater participation in Bible study, the laity taking a greater role. He shot them down, fairly skillfully, I might add, and launched into the faults of charismatic renewal. ordained women, ego-driven bishops and ignorant laity.

"Can we get back to the reason for my call?" I asked.

"You seem like a nice and reasonable person," he replied. "I'm surprised you've bought into the line of thinking that's coming from our leaders."

"I guess I'm just an obedient servant," I said, now trying to end the conversation. He was smart enough to figure that out and didn't push matters any farther.

"I've enjoyed our visit," I said, only slightly tongue in cheek, wondering whether I wanted to make any more of these calls.

David Kalvelage, executive editor

Did You Know...

St. Stephen's Church, Aurora, Colo., has a ministry called the Gastromartyrs.

Quote of the Week

The Rt. Rev. James L. Jelinek, Bishop of Minnesota, in a letter to 3rd-5th graders at St. Anne's, Sunfish Lake, Minn.: "The closest I can come to proving God to you would be to tell you a number of stories about the way God has changed me from the inside out." A number of congregations in New Jersey are not paying their diocesan assessment, rendering many of the ministries and programs of the diocese ineffective.

Whole Church Affected

The attempt by Presiding Bishop Frank T. Griswold to bring a solution to the struggle between the Bishop of New Jersey and diocesan leaders [TLC, Feb. 14] emphasized how far apart the two sides have become. Bishop Joe Morris Doss, under fire from members of the standing committee and diocesan council on a variety of charges, has made it clear for months that he has no intention of resigning. Meanwhile, a number of congregations are not paying their diocesan assessment, rendering many of the ministries and programs of the diocese ineffective.

Bishop Griswold joined Bishop Doss at a meeting with the two diocesan groups and presented a plan in which Bishop Doss eventually would leave the diocese. Unfortunately, the dissenters felt their bishop should leave sooner than the proposal indicated, and they did not believe there was time for them to prepare a realistic counter proposal. The Presiding Bishop's proposal was withdrawn at the end of the meeting.

While the troubles in New Jersey are largely an "in-house" matter, the entire church feels the strain in that diocese. A dys-functional diocese or bishop cannot interact meaningfully with other dioceses, bishops, or the national church, and sets an unfortunate example of how the church should operate. We hope a person with gifts of mediation can get the bishop and diocesan leaders to sit down and talk over matters. Dialogue has become an overused word in the church these days, but real dialogue is just what the Diocese of New Jersey needs.

Quiet Times in Lent

One of the time-honored traditions of Lent for many Christians is to participate in a retreat. Whether it be an intense, one-week silent retreat or a less-structured quiet day at the local parish, a retreat enables us to move away from the routine distractions of our lives — telephones, televisions, traffic, noise, and anything else which can interrupt us from being in the presence of God. With the removal of such distractions, we are able to concentrate more on what matters — God.

It would be wonderful if the entire church could go on retreat, but that, of course, is not practical. Our busy lives and hectic life-styles often don't allow us to take the time necessary to participate in such an endeavor. With this in mind, we are pleased to present "An Armchair Retreat," a four-part series which begins this week [p. 10] and will continue in the next three issues. In this series, author Katherine Clark presents meditations similar to what one might find on a formal retreat. Mrs. Clark, an experienced retreat leader, has much to share with attentive readers. We invite you to find a comfortable, quiet place to read this series. If it helps to draw any of our readers closer to God, we will consider the series an immense success.

Concelebration

How Should It Be Practiced?

By Bruce E. Ford



The prayer book explicitly encourages eucharistic concelebration, in which assisting priests participate in the eucharistic liturgy as priests, sharing in the distinctive ministry that the principal celebrant exercises at the altar.

The directions "Concerning the Celebration" at the beginning of both eucharistic rites say: "It is appropriate that other priests should stand with the celebrant at the Altar, and join in the consecration of the gifts, in breaking the Bread, and in distributing Communion."

Nevertheless, concelebration is not widely practiced in the Episcopal Church. One reason for its infrequency is that a strong attachment to the "Solemn Mass" persists in some quarters. This form of celebration, at which the only

Bruce E. Ford is the author of Notes on the Celebration of the Eucharist (Hymnary Press, 1986). He is a member of Grace Church, Newark, N.J. assisting clerics are a deacon and a subdeacon, took hold in the churches of the West during the 11th century, when the idea evolved that the number and rank of assisting clerics signified the status of the celebrant. Ordinary priests were for the first time allowed the assistance of one deacon and one subdeacon only. Previously all clerics had been free to perform the ministries proper to their particular orders at any celebration, but once the new rule won acceptance, a priest who wished to minister at a Mass celebrated by another priest could do so only by vesting and functioning as a deacon or subdeacon.

Nothing in the prayer book encourages adherence to this late medieval rule. Although it says that an assisting priest may perform the deacon's duties when no deacon is present, the prayer book nowhere implies that an assisting priest who happens to perform the deacon's duties should not also concelebrate.

Some maintain that deacons ordained to the priesthood remain deacons. But even if they do, why should they

Concelebration

function at the Eucharist as if they were deacons and not priests?

The Episcopal Church does not have subdeacons. The Church of England abolished the subdiaconate at the Reformation, and the Roman church followed suit in 1973. Only an irrational attachment to the "Solemn Mass" would prompt Episcopalians to vest their lectors or lay eucharistic ministers in tunicles and pretend that they are subdeacons.

If silent

gestures are

numerous,

the rite

begins

to resemble

pantomime.

Reservations about concelebration are not confined to those who are attached to the "Solemn Mass." People are sometimes unsure of its rationale. "What are priest concelebrants doing that all the other worshipers are not doing," they ask, "if the whole priestly people of God, in fact, joins in offering the Eucharist?"

At every Eucharist a local congregation acts through the ministry of a presiding bishop or priest.

Without this ministry there can be no Eucharist, because the Eucharist is always the action of the universal church, and the bishop or priest, by serving as a link between the universal church and the local church, constitutes the local church's action as a Eucharist. Concelebrating priests join with the principal celebrant in exercising the ministry through which the local church offers the Eucharist.

"To whose benefit?" one may ask. Christian ministries exist for the upbuilding of the body of Christ. The primary purpose of concelebration is not to give priests an opportunity to exercise their "faculty" to "consecrate." It is, rather, to enable them to minister to the people of God by fulfilling a liturgical role that mirrors their pastoral role.

How are priests to concelebrate? Can they be said to exercise a distinctly priestly ministry if they do not recite the words of the eucharistic prayer? Modern Roman Catholic pronouncements distinguish sacramental concelebration, in which the concelebrants recite the words of institution, from mere ceremonial concelebration, in which they do not.

Various ceremonial manuals written for use in the Episcopal Church offer conflicting advice about the way priests ought to concelebrate. Byron D. Stuhlmann in *Prayer Book Rubrics If Expanded* (Church Hymnal Corporation, 1987,

pp. 130-131) suggests that they should merely stand in silence at the altar, with hands joined, throughout the eucharistic prayer. Howard E. Galley in *The Ceremonies of the Eucharist* (Cowley, 1989, p. 23) and Dennis G. Michno in *A Priest's Handbook* (Morehouse-Barlow, 1983, p. 78-79) suggest that they should stand at the altar in silence but make certain gestures. Marion J. Hatchett in *A Manual of Ceremonial for the New*

Prayer Book (a publication of St. Luke's Journal of Theology, 1977, p. 47) suggests that they may in some circumstances join in reciting the eucharistic prayer.

Assisting priests could not have joined in reciting the prayer during the pre-Nicene era, when eucharistic prayers were extemporized. Those who advocate silent concelebration, therefore, have the support of early tradition. But silent concelebration is not without its drawbacks. Concelebrants who stand silently at the

altar with joined hands in no way signify that their mode of participation in the celebration differs from that of the deacons and lay ministers standing nearby. Silent gestures convey the idea that consecration is effected by a priestly blessing rather than by God's acceptance of the church's offering. Furthermore, if silent gestures are numerous, the rite begins to resemble pantomime.

Audible recitation of the eucharistic prayer by several priests can easily deteriorate into a cacophonous drone.

The Roman Missal directs that concelebrants communicate themselves. Tradition suggests, however, that communion should be given and received, not taken.

Since concelebration was re-introduced to the West little more than 30 years ago, after a long hiatus, we should not be surprised that a modern tradition of concelebration is still evolving. The history of the practice is fragmentary. The directions in the Roman Missal of Paul VI combine elements adopted from various times and places. These directions are reasonable, but they are not necessarily the last word. Episcopal churches are free to experiment. Progress toward a truly satisfactory mode of concelebration will accelerate only if priests assisting at the Eucharist will more regularly exercise the ministry that the church, through the prayer book, assigns to them.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not Working in New Jersey

Members of the standing committee and diocesan council of the Diocese of New Jersey accepted the Presiding Bishop's invitation to meet with him and hear his view of the situation here [TLC, Feb. 21]. We came in good faith.

We came ready to negotiate and we came ready to be more than fair. We know Bishop Doss and his family are suffering. It must be clear to all, however, that this episcopacy is not working and will not work so long as Bishop Doss continues to hold his office.

Trust is a sacred ingredient for effective leadership. Rightly or wrongly, our trust in Bishop Doss has been destroyed. One cannot command it or sign an "agreement" giving it. Trust must be earned. Regrettably, the situation that now exists in our diocese will never again allow for such a relationship to exist between Bishop Doss and this diocese. We have tried again and again to begin anew, but to no avail.

In principle, both diocesan bodies accepted the "agreement" put before us, asking only that the bishop begin a leave of absence after our diocesan convention in March. We are willing:

(a) to continue his compensation through March 2002 at the same level as today and with a cost of living adjustment annually as called for by our diocesan convention.

(b) to continue to provide Bishop Doss with a car and a chauffeur if that is his desire.

(c) to suspend the "Cole Investigation" which is looking into allegations of questionable, inappropriate or personal use of diocesan funds.

The fact of the matter is, the standing committee and diocesan council in the Diocese of New Jersey were ready to negotiate. And we remain ready to do so provided it is a fair, open and honest negotiation.

The truth of what happened is that Bishop Doss refused to negotiate. When we offered a counterproposal, we were thanked for coming and wished a good day.

(The Rev.) Alan C. French President, Standing Committee Diocese of New Jersey

The Greatest Sins

Fr. Traynham is not alone in noting that Episcopalians have disagreed about matters of significantly greater moment than homosexuality [TLC, Feb. 7]. He mentions abortion. Others have brought up slavery. These, along with the slaughter of the American Indian, are, to these eyes at least, the greatest sins of this country. None of them (yet) has split the Episcopal Church, so why should something as relatively inconsequential as homosexuality?

In a word, liturgy. There has never been, as far as I know, a strong movement for official church sanction, expressed in an official church liturgy, for the blessing of the ownership of a slave, the killing of an unborn child, or the murder of a Native American.

It is the proposal of the adoption of liturgies invoking God's and the church's blessing on persons specifically intending to engage in gay sex that threatens to rend the Episcopal Church asunder. Note that it is not "sexual orientation" that is at issue: The priest does not end the Eucharist by pronouncing, "The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit



be only on the heterosexuals here."

I don't know if Holy Trinity Church [TLC, Dec. 20] is doing the right thing. I do understand and share their frustration at having an alien ideology stuffed down their ecclesiastical throats by means of a well-meaning bureaucratic triumphalism. If the homosexual lobby would just show some forbearance, stop judging everybody who disagrees with them, and, most of all, quit demanding the church's officially sanctioned blessings, then the air would clear and we could get on to more important things. I don't see it happening.

> Daniel Muth Prince Frederick, Md.

Not Complete

The article "Julians Will Open Branch in North Carolina" [TLC, Jan. 17] did not reveal the fact that a sizable amount of money must be donated to the Order of Julian of Norwich for us to acquire the property which was pictured.

A number of people have contacted us for additional information about our arrival in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, and are surprised to learn that this move is not an accomplished fact as indicated by TLC. We understood from our contact with TLC that an appeal for donations could not be published, but were surprised and now concerned that the article as written has led people to assume that the purchase is completed. Our concern is that the article as it appeared may even have deterred some people from making a donation that would have made it possible for us to accept Bishop Johnson's invitation. We hope you will correct the impression that the order has money enough to purchase a branch house.

> Sr. Scholastica Marie, OJN Waukesha, Wis.

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The Cursillo Experience

Thank you for including two articles on Cursillo in the Jan. 24 issue. I agree with the Rev. James Jones that Cursillo can help a parishioner become acquainted with and sometimes grow in the Christian faith. However, like Diane Tobiason, I agree the experience can be counter-productive.

I see parishioners having unmet spiritual and social needs as likely candidates, but persons having deepseated emotional needs might wish they had never been part of the experience. Also, it seems that the personality type of the participant shapes his or her response.

Taken as one avenue of Christian growth, and not as an end in itself, I believe Cursillo has an important place in parish life.

> Louise Davies Apalachin, N.Y.

I enjoyed the articles on Cursillo, but regretted that the Rev. James Jones omitted one important key to the Cursillo "process" — that of Ultreya — or reunion. That is the "grouping" of those who have attended a weekend along with others who wish to gather for an hour of weekly prayer and sharing in our daily encounter with life challenges in relation to what was learned on the weekend — and ever since. It's that element that keeps the light shining.

> (The Rev.) Bill Wheeler Lyonsdale, N.Y.

Cursillo has had a positive effect on many Episcopalians (and Roman Catholics) who have attended one of these weekends. It is unfortunate that Ms. Tobiason is not among those.

Having attended Cursillo 10 years ago, and having served on a Cursillo staff twice since then, I can attest to the fact that it can be a life-changing event. It was so in my spiritual journey and I have witnessed a similar effect in the hundreds of Cursillo participants with whom I am acquainted.

One important requirement of any application to attend Cursillo is the approval of the candidate's priest. This is required because there may be personal reasons that would preclude someone from attending — reasons of which only the priest would be aware.

Perhaps Ms. Tobiason should not have been encouraged to pursue this avenue of spiritual development. Although I believe the vast majority of Cursillo participants would give witness to the value of these weekends, it has never been claimed they are for everyone. Ms. Tobiason's experience is regrettable, but it is in no way typical. Raymond B. Hester Mobile, Ala.

Fr. Jones, in his article, "Cursillo Awakens the Heart," extols the virtues of the Cursillo movement. Yet in the adjoining article, Diane Tobiason gives some cogent reasons why one must approach such church renewal movements with great caution.

Although the theology of most of these movements is fairly orthodox, they are heavily loaded emotionally. Some of this emotion is contrived and manipulative in nature, which can lead to language, music and behavior that is silly, childish and even offensive. In addition, these renewal movements have the potential of being divisive in a parish.

Many of these movements became popular in the late '50s and the '60s when group dynamics and sensitivity training made their debut in the Episcopal Church. In addition, they borrow elements from the "12-step" programs which rely on personal testimony and "witnessing."

While indeed it is better to be excited about something rather than nothing at all, there are those of us who prefer to worship God in quiet dignity and do not feel that our spiritual batteries are so low that they have to be constantly re-charged.

> Bruce P. Flood, Jr. Whitewater, Wis.

Too Late

I want to add a hearty "amen" to Louis Schueddig's article, "No Longer Mainstream" [TLC, Feb. 7]. My only problem is, it's a little late.

Back in 1963, my friend Sam Wylie, then rector of the Church of the Advent, Boston (he later went on to serve the church at General Seminary and in the Diocese of Northern Michigan), wrote a book, *Precede the Dawn*, which had the church read, marked and inwardly digested 36 years ago, Fr. Schueddig would not have had to write his article.

But instead of listening to Sam, the church went hell-bent toward process and program instead of mission and we are worse off than before. The curmudgeon in me says the church won't listen to Fr. Schueddig either. But I hope he won't stop preaching because I won't and maybe someday the church will hear a few of our voices in the wilderness.

> (The Rev.) Allan C. Parker Seattle, Wash.

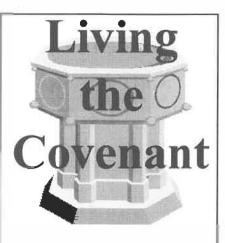
It May Not Work

The editorial, "Something Different" [TLC, Jan. 31], was puzzling. If TLC realizes "that it cannot be business as usual for the Episcopal Church...", I am very interested to know in what way you believe this to be true.

It is encouraging to read of TLC's support of the Diocese of Texas ("Preparing for Growth," which appears on the same page) and its efforts to reach the unchurched, and of the stimulating suggestions of what people can do in their own churches. Friendly ushers and greeters, userfriendly bulletins and, most of all, a willingness to invite a friend or acquaintance to church, are all very important elements to church growth.

Those suggestions are illustrative of some of the behavior that should come naturally to all Christians. But why isn't this working? Statistically, the Episcopal Church has not even held its ground. Maybe it is because fewer Episcopalians are interested in these points than I thought. Or maybe it is more complicated.

For sure, a congregation has to have a passion and love for others. Without a deep passion for others, friendly greeters become just another "trapping" — all show, little substance. I think there is another level to this issue that Episcopalians need to seriously consider: The religious prefer-



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ences of Americans have been shifting and will continue to shift.

The parish I serve recently was given ethnographic data about its community. Among other things, the data shows that the vast majority of people living in that area are predisposed to choosing a historic Christian church as their place of worship. That's the good news. The bad news is that of those people, .9 percent have a preference for the Episcopal Church.

What is this congregation to do? It was planted 20 years ago and for lo these 20 years has faithfully kept the "trappings" of Anglicanism. They are a friendly and warm group of people. The greeters are welcoming. They have had "bring a friend to church" efforts. They have not grown past the current attendance of about 30 for the last 10 years.

It seems to me that the Episcopal Church needs to come to terms with itself. If keeping the "trappings" of Anglicanism is that important, then church leaders must stop planting churches in areas where there is no interest in what our trappings have to offer. The church does not have to plant a church every time a half dozen Episcopalians relocate to one of these areas and starts pleading for a church.

On the other hand, if the Episcopal Church believes that it is obligated to obey Jesus' mandate to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, then we will have to ask how we can do that in places where our "doing-what-Episcopalians-do" approach to mission will not go very far. This inevitably involves liturgy and worship, and a host of other "trappings" of Anglicanism.

(The Rev.) Bennett Jones Creve Coeur, Mo.

Separate Issues

I know of no theological foundation or justification (from scripture, tradition or reason) for the sacramental Blessing of a Marriage, within the church, between two persons of the same sex. Thus I do not believe that sacramental marriage between two persons of the same sex is theologically possible. Not to confuse issues, the ordination of a homosexual person is unquestionably valid.

On the other hand, the question of the "blessing of the union" between two persons of the same sex raises a whole set of other questions and dynamics. I agree with those who call our attention to those couples (same sex) who have committed relationships based on mutual faith, love and respect. I also agree that these persons are full members of the body of Christ and are to be treated with that level of respect. So what is a priest to do when a new and serious issue such as this arises?

On this issue I wish to make the following request of the church's Ph.D/ Th.D theologians. We need a serious academic and coherent study (not dialogue) of scripture, tradition and reason (and that includes the best scientific data to date) on whether we can conduct such liturgies. I mean the type of serious work that would bore the dead, but at the same time inform bishops, deacons and presbyters as we try to provide the best pastoral and sacramental care we can.

It is not enough to have someone "write" a liturgy. All Christian liturgies are founded on a clear theology rooted in the Bible. I am asking for some intellectual help, not picking a fight. What would be a theological (not emotional or PC) foundation for a liturgy blessing the union between two persons of the same sex?

> (The Rev.) Robert Keirsey San Diego, Calif.

It Must Go On

To cancel Sunday Eucharist because of inclement weather [TLC, Jan. 24] would seem to suggest that worship is something we do for our own convenience. While I can imagine the difficulty of getting to church through several feet of snow, if only the priest and one communicant can make it, then the Eucharist can be offered and the church's obligation is fulfilled.

> (The Rev.) Richard Tumilty Grass Valley, Calif.

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RECTOR: St. George's Episcopal Church is seeking a fulltime rector to join our church family. We are located in St. Louis Park, MN, a firstring suburb west of Minneapolis, 10 miles from downtown. St. George's is rich in lay ministries, outreach and programs for members of all ages. We seek a rector who will help us to build upon our rich traditional strengths and to promote parish growth within the body of Christ at St. George's. Please send resumes and CDO profiles to: Ken Wales, co-chair, Search Committee, 5104 Duggan Plaza, Edina, MN 55439. (612) 941-34709.

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PROGRAMS

BENEDICTINE EXPERIENCE—April 17-23—Kanuga Conference Center, Henderson, NC, led by the Rev. O. C. Edwards, former president and dean, Seabury-Western; faculty the Very Rev. Guy F. Lytle, dean, and the Rev. Dr. Robert Hughes, professor, University of South (Sewanee); music director, Mr. Beverly Ward. Contact: Friends of St. Benedict, St. David's Parish, 5150 Macomb St., NW, Washington, DC 20016. (202) 363-8061. FAX (202) 966-3437. E-mail: SaintBenedict@prospect-tech.com

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PEOPLE & PLACES

Appointments

The Rev. Robert R.M. Bagwell is rector of Trinity, PO Box 513, Stoughton, MA 02072.

The Rev. George Benson is rector of St. Mark's, PO Box 22, Aberdeen, SD 57402.

The Ven. Tom Benson is archdeacon for pastoral care, Diocese of Maine, 143 State St., Portland, ME 04101-3799.

The Rev. Susan Butler is assistant at Trinity, PO Box 377, Solebury, PA 18963.

The Rev. Tom Campbell is rector of St. Thomas', 1220 Junction Ave., Sturgis, SD 57785.

The Rev. James Corbett is priest-in-charge of St. Augustine's, PO Box 11, Freeland, WA 98249.

The Rev. Charles Cornell is rector of Trinity. 801 Figueroa St., Folsom, CA 95630.

The Ven. Audrey Delafield is archdeacon for formation, Diocese of Maine, 143 State St., Portland, ME 04101-3799.

The Rev. Andrew W. Foster is rector of Ascension, 12 W 11th St., New York, NY 10011.

The Rev. Margaret B. Gunther is associate at St. Columba's, 4201 Albemarle St. NW, Washington, DC 20016.

The Rev. C. Anne Hallmark is interim at St. John's, Shandon, 2827 Wheat St., Columbia, SC 29205.

The Rev. Jerry Hannah is vicar of St. David's/Emmanuel, 18842 Meridian Ave. N, Shoreline, WA 98133.

The Rev. Julie N. Harris is associate at Christ Church, 21 Aurora St., Hudson, OH 44839

The Rev. Canon Philip Jackson is canon educator at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 4800 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48201.

The Rev. James M. Jensen is interim at Grace Church, 120 E First St., Hinsdale, IL 60521

The Rev. Carl Jeff Kraemer is rector of St. Dunstan's, PO Box 101, Carmel Valley, CA 93924

The Rev. SaraLouise Krantz is rector of Grace Church, 23 Cedar Shore Dr., Massapequa, NY 11758.

The Rev. Ledlie I. Laughlin III is rector of St. Peter's, 313 Pine St., Philadelphia, PA 19106.

The Rev. Victor Lawson is missioner of the Nelson Cluster, PO Box 129, Rippon, WV 25441-0129.

Retirements

The Rev. Ellin K. Deese, as priest-in-charge of Buck Mountain Church, Earlysville, VA; add. Healthcare Center, Room #1229, Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge, 250 Pantops Mountain Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22911.

The Rev. John A. Lawrence, as rector of Grace Church, Hinsdale, IL; add. 712 Mockingbird Ln., Kerrville, TX 78028.

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