

THE QUILL

Volume 20, Issue 2

February, 2007

LENT STUDY AT ST. BEDE'S

I have been reading Dan Wakefield's critique of modern Christian expression, *The Hijacking of Jesus: How the Religious Right Distorts Christianity and Promotes Prejudice and Hate*. He notes, "Christianity in America has become almost synonymous with right-wing fanaticism, conservative politics, and — courtesy of Mel Gibson — a brutally sadistic version of the religious experience."

One of Wakefield's chapters is entitled, "The Wedges: Dividing to Conquer". We shall spend Lent looking at some of the issues that have been created by these "hijackers" in their attempt to define the expression of Christianity in America.

- 2/21: Framing the Issue
- 2/28: Evolution & Christian Faith
- 3/7: Stem Cells & Life
- 3/14: What IS Pro-Life?
- 3/21: What Sexuality is anti-Biblical?
- 3/28: The IRD & The Politicization of the Church

No book is required. However, Wakefield's book would prepare you for the class discussions. It is available at book stores or on-line.

The Hijacking of Jesus by Dan Wakefield, ©2006, Nation Books, New York, NY

MICHAEL GALLAGHER NAMED PARISH VERGER

Canon Newman has named Michael Gallagher to hold a newly created position of Parish Verger. He will be commissioned at the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, Feb. 18.

A verger is a committed lay minister within the Church who assists the clergy in the conduct of public worship, especially in the marshalling of processions. Vergers can be full-time or part-time, paid or volunteer. Their duties can be purely ceremonial or include other responsibilities, such as parish administration, leadership of the worship committee or sexton.

A brief history of Vergers

The office of verger has its roots in the earliest days of the Church's history. It shares certain similarities with the former minor orders of porter and acolyte. Generally speaking, vergers were responsible for the order and upkeep of the house of worship, including preparations for the liturgy, the conduct of the laity, and grave-digging. Although there is no definitive historical survey of the office of verger, evidence from Rochester, Lincoln, Exeter, & Salisbury Cathedrals indicates the existence of vergers as far back as the 16th century.

Vergers Today

The contemporary office of verger is experiencing a rapid expansion within the Episcopal Church. Differing from the church of England, where vergers are often full-time paid employees of the Church, American vergers are more often than not volunteers with a special calling to the ordering and conduct of the Church's liturgy. Clergy throughout the Church have come to appreciate the ministry of vergers within their congregations. Vergers can relieve the clergy of the burden of liturgical detail so that they can concentrate on their priestly duties to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments. No longer found primarily in cathedrals and large parishes, vergers are as asset to any worshipping community. It is said there is a verger in every congregation -- whether one has been identified as such or not. In the words of Michael Carrigan, Master-in-Chapel Brambletye School, Sussex, UK (as quoted from *The Vergers Voice*, "The best description I

Inside this issue:

Rector's Notes	2
Vital Statistics	2
Feb. Birthdays, etc.	2
Directory Updates	3
February Lessons	3
Pilgrimage to Turkey	3
Contact Information	4
Class & Service Schedule	4
Staff/Vestry Directory	4

THIS MONTH

Rector's Column

Feb. Birthdays &

Anniversaries

Turkey & Greece '07

Lenten Study

Michael: a Verger!

2nd Century Plans

CANON JIM'S JOTTINGS

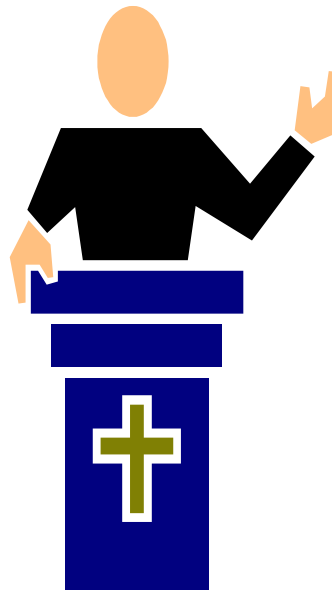
Thank you to everyone who made the 41st Annual Meeting a great success. We thank retiring Vestry members Annette Graw, Michael Gallagher & Phyllis Morrison and congratulate those who have been elected to replace them, Tom Elliott, Mike Mullins, Dean Pace & Don Shaw and Kathy Hartley (re-elected). Joelle Underwood and Mike Olsen have agreed to serve as Clerk and Treasurer until they move later in the year.

Thank you to all who brought food are helped both set up and clean up. We seem to be a parish who knows how to throw a "good spread".

Finally thank you to all who attended. The Episcopal Church is a representative democracy and members have a say in who is on the Vestry, who represents them at the Diocesan level and what the policies of the parish are (working, of course, within the guidelines of the Diocese of Los Angeles and the Episcopal Church).

+++++

As you read this column, I am in Hawaii escaping the freezing pipes & the snow and ice of So. California (it is strange to write that — it sounds like I am back in Minnesota). I am involved in some work (leading a workshop on marital & pre-marital counseling), a retreat for clergy



studying the lessons for the Sundays from Easter Day through Trinity Sunday), and some vacation (visiting friends on Oahu & Molokai, my sister on Kauai, and the volcano on the Big Island to see what it has done in the decade or so since I was last there). I will be back in the office on Tuesday, Feb. 13.

+++++

The **Neighborhood Youth Association** will hold their annual **Scholarship Dinner** on Friday, March 2 at the Riviera Country Club. We have a long relationship with the NYA and sponsor two scholarships

— one in memory of Bonnie Dawson & one in thanksgiving for the ministry of Ruth Nicastro).

This year, also, one of our parishioners — **Ina Klem** — will be honored for her long-time volunteer work at the agency. I hope that you will seriously consider buying a place at the **"St. Bede's Table(s)"** at the dinner. Information will be out soon.

The Neighborhood Youth Association is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. All of the moneys made by the Sisters of Bede Venue Events and the Party of Parties is going to the NYA this year.

+++++

Our **El Salvador** project ended with the final check for just over \$3,600 going to **Cristosal** (another Episcopal agency) which is working to build community centers in Eastern El Salvador. I am thankful that we have been able to participate in this outreach to the people of El Salvador working through Episcopal Relief & Development, the Anglican Diocese of El Salvador and Cristosal.

Canon Jim Newman+
Rector

VITAL STATISTICS

Please Pray for:

Fr. Giles, Tina, John, Lois, Eugenia, Dulcie, Janet, Diane, Nabila, Harriet, Fr. John, Fr. Howard, Daniel, Joe, Wes, Kim, Ina, Frances, Peggy, Jeff, Sandy, Kelly, Dan, Ergun, Don, Caleb, Dennis

Visitors to the Parish:

Justin Castro, Christine Leahy, Lyn Knipp, Danny David, Lucy Goodman, Gay Tourner, Maria Abondolo

February Birthdays:

02/02	Jim Kelley
02/03	Devon Jackson
02/12	Jackson Butts
02/14	Frances Knight
02/18	Nancy Mills
02/22	Denise Daclan
02/24	Marian Leng
02/29	Charles Raef

2007 PILGRIMAGE w/BISHOP & RECTOR

The trip to Greece & Turkey is accepting only stand-by reservations. Persons interested in gaining a space on the trip may submit a reservation along with a check for \$300. Should a space not open, the money will be refunded in full.

HEALING & RENEWAL SERVICE

Michael Gallagher is coordinating a new ministry at St. Bede's. On the first Sunday of each month, Michael will lead a service directed to the 12-Step Community. Entitled, "Sought Through Prayer and Meditation", it is a "service of Recovery, Healing & Renewal". It will be held in Luther Hall — the Parish Hall — beginning at 7 p.m. For more information, talk to Michael or call him at 310-403-2408.

SISTERS OF BEDE VENUES

Many events have space and one may sign up by talking either to the host of the event or Samira Tamer. Please see the SoB board in the Parish Hall.

SECOND CENTURY FUND

2007 Wish List:

- ***a new sign for the corner of Grandview & Charnock
(THIS HAS BEEN PLEDGED)
- ***Columbarium
(THIS IS BEING PLANNED
& WILL BE FUNDED BY SUBSCRIPTION)
- ***new storage building
- ***new furnaces & office air-conditioning
- ***Repainting of the outside of the Church
- ***grand piano

CORRECTIONS TO DIRECTORY

The Annual Report along with an updated parish directory was distributed on Sunday, January 21. You may pick up a copy from the office. Please see Michael Gallagher.

VERGER *(continued from p. 1)*

know of a verger's role is that of a Parson's Butler. As the butler runs the house of his Master, so the verger runs the House of God."

A Prayer for Vergers and the VGEC

Almighty God, you equipped your prophet Moses and Aaron his brother with swords to guard and guide your chosen people to the Promised Land: Pour down Your blessing, we pray, upon the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church and all vergers. Grant them grace to honor the trust of those whom they serve, strength to faithfully and reverently perform the duties of their office, and a fervent love and devotion to the worship of your Holy and Undivided Trinity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(The material in this article was adapted from the website of The Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church—www.vergers.org)

FEBRUARY LESSONS

SUNDAYS

- Feb. 4 — **Epiphany 5 (AH)**: Isaiah 6.1-8(9-13); Ps. 138; 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Luke 5.1-11
- Feb. 11 — **Epiphany 6 (MO)**: Jeremiah 17.5-10; Ps. 1; 1 Corinthians 15.12-20; Luke 6.17-26
- Feb. 18 — **Last Epiphany (JN)**: Exodus 34.29-35; Ps. 99; 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2; Luke 9.28-36 (37-43)
- Feb. 25 — **Lent 1 (JN)**: Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Ps. 91.1-2,9-16; Romans 10.8b-13; Luke 4.1-13

WEEKDAYS

- 2/7 — **feria (AH)**: Genesis 2.4b-9,15-17; Ps. 104.25,28-31; Mark 7.14-23
- 2/14 — **Cyril & Methodius (JN)**: Ephesians 3.1-7; Ps.96.1-7; Mark 16.15-20
- 2/21 — **ASH WEDNESDAY (JN)**: Joel 2.1-2,12-17 or Isaiah 58.1-12; Ps. 103.8-14; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10; Matthew 6.1-6,16-21
- 2/28 — **Ember Wednesday (JN)**: 1 Samuel 3.1-10; Ps. 63.1-8; Ephesians 4.11-16; Matthew 9.35-38

ST. BEDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE PARISH OF MAR VISTA, VENICE, OCEAN PARK & PLAYA VISTA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

3590 Grand View Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90066

Phone: 310-391-5522 or 888-802-6722

Fax: 310-391-8113

Parish Hall Telephone: 310-391-9316

Rector's Phone: 310-569-1575

We're on the Web!
www.stbedesla.org
Hear Sunday's Sermon!

SERVICES & CLASSES

SUNDAYS: 8 am, Holy Eucharist (no music)
10 am, Church School & Nursery
10 am, Holy Eucharist (w/choir)
6 pm, Evensong or Evening Prayer

TUESDAYS 10 am, Morning Prayer & Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS: 7 pm, Holy Eucharist & Healing
7:45 pm, Adult Class

TUESDAY BREAKFAST & BIBLE

Hosts:

2/06 J. Young, R. Miller 2/13 N. Holly, M. Leng
2/20 J. Fox, H. Haddad 2/27 J. Newman, R. Jayne

WEDNESDAY EVENING FORUM:

Great Figures of the Old Testament

2/7: Job; 2/14: Jonah

2/21: Ash Wednesday

Lenten Series: The Hijacking of Jesus

2/21: Framing the Issue

2/28: Evolution & Christian Faith

3/7: Stem Cells & Life

3/14: What IS Pro-Life?

3/21: What Sexuality is anti-Biblical?

3/28: The IRD & the Politicization of the Church

ST. BEDE'S VESTRY & STAFF

RECTOR: The Very Rev. Canon James Newman

ASSOCIATE: The Rev. Argola Haynes

ASSISTING CLERGY: the Revs. Giles Asbury & John Hancock

INTERNS: Giovan King & Mike Olsen

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Frank Basile

VERGER: Michael Gallagher

FACILITIES MANAGER: Tom Ledsam

VESTRY

Jerry Hornof ('08) — Senior Warden Reed Wilson ('08) — Junior Warden

Tom Elliott ('09) Kathy Hartley ('09)

Liz Mohler ('08) Michael Mullins ('09)

Dean Pace ('09) Don Shaw ('08)

Alice Short ('08)

Joelle Underwood — Clerk Mike Olsen—Treasurer

Jennine Townsend — Financial Secretary

DELEGATES/ALTERNATES TO CONVENTION

Frank Basile (D)/Michael Mullins (A) - ('08)

Annette Graw (D)/Kyle Ferstead (A) - ('09)