

THE QUILL

Volume 21, Issue 5
Pentecost 2 (Summer), 2008

Canon Newman Announces 2010 Pilgrimage

Imagine a promise kept for almost four centuries! In 1633, the Black Plague was sweeping across Europe. The devout people of Oberammergau pledged that if God would spare them, they would present a day-long play depicting the last week in Jesus' life. They have presented a passion play every decade since their salvation. It now takes place on a magnificent open-air stage with a covered auditorium that seats 4,700 people.

The 2010 Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany, is the centerpiece of a twelve-day trip to the heart of Europe. Departing Los Angeles on August 24, the trip goes to Berlin, Dresden, Munich, Neuschwanstein, Heidelberg & the Rhine Valley (Germany), Prague (Czech Republic), Lake Lucerne & the Swiss Alps (Switzerland). These are lands touched by the reformations of the 17th century which have shaped our faith and life. Berlin, once a symbol of division, now sparkles as it is finally rebuilt from the ashes of World War 2 and the years of division by the Berlin Wall.

The cost for this trip is \$4,299 from Los Angeles. Brochures are available in the Narthex or on the website (www.stbedesla.org).

Summer Means— St. Bede's Vacation Bible School!

Join us for worship and activities as we discover more about God's Good Creation!

Sunday, July 13: Worship and "Brunch" in the park. Collage-Making with nature's treasures.
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 20: Worship and Music Making at St. Bede's. Learn new songs, play instruments, and move to the music!
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 27: Trip to the Petting Zoo at the Los Angeles Zoo. Worship and Brown Bag Lunch.
Car pool from St. Bede's at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 3: Trip to the Cabrillo Aquarium in San Pedro. Worship and Lunch will follow at Deacon Vicki Mouradian's house.
Car pool from St. Bede's at 9:00 a.m.

Parents and friends are welcome! Details of Vacation Bible School are posted in Luther Hall along with Registration Slips. Questions? Call Deacon Vicki at (310) 625-7364.



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THIS MONTH

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CANON JIM'S JOTTINGS

When marriage equality took effect in California in mid-June, I was asked what we would do here at St. Bede's. On one hand that is easy to answer, and on another it is not. The easy answer is that we will continue to bless the commitments made by any two people who come to us seeking the Church's blessing. This is done after preparation and prayer. That has been the policy of the Vestry for several years and I see no reason to stop at this time. We have never had a rush of people to "get to the altar" and I do not foresee a great change with the actions of the Supreme Court.

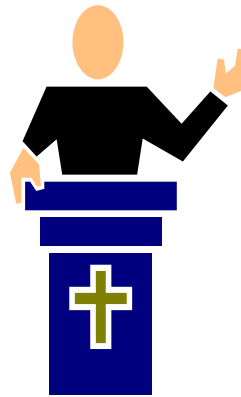
At the same time, this is difficult to answer for several reasons. As I have said before, marriage is both a legal term and an ecclesial term. While we have blessed people's relationships in the past, we have not performed same-gender marriages. Until June 16, these were not legal in California. However, the ecclesial act is defined both in the Canons of the Church and in the Book of Common Prayer. Neither the Canons nor the BCP knew that marriage would be legally redefined at the beginning of the 21st centuries in new and more inclusive ways. Not only do Massachusetts and California allow the marriage of two people of the same gender, but several countries (Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa and Spain) have done the same. In some places, clergy may perform these rites. To my knowledge, no one has said that anyone must act against their conscience.

I have heard that resolutions will be presented to the 2009 General Convention of the Church to amend the marriage canons to allow clergy to perform both the legal and ecclesial rites for couples. However, as I read it the present language of the Canons and the BCP do not allow us to perform the legal part of same-gender marriages. I agree with Marc Andrus, the Bishop of California (San Francisco), that clergy may bless civil marriages, that is, marriages performed by an officer of the court or the county. Indeed, our Prayer Book even has a rite for that sort of occasion ("The Blessing of a Civil Marriage", BCP pp. 433-434).

Accordingly, beginning immediately and continuing until the Episcopal Church revises its Canons or makes other provision, the Clergy at St. Bede's will use the same form for all couples seeking the blessing of the Church on their marriage. That is, we will require them to be legally joined by the state and then come to the Church for a blessing of their relationship. In many ways, that will look like a regular marriage service. I am not trying to make it harder to "get married", but I think that my decision will do two things -- treat every couple equally and get the church out of the "marrying" business and back into the "blessing business."

Later this year, I will provide a time for people to talk about this policy.

On the line of topics that spark discussion, I am hoping that we can schedule "the other Monday" for items of interest and



discussion...films that may provoke a discussion after or the next month. I have several that I have been holding that are not long enough for a Wednesday Forum series, but are worth watching and discussing. I will report more on this in the Pentecost 3 issue of the *Quill*.

This is a time of great change. Golie retired from the staff. Mike and Sandi have completed seminary and will be starting at St. Cross in August. Amy completed her time with us and is back to her studies leading toward ordination next June. Vicki has joined the staff and is challenging us with programs and events. I feel that the first half of the year has just slipped away. I have had the opportunity to engage in several times away for both personal study and parish-related congregational growth (January-Hawaii; April-Vancouver and Richmond). I am thankful that Fr. Jason and (now) Deacon Vicki have been here to keep an even keel. Jason will be with us twice in September and possibly once in October. I am thankful that his schedule would allow him to be available to be the "designated hitter" this year. I am also looking forward to Vicki's ordination to the priesthood in early January next year.

In order to make us more available, the weekly bulletin now lists the cell phone numbers for both Vicki and me. Please feel free to call either number if you need to get in touch with us. The Sunday bulletin also lists when we expect to be available in/around the office during the week. The current gas crisis is causing us to re-think the days that the office is open. This summer, the office will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I am available on Mondays and Vicki is available on Fridays in case of emergencies.

We continue to be thankful for the help provided by Bob Casillas (on Tuesday mornings) and Joyce Matlack (on Thursday mornings) in the office. Several years ago, Janet Fox challenged us to have a smiling face at the church to greet people in the mornings Monday through Friday. We have that ...a bit. You never know when someone will come to the door looking for a member of the clergy or just wanting a place to sit and meditate. Please consider volunteering for Monday or Wednesday or Friday!!

The summer is a time of planning. The Vestry, Staff, Vicki & I are hard at work to make the 2008-09 program year one that will be memorable. We need your help and input. Whether in Christian education, youth activities, parish grounds, music, hospitality, or filing...this is your Church.

In Christ,

Jim Newman+

Christian Ways to Reduce Stress

1. Pray
2. Go to bed on time.
3. Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed.
4. Say No to projects that won't fit into your time schedule, or that will compromise your mental health.
5. Delegate tasks to capable others.
6. Simplify and unclutter your life.
7. Less is more. (Although one is often not enough, two are often too many.)
8. Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
9. Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time; don't lump the hard things all together.
10. Take one day at a time.
11. Separate worries from concerns . If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do and let go of the anxiety . If you can't do anything about a situation, forget it.
12. Live within your budget; don't use credit cards for ordinary purchases.
13. Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps, etc.
14. K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut). This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.
15. Do something for the Kid in You everyday.
16. Carry a Bible with you to read while waiting in line.
17. Get enough rest.
18. Eat right.
- 19 Get organized so everything has its place.
20. Listen to a tape while driving that can help improve your quality of life.
21. Write down thoughts and inspirations.
22. Every day, find time to be alone.
23. Having problems? Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud. Don't wait until it's time to go to bed to try to pray.
24. Make friends with Godly people.
25. Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand.
26. Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good "Thank you Jesus."
27. Laugh.
28. Laugh some more!
29. Take your work seriously, but not yourself at all.
30. Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can).
31. Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most).
32. Sit on your ego.
33. Talk less; listen more.
34. Slow down.
35. Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.
- 36 ... Every night before bed, think of one thing you're grateful for that you've never been grateful for before. GOD HAS A WAY OF TURNING THINGS AROUND FOR YOU.

"If God is for us, who can be against us?"
(Romans 8:31)

Episcopalians Are Invited to Join Lambeth Bishops in "Virtual March for MDGs"

As part of the Lambeth Conference, convening in Canterbury, England, July 16 - August 3, bishops of the Anglican Communion and their spouses will walk through the city of London to demonstrate support for the Millennium Development Goals, which have also been adopted as a mission priority for the Episcopal Church.

Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation and the Episcopal Public Policy Network have announced a "Virtual March for the MDGs" that will allow individual Episcopalians and congregations to join the bishops and spouses in their witness, through prayer and advocacy actions that day and on the preceding and following Sundays.

Congregations and individuals who register for the Virtual March will receive an email on July 24 that will include a link to an MDG-related advocacy action. The precise action will be decided in the coming weeks. EPPN will choose the most effective action based on the status of various pieces of anti-poverty legislation before Congress.

For more information, go to <http://www.e4gr.org/>.

Out and About

by Deacon Vicki Mouradian

Sound of Music Sing Along - The tickets for this event at the Hollywood Bowl on Friday, September 19 must be confirmed during the month of July. I will post your names and quantity of tickets you have requested in Luther Hall. Please check your name and number of tickets. If you still wish to go, please place a note in my box in the office, along with your check, payable to St. Bede's - memo Sisters of Bede, for \$26.00 per person. I ordered 78 tickets, and at this point, 75 are spoken for. If you need more tickets, I will wait-list you if the remaining three are sold. If we need quite a few more tickets, I will try to arrange for an additional block of seats. We also have a confirmed picnic area where we will gather for dinner (bring a picnic and beverage) and our own costume contest (judged by the Sisters of Bede). If you do not feel in the mood to "dress" for the event, please know that everyday attire is perfectly fine! Those of you who are inspired to come a la Sound of Music, can look forward to competing in three categories: Overall Most Original, Best Impersonation of a Movie Character, and Best Interpretation of a Word or Phrase from a Song. There will be two divisions of awards: Adults and Children.

The Hollywood Bowl has scheduled this event for 6:00 p.m. but that is for the pre-show parade and not the movie. The film will probably begin around 8:00 p.m. and I will confirm that time at a later date (as well as the exact location of our picnic site). We will gather in our picnic area between 5:30-6:00 p.m.; to meet any earlier would prove difficult for many who work on Fridays. Also, those who wish to take Park and Ride, which I strongly encourage, will arrive at times designated by the bus schedules. If you wish not to linger in our picnic area to see more of the pre-show, please feel free to go to your seats at any time. It has been my experience that the earlier part of the pre-show is sparsely attended because people are picnicking throughout the grounds. I will keep you informed of more details as I learn of them. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me on my cell (310) 548-6285. Also, I would suggest that you visit the Hollywood Bowl Web Site or other related sites for the Sound of Music Sing Along at the Hollywood Bowl for articles pertaining to past events.

Stay tuned!

Natural Church Development Update

Our committee of Nancy Mills, Amy Cox, Liz Mohler, Michael Gallagher (with help from Fr. Newman and Fr. Brian Jones) presented to 6 different groups comprising more than 100 parishioners at St. Bedes.

"Loving Relationships" and "Functional Structures" were our highest results from the NCD survey completed at the end of 2006. "Passionate Spirituality" was our lowest quality characteristic.

We presented the results of the survey on Natural Church Development and then asked for feedback specifically on the following three questions.

What does "Passionate Spirituality" mean to you?

Why do you think this is our lowest score?

How and where do you find "Passionate Spirituality" at St. Bedes?

Our NCD committee presented these findings to the Vestry:

1) What does it mean?

Music 4 out of 6 groups identified this theme

Loving relationships 5 of 6

Welcoming community 5 of 6

Relationship w/God 5 of 6

Internal feeling 6 of 6

Expressions and actions of others 4 of 6

2) Why so low?

Episcopal culture 4 of 6

Not evangelical/Pentecostal 4 of 6

Hesitant to express 4 of 6

Allowing distractions from our spirituality 4 of 6

Resistance and disbelief to the idea that Passionate Spirituality is important 4 of 6

3) How / Where?

Music

Worship

Silence

Community

Prayer

Nature

Service /Ministry

Study /learning

As a result of these findings, we have come up with the following recommendations:

- 1) Form committees to further discuss emphasizing Passionate Spirituality in already existing programs (e.g., music, prayer groups, etc.)
- 2) Bring an awareness of the need for Passionate Spirituality into already strong characteristics of our current strengths, such as loving relationships, functional structures, small groups (e.g., SOB, BOB, St. John's Guild, the church school)
- 3) Organize a parish retreat or community day, or organize work days with themes or learning/prayer opportunities. Organize a camp retreat with children
- 4) Conduct another written needs assessment with the current congregation. Ask what are their spiritual needs, and what are spiritual practices/beliefs/resources that they can contribute. The latter can be done by revising the "Time and Talent" card. This is another way to reach new members and those who were not involved in the NCD program.
- 5) Form a program committee to address these and other issues as they come up.

Sign Up NOW! Sisters of Bede Mystery Dinner Theater! August 9, 2008!

JOIN US FOR A FABULOUS EVENING OF DINNER AND THEATER STARRING OUR OWN FRANK BASILE AND THE MYSTERIES EN BROCHETTE CAST!

THIS IS A BRAND NEW SHOW--

“Jumpin’ Jivin’ – Who’s Survivin’?”

1947 - Welcome to Atlantic City to preview the next family of Musical Stars! Alma Rumford has just won "1st runner-up" in the Miss America Contest. She and her family hope to make the most of it! With the popularity of the Andrews Sisters, Mills Brothers and The Lawrence Welk family, the Rumfords are bound to be a hit! Join this family who invented dysfunction, as they make a climb to the top (with your help), and see who might not make it all the way! Another evening of Comedy, Craziiness, Great 40's Music and Mystery from the company that leads the way to an evening of fun-filled , top notch entertainment!

DINNER, THEATER, AND LOTS OF FUN!

TICKET ARE \$80 PER PERSON AND \$20 OF THAT
COMES BACK
TO THE SISTERS OF BEDE!

THE SHOW IS AT THE FABULOUS MARINA DEL REY
HOTEL
13534 BALI WAY MARINA DEL REY

ACT ONE

HOR'S D'OEUVERE
WARM ARTICHOKE AND SPINACH DIP
DOMESTIC AND IMPORTED CHEESE WITH GOURMET
BREADS/CRACKERS

ACT TWO

MIXED BABY GREENS TOPPED WITH GOAT CHEESE
AND RAISINS

BALSAMIC AND RANCH DRESSINGS ON THE SIDE

ACT THREE

(SELECT ONE)

GRILLED SALMON SERVED WITH CITRUS RICE PILAF
AND CHEF'S SEASONAL VEGETABLES

OR

C'OQ AU VIN

GRILLED BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST WITH WINE
AND MUSHROOM SAUCE
SERVED WITH RED ROASTED ROSEMARY POTATOES
AND VEGETABLES

OR

MEDITERRANEAN PENNE PASTA TOSSED IN A
LIGHT TOMATOR
SAUCE WITH ARTICHOCK HEARTS, ASPARAGUS TIPS,
MUSHROOMS & KALAMATA OLIVES AND SPRINKELD
WITH ROMANO CHEESE

FINALE

RASPBERRY MARQUIS
CHOCOLATE MOUSE CAKE WITH RASPBERRY FILL-
ING
OR FRESH FRUIT PLATTER

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY
THE THIRD WEEK OF JULY!
CALL ANNETTE GRAW
(310) 729-0942**

THEN SEND OR BRING YOU CHECK TO CHURCH
AND PUT IN HER BOX IN THE OFFICE
PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR ENTRÉES AND PUT THAT IN
WITH YOUR CHECK

WE WANT TO FILL THE THEATER AND WE CAN!

MURIOL MINOT HAS GRACIOUSLY ALLOWED US TO
MAKE THIS SPECIAL NIGHT A MONEY MAKING
EVENT FOR ST. BEDE'S!



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

Rector's Pager: 310-569-1575

Curate's Cell: 310-625-7364

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
JULY & AUGUST, 2008 - No Classes**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING FORUM:
AUGUST, 2008— No Classes**

Sept: "The Church's Teaching Series-10: Christian Social Witness"

3: no class
10: The Bible
17: The Church of England

24: The Episcopal Church
Oct. 1: Economic Justice
8: Race
15: Gender
22: Human Sexuality

"THE OTHER MONDAY"

Sept. 8: Follow-up on Lambeth...what happened?

Oct. 13: no meeting (Clergy Conference)

BOOKWORMS OF BEDE

August 18: Fiction
Sept. 15: Great Works
Oct. 20: Mystery

***ST. BEDE'S
VESTRY & STAFF***

RECTOR: The Very Rev. Canon James Newman

ASSISTANT, CHRISTIAN FORMATION: the Rev. Victoria Mouradian, Curate

ASSISTING CLERGY: the Revs. Giles Asbury, Jason Cox, & John Hancock

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Frank Basile

VERGER: Michael Gallagher **HEAD SACRISTAN:** Jeannette Young

FACILITIES MANAGER: Tom Ledsam

VESTRY

Reed Wilson ('10) — Senior Warden Liz Mohler ('10) — Junior Warden

Rea Crane ('10) Tom Elliott ('09)

Akani Fletcher ('10) Kathy Hartley ('09)

Michael Mullins ('09)

Dean Pace ('09) Alice Short ('10)

Annette Graw — Clerk Laird Hegamin — Treasurer

Jennine Townsend — Financial Secretary

DELEGATES/ALTERNATES TO CONVENTION

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

Michael Mullins (A)/ Jerry Hornof (A) - ('10)