



DIOCESAN DIGEST

for Central Pennsylvania

February 28, 2011

FROM THE DESK OF..... BISHOP NATHAN BAXTER

Dear Sisters & Brothers;

As I write to you I am preparing to leave for several days of retreat at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY. As bishop it seems much more difficult for me to make time for spiritual renewal than previously when in either priest or lay orders. Perhaps it is the demand of travel around our 24 counties and the liturgies, councils and other necessary events of our common life. My calling as a bishop is to be a spiritual link and witness of unity to and for all the congregations and clergy of our diocese. My principal duty is to be a sign of unity, a spiritual presence whether in visitations, regional or diocesan gatherings. I try to be that presence in the ministries unique to a bishop: leading liturgies of renewal (such as confirming/receiving new members, reaffirming our Baptismal Covenant); ordaining new clergy; leading us in decision-making councils and mission discernment; celebrating new ministries; and proclaiming the Gospel. More than physical or emotional energy these and other duties require spiritual: a strength so easily depleted in the fast pace of doing that which I love.

I am very cognizant and grateful for the prayers of our diocesan family for me. There are many times when I know that my spiritual strength is only being sustained by many people around the diocese who pray for me in the Prayers of the People and in their private prayers. But I too have an obligation for spiritual care of my soul. I must do as did Our Lord, who is remembered so often in the scriptures for turning aside "to a lonely place" to be alone with God. I have often found retreat centers to be wonderful places for "turning aside".

One of the rich resources of our Catholic heritage as Anglicans is our continued monastic tradition. The first Episcopal order for men in the United States was the Order of the Holy Cross, founded in 1884, which follows the ancient Benedictine discipline of life. Many Episcopalians make formal commitment to monasteries and convents to live in unity with them through daily prayer and annual retreats. We make annual reports of our spiritual life and support the ministry of the Order. I have been an Associate of the Holy Cross since 1977. Admittedly, I am often delinquent. But the monks always welcome me, "a prodigal son", with gracious and open arms. I look forward to seeing them.

The word *monk* originated from the Greek word "*monos*", which means *alone*. So I am off to be with those whose ministry to me is "how to be alone with God in the midst of community". Please keep me in your prayers that in all my "doing" I may most "be" the soul God wishes me to be among you.

Peace & Grace,

+Nathan

MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 11937
Harrisburg, PA 17108

DIOCESAN CENTER
101 Pine Street
Harrisburg, PA

TELEPHONE
(717) 236-5959
FAX
(717) 236-6448

**TOLL FREE IN
STATE OF PA**
1-888-236-5959

WEBSITE
www.diocesecpa.org

EMAIL
officemailbox@diocesecpa.org

UPCOMING EVENTS... March - May

- Mar 3** 7pm Eucharistic Visitor Training, St. Edward's Lancaster
- Mar 5** 10am-2pm Safeguarding God's Children Training, St. James, Mansfield (see p. 2 for details)
- Mar 6** Bishop visits St. Mark's, Northumberland
- Mar 9** Ash Wednesday
- Mar 13** Bishop visits St. Andrew's, Shippensburg
- Mar 17** 7pm Celebration of New Ministry and Installation of The Rev. Chris Pyles, St. John's, Bellefonte
- Mar 18** Bishop to attend LARC bishops' luncheon
- Mar 19-20** Bishop visits Good Shepherd, Hawk Run & St. Paul's, Philipsburg
- Mar 23** Archdeacon Solbak at Bangor Church, Churchtown for presentation on Diaconate
- Mar 24-31** Bishop to attend House of Bishops
- Apr 1** Deadline for Nominations by Petition
- Apr 3** Bp. Creighton visits All Saints, Hanover
- Apr 3** Bp. Baxter visits St. Thomas, Lancaster
- Apr 6** Celebration of New Ministry and Installation of The Rev. Stephen Swift, St. Benedict's, New Freedom (So. York Co.)
- Apr 7** Council of Trustees Meeting
- Apr 10** Bishop visits St. Paul's, Wellsboro
- Apr 14** 9am Commission on Ministry & Standing Committee meeting (location to be confirmed)
- Apr 16** Warden & Vestry Leaders Conference
- Apr 17** Palm Sunday - Bishop at Trinity Pro Cathedral, Wport
- Apr 19** Renewal of Ordination Vows & Clergy&Spouse Lunch
- Apr 24** Easter Sunday - Bishop at St. Stephen's Cathedral
- Apr 21—Apr 25** Diocesan Office closed for Easter Break
- May 1** Bishop visits St. John's, Carlisle
- May 3** Spring Convocation meeting—Lancaster & Southern
- May 5** Spring Convocation meeting—West Branch & N. Tier
- May 8** Bishop visits St. Mary's, Waynesboro
- May 10** Spring Convocation meeting—Susquehanna & Altoona
- May 12** Spring Convocation meeting—Harrisburg
- May 15** Bishop visits St. John's, Lancaster
- May 18** 7pm Celebration of New Ministry & Installation of The Rev. Duncan Johnston, Mt. Calvary, Camp Hill
- May 22** Bishop visits St. Luke's, Mechanicsburg
- May 29** Bishop visits Trinity, Renovo
- May 30** Diocesan Office closed for Memorial Day

If you have an event of interest to the Diocese that you would like to have listed on the Diocesan website calendar, please contact the Diocese at officemailbox@diocesecpa.org or 888-236-5959

Call to Convention Exhibitors

All persons, organizations, churches, or programs interested in exhibiting at Diocesan Convention June 10th and 11th please contact Pam Ballinger, Exhibits Coordinator, at the Diocesan Office. Pam is available Monday to Thursday afternoons and Friday morning at 888-236-5959 or at officemailbox@diocesecpa.org.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

The Rev. Jack Hoffer, Deacon, who had knee replacement surgery at Nittany Medical Center Monday. He is doing well and hopes to go home in the next day or two.

The Rev. Jane Miron, Deacon, who is home recovering from recent eye surgery.

The Rev. Ron Lynch, retired of Lewistown, who is at home recovering from injuries received in a fall.

Fr. Eduardo Guerra, Associate Priest at Christ Church Williamsport, who is recovering from hip surgery. In addition he is undergoing dialysis three times a week.

Sandi Imboden, as she continues cancer treatments.

The Rev. Tom Gregg, father of The Rev. Rowena Gibbons and a retired Episcopal priest, who has brain cancer.

Maddie Letsche, Acolyte at St. Luke's, Altoona, who continues treatment and physical therapy for Image Negative Transverse Myelitis.

The Rev. Erica Wood, Retired Rector of St. Luke's, Mt. Joy, as she continues cancer treatment.

Bob Rose, who continues his cancer battle.

Episcopal Church Women CAMP HEBRON LENTEN RETREAT

30th Year Celebration

March 30, 21 & April 1, 2011

Lenten Indulgence:

The Creative Ways of God

Registration: \$150.00

Includes 2 nights lodging, 6 meals, speaker costs & other expenses

Non-refundable deposit of \$75 required upon registration

Deadline for final payment: March 18, 2011

Make checks payable to:

"Diocese of Central PA ECW"

Mail, together with registration to:

Mrs. Dodie Houser

1806 Valley View Ave., Lewistown, PA 17044

For more information call: 717-248-9866

(registration flyer is attached with this Digest

and available at www.diocesecpa.org



ERD Appeal for New Zealand

Please pray for our brothers & sisters in New Zealand.

Although the destruction and death in Christchurch has received most of the publicity, the recent earthquake was much more widespread than that. Our Episcopal Relief and Development is sending assistance and needs our financial support. Please announce in your parishes that donations may be made through our diocese by sending your check, made out to the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and noting "New Zealand Earthquake - ERD" in the memo line. Mail your checks to PO Box 11937, Harrisburg, PA 17108.

LENTEN MEDITATIONS ONLINE

During Lent, six Lenten Meditation podcasts will be presented on our website at www.diocesecpa.org.

March 7 Lent: A Time of Discipline & Grace

The Rt. Rev. Nathan Baxter

March 10 Body in Prayer

The Rev Cn. Ken Wagner-Pizza

March 17 Gospel Discipleship

The Rev Cn. David Lovelace

March 24 Thanksgiving: Your Lenten Reflection

The Rev Cn. Greg Hinton

March 31 Peregrinus - Journeying through Lent

The Rev. Cn. Stephen Casey

April 7 Go Ahead - Take a Chance

The Rev. Cn. Marjorie Menaul

BISHOP'S OPEN

Mark your calendars for **Monday, June 13, 2011** to participate in the annual Bishop's Open! All golfers, regardless of ability, are encouraged to play. The tournament will be held at **The Links at Gettysburg**. For more information about the course and amenities see www.TheLinksatGettysburg.com. Additional information regarding entrance fees, format and menu will be provided in upcoming Digests and by emails to parishes.

Tournament Co-Chairs are John M. Stevenson j.stevenson@pa.net and Mark Wivell mark.wivell@lmco.com.

LANCASTER CONVOCATION LENTEN YOUTH EVENTS

Lenten Escape to

Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area

March 6th 1:00pm to 2:30pm

Observe thousands of migrating snow geese

Enjoy over nine miles of trails for

hiking, wildlife observation & photography

Check out the visitors center and

hang out with other families and young people

from the Lancaster Convocation!

Grab your lunch before arriving and

plan on meeting at the visitors center at 1:00pm

RSVP to Pastor Jennifer Looker at

jennifer@stjohns-lancaster.org

Maunder Thursday & Good Friday

St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Hall

321 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster

April 21st

Youth Convocation Lock-In

7:30pm Maunday Thursday Service & Foot-washing

9:00pm Lock-In begins. Includes *agape* feast, a fun,

church-style "Minute to Win-it" and a chance to explore

your faith in a deeper way. Don't forget your sleeping

bag, pillow, toothbrush, toothpaste. And *bring a friend!*

April 22nd 7:00am

Youth Good Friday Service

This special service includes dramatic reading and

miming to portray the passion narrative

RSVP to Mary Ellen Kilp at mekilp@yahoo.com

Flyers with details are posted at

www.diocesecpa.org