



DIOCESAN DIGEST

for Central Pennsylvania

September 26, 2011

FROM THE DESK OF.....

BISHOP NATHAN BAXTER

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ;

I have just returned from the Fall meeting of the House of Bishops. Under separate cover I will provide a brief report of that gathering which was productive and intense. We worked on critical issues of Church mission and structure, issued a Pastoral Teaching on theology of environmental stewardship; built greater understanding of the work and mission in the Latin American Diocese of The Episcopal Church, much of which has direct effect upon life in the USA.

As I return I am catching up on administrative matters, my visitation schedule to parishes, and checking in with our congregations who are still recovering from the effects of the recent earthquake and flooding. As you can see from the calendar, the work of the Diocese continues quite intensely this week through mid October. Then we begin our Convocational meetings in November. I am so very thankful for the leadership and support provided by clergy and lay volunteer officers & leaders of the diocese. Together with Diocesan staff we are making strategic strides towards strengthening our local and regional witness.

I wish to announce that the Rev. Canon Andy France has resigned as Archdeacon for Congregational and Clergy Development, effective the end of October. Canon France came to the diocesan staff 4 years ago following his retirement as rector of Trinity, Williamsport. He came to my staff at a very critical time and I continue to be grateful for his ministry, including continuing as a consultant to staff during the months of transition. His resignation follows the recent resignation of Fr. John Hoover, Senior Consultant for Small Congregations and the Clergy Fresh Start Program. Beginning in November, the Canon to the Ordinary, Father Ted Babcock, will assume oversight for Congregational and Clergy Development. Mr. Bill Graffius will continue in his part-time ministry overseeing Parish Transition Ministry and assisting with congregational development. The Rev. Canon Robyn Szoke will move to full-time, continuing as Canon for Children and Youth Formation but also assisting with congregational development and the Clergy Fresh Start Program.

Your bishop and all members of the staff are deeply committed to supporting and strengthening local parish ministry. We desire to be "Servants of the Servants".

Peace & Grace,

+Nathan

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UPCOMING EVENTS...Sept. – Nov.

- Sep 28** 10am Commission on Ministry and Standing Committee meetings, Nativity, Newport
- Sep 29** 10am-3pm Working with the Deacon in the Parish workshop, All Saints, Selinsgrove.
- Sep 29** 10am Council of Trustees, St. Paul's, Harrisburg
- Oct 2** Bishop visits St. Andrew's, State College
- Oct 2** Bishop visits of St. Francis, University Park
- Oct 8** 10am Episcopal Home, Shippensburg, Board Meeting
- Oct 13-14** BACOM
- Oct 13-16** School of Healing Prayer Level 2, Trinity Williamsport
- Oct 15** 10-2pm Congregational Development Task Group meets at All Saints to hand out application forms for Congregational Development Grants
- Oct 16** Bishop visits St. Luke's, Altoona
- Oct 21-22** Clergy Spouses Retreat, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville
- Oct 23** Bishop visits St. Paul's, Lock Haven
- Oct 24** LARC Day of Dialogue
- Oct 25-26** Bishop at HOB Pastoral Development Committee
- Oct 29** Deacons' Day
- Oct 30** Bishop visits St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg
- Nov 1** Bishop visits Christ Church, Milton
- Nov 2** 7pm Harrisburg Convocation, St. Luke's, Mechanicsburg
- Nov 3** 7pm Susquehanna Convocation, St. Paul's, Bloomsburg
- Nov 5** ECW Annual Meeting, St. Mark's, Lewistown
- Nov 6** Bishop visits St. John, York
- Nov 9** 6pm W. Branch Convocation, All Saints, Williamsport
- Nov 10** 7pm N. Tier Convocation, St. Paul's, Wellsboro
- Nov 15** 7pm Lancaster Convocation, Hope Church, Mt. Hope
- Nov 17** 7pm Southern Convocation, St. Andrew's York
- Nov 20** Bishop visits Holy Trinity, Hollidaysburg & Trinity, Tyrone
- Nov 24-25** Diocesan office closed for Thanksgiving
- Nov 27** Bishop visits Christ Church, Danville
- Nov 30** 7pm Altoona Convocation, St. John's, Bellefonte

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



Checking out flood damage to the foundation of St. Paul's, Manheim.

"The foundation may be cracked, but the spirit is intact!"

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Lois McNulty, mother of Bonnie Chambers (Diocesan UTO Chair), passed away on September 24th, following a lengthy illness. Lois was a long-time member of All Saints, Hershey and a former president of ECW.

Ms. Carol Anne Oldberg, sister of Susan Hinton, who is undergoing treatment for lung cancer.

The Rev. Tom & Dr. DeeAnn Reeder, who are on sabbatical in South Sudan until October. Follow his blog at: www.southsudansabbatical.blogspot.com

Rayelenn Casey continues to recover at home following a car accident.

The Rev. Deacon Barbara Hary, continues doctors' care for heart-related issues.

Thomas Kerr, father of The Rev. Lauri Kerr, continues in care for lung cancer.

The Rev. Tom Gregg, father of The Rev. Rowena Gibbons continues in care for brain cancer.

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

Bob Rose continues his cancer battle.

Important Notice

[The Project Grants application deadline extended](#)
from this Friday, September 30th to October 31st.

Damage caused by recent natural disasters, such as the flood and the earthquake, have created a need in certain parishes for financial help with repair costs and insurance deductibles. The application and process requirements for these grants can be found on the Diocesan website.

Please include as much detail and documented cost estimates as possible in order to facilitate your application processing. *Should you have any questions please contact Bill Graffius at the Diocese at 888-236-5959.*



LARC DAY OF DIALOGUE

**"Hopes, Facts and Fears:
Understanding the
Palestinian-Israeli Conflict"**

Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Bruce Chilton

Rector, Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist,
Barrytown, NY, & Barnard Iddings Bell Professor of Religion
Bard College

Monday, October 24, 2011

Harrisburg Roman Catholic Diocese

4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg

Deadline to Register: October 17, 2011

Cost (Lunch is included):

\$25 for 1 registration from parish

\$22.50 each for 2 registrations from parish

\$20 each for 3 or more registrations from parish

Registration form attached. Send form and fee to:

Deacon Charles Clark, Diocese of Harrisburg

4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111

For questions call Deacon Clark at 717-657-4804 ext. 265

CLERGY SPOUSES RETREAT

Mrs. Mary Ellen Baxter invites all spouses of clergy in our diocese to join her at the annual Clergy Spouse Retreat, to be held on October 21-22 at the Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, PA. The guest speaker will be Professor Frank Stalfa, Professor of Pastoral Theology, Dean of Students, Lancaster Theological Seminary.

Please contact Linda Arguedas at 888-236-5959 or larguedas@diocesecpa.org to let her know whether or not you will be able to attend the retreat.

The Operation Understanding

Commission is now "Skype-able"

The Operation Understanding Commission met on Saturday September 17, 2011 at the Diocesan office in Harrisburg, PA. Led by Commission Co-Chair, Nancy Forgang, the agenda included an overview of the Skype communications program. Training was conducted on how to get started by downloading Skype to your computer; how to add names to your Skype address book; and how to make a Skype contact. Part of the training included a face-to-face Skype call with Fr. Dave Robson from St. Andrew's, York. *Any Commission Chair interested in similar training for their*



Commission members can contact Bill Graffius at the Diocesan office at 888-236-5959.

DIOCESAN DISCIPLINARY BOARD REPORT

The new Disciplinary Board of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania met for its organizational meeting on September 21st at the Diocesan Center. The Disciplinary Board replaces the Ecclesiastical Trial Court, following the major revisions to Title IV of the national church Canons in 2009 by General Convention. Title IV specifies the procedures that are to be followed when allegations of misconduct are brought against a member of the clergy in the church. The new procedures provide a more pastoral and less adversarial approach to clergy discipline than under the former Title IV.

Like the former Trial Court, the Disciplinary Board is comprised of four clergy and three lay members of the diocese. At its meeting in September, the Rev. M. Peter Harer was elected to a one-year term as president of the Disciplinary Board, and Mrs. Jennifer Railing was elected to a similar term as its clerk. Also, Mr. Burke McLemore, Esquire, was appointed to a one-year term as Church Attorney. In addition, Bishop Baxter has appointed three persons to serve as Intake Officers, any one of whom is designated under Title IV to receive initial complaints of clergy misconduct in our diocese. They are: Mr. Penn Glazier, Esquire, of Lancaster; Mr. Harry Snell of York; and The Rev. Janis Yskamp of Mansfield.

If you have news or announcements of diocesan interest to include in the Diocesan Digest, please contact Carolyn Joy Patterson at cpatterson@diocesecpa.org