



DIOCESAN DIGEST

for Central Pennsylvania

November 9, 2010

FROM THE DESK OF.....

BISHOP NATHAN BAXTER

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ;

As part of our ongoing commitment at the Diocesan Center to more effectively use the resources we have, and to utilize the gifts and time of current staff, I have made several changes in staff responsibilities.

Mary Ann Smida will take direct responsibility for all critical resources (fiscal, property, human resource and administration) as Director of Finance and Operations. She will be assisted by expanding the responsibility of existing support staff and the oversight of the Canon to the Ordinary. Mary Ann has extensive career experience in finance and management and I am pleased to appoint her formally to this larger leadership role.

Linda Arguedas will include communications oversight in her responsibilities, working closely with the Commission on Communication. She will become Coordinator for Diocesan Events and Communications. This will include diocesan event communications, parish to parish communications and public relations. In the next weeks the staff and Communications Commission will be completing a strategy to advance our significant technological potential, including further development of our website. Linda's many years as a professional events coordinator will compliment her growth into this expanded responsibility.

William Graffius, currently Diocesan Transition Officer, will expand his duties to include coordinating of staff and commissions for advancing the Strategic Vision work of the diocese. Reporting to the Canon to the Ordinary, he will work closely with the appropriate commissions and the Council of Trustees in collaborative efforts to accomplish our goals. His new title will be Diocesan Transition Officer and Strategic Coordinator.

While I rejoice in the potential of these changes, it has meant ending a professional relationship of many years with David Shively. David has been Communications Consultant, including editor of Tidings, since 2003. Recently he has been the primary liaison with Digital Faith and the move to improve the diocesan website. We are grateful for his contributions during the tenure of Bishop Creighton and Canon Seville, and in the early years of my Episcopacy. However, economically and strategically the need to use our limited resources in the most effective way to undergird overall priorities for the diocesan mission has necessitated this change. I would like to thank David for his long service to the diocese.

Mary Ellen and I had a busy but blessed weekend celebrating the church, both local and on a world-wide scale. We started with a quick trip to Erie Friday and Saturday to celebrate the Centennial of the Diocese of NW PA. My visitation on Sunday morning at St. John's, York was one of rich celebration of confirmation and reception, accompanied by extraordinary musical offerings, including Anglican chant.

(continued at right)

UPCOMING EVENTS...Nov - Jan

Nov 9 6pm Lancaster Convocation Fall meeting
Nov 10 7pm Harrisburg Convocation Fall meeting
Nov 11-14 Bishop preaching at Diocese of No. CA Centennial
Nov 12-14 Happening #4, Christian Retreat Center
Nov 13 9:30 ECW Annual Gathering, Christ Ch. Williamsport
Nov 13 10-2 Sacred Stitches, St. John's, Lancaster
Nov 16 7pm Altoona Convocation Fall meeting
Nov 17 6:30pm Susquehanna Convocation Fall meeting
Nov 20 Bishop at Good Shepherd, Hawk Run Centennial
Nov 21 Bishop visits Christ Church, Williamsport
Nov 21 3pm West Branch Convocation Fall meeting
Nov 25-26 Diocesan Office closed for Thanksgiving
Nov 28 Bishop visits St. Andrew's, York
Nov 30 7pm Northern Tier Convocation Fall meeting
Dec 9 10am Council of Trustees (location to be confirmed)
Dec 9 6:00pm Southern Convocation Christmas Dinner
Dec 5 Bishop visits Prince of Peace, Gettysburg
Dec 12 Bishop visits Nativity, Newport
Dec 17 UTO 2011 Grant applications due at Diocese (see p.2)
Dec 19 Bishop visits St. Paul's, Harrisburg
Dec 24 Diocesan office closed for Christmas
Jan 2 Bishop visits St. John, Marietta
Jan 9 Bishop visits All Saints, Hershey
Jan 10 5:30pm HIV/AIDS Commission mtg., Nativity, Newport
Jan 11-12 Bishop attends mtg of PA bishops at State College
Jan 22 **note new date!** Council of Trustees meeting (budget presentations), All Saints, Selinsgrove (snow date Jan 29th)
Jan 16 Bishop visits St. Mark's, Lewistown
Jan 17 Diocesan Office closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 23 Bishop visits St. Andrew's, Harrisburg
Jan 26 7pm Evensong to celebrate new diocesan staff Canons at St. Stephen's Cathedral
Jan 30 Bishop visits St. James, Muncy & St. James, Exchange

(Bishop's letter continued from left)

From York, we returned to St. Stephen's Cathedral for a Choral Evensong in support of the Trinity School of Music in Port au Prince, Haiti. It too was a time of great celebration, as we lived out the one-ness of our beloved Church.

Please remember your bishop and diocesan staff in your prayers as we continue to seek the best course for the ministry of our diocese.

Peace and Grace,

+Nathan

COMING SOON TO OUR WEBSITE

We are working on a new "Bishop's page", to include news and photos about Bishop Baxter's visits around the Diocese each week. If someone takes pictures when the Bishop visits your parish, please email one or two to us on Monday so we may include it. You can send them to: larguedas@diocesecpa.org. Thanks!

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REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Mrs. Martha Pizza, Mother of The Rev. Cn. Ken Wagner-Pizza, passed away Nov. 9th at 5:30 am.

Mr. Peter Van Deusen, Brother of The Rev. Bob Van Deusen, recently entered hospice care.

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, continues treatment for both thyroid cancer and 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.

DIOCESAN STAFF DIGEST

Canon Ted Babcock is working toward meeting with the rectors of every parish in our diocese. Last week, he met with the Rectors of St. James, Lancaster and Calvary, Beartown/Transfiguration, Blue Ridge Summit. Next week he will spend time in the Northern Tier, visiting with the rectors in that region.

Canon Robyn Szoke has been busy organizing the Happening #4 for senior high youth, which will take place November 12-14. She has also had an opportunity to visit St. Gabriel's, Coles Creek and St. Luke's, Mt. Joy on recent Sundays, as well as conducting consultations regarding youth ministries with several parishes.

Both Ted and Robyn are committed to getting to know the mission and ministry of each of our parishes. If you have any questions, or would like for them to schedule a time in your parish, please don't hesitate to contact them at the Diocesan office.

This month is the time for Fall Convocation meetings (listed at right). Last week several Diocesan office staff attended the Southern Convocation meeting with Bishop Baxter.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL CLERGY

Hopefully by now you have received a card or email from the Office of Transitional Ministry (formerly the CDO). This card will have your new password to access your profile for review or to change your *Portfolio* (formerly Profile). If you have received a new password please contact the TMO using the following web address www.otmportfolio.org. A video link has been established to help you better understand the process should you need additional information. That link is <http://vimeo.com/14483190>.

You may also contact Bill Graffius for more help at 888-236-5959 or wgraffius@diocesepa.org.

"Life in Haiti is hard: it has been hard for a long , long time."

(The Rev. Donald Steele)

Bishop Baxter officiated at the Festival of Choral Evensong hosted by St. Stephen's Cathedral on November 7, 2010. The event was in honor of James Theodore Holly, the first bishop of Haiti and was a fundraiser sponsored by the Diocesan Disaster Relief Commission, raising approximately \$1,200 for the Trinity Episcopal School of Music in Port au Prince, Haiti.

Rev. Donald Steele, pastor of Silver Spring Presbyterian Church in Cumberland County, was the guest preacher. He spoke of the impact of the earthquake in Haiti and the strength the people have to stand firm. "Their spirit is not destroyed, it is alive and well because it is the spirit of Christ."

FALL CONVOCATION MEETINGS

LANCASTER

Tues. Nov. 9th 6:00pm St. Paul's, Manheim

HARRISBURG

Wed. Nov. 10th 7:00 pm Mt. Calvary, Camp Hill

ALTOONA

Tues. Nov. 16th 7:00 pm St. Luke's, Altoona

SUSQUEHANNA

Wed. Nov. 17th 6:30pm Christ Church, Danville

WEST BRANCH

Sun. Nov. 21st 3:00pm Trinity, Williamsport

NORTHERN TIER

Tues. Nov. 30th 7:00pm St. Paul's, Wellsboro

If you have questions, please contact Linda Arguedas at 888-236-5959 or larguedas@diocesepa.org

UTO 2011 GRANT APPLICATIONS

The United Thank Offering grant applications for 2011 are available. This year applications will be completed and submitted electronically. Instructions, application form, & information are available at:

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/110043_42235_ENG_H_TM.htm. Please note, the process has changed significantly, so ***please read instructions carefully!***

When completing the online application ***do not hit submit!*** A draft copy of your application, including supporting documents, must be emailed, faxed or mailed to arrive at the diocesan office by end of day, Friday, December 17, 2010. ***NO APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO UTO WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE BISHOP.*** Contact Bonnie Chambers at (717) 838-4416 or bchambers242@comcast.net with any questions or for assistance with the application process. A checklist to assist you with the application is attached with this Digest.

