

April 11th, 2013

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia! After a long winter and Season of Lent, those were the wonderful words that opened not only our Easter Sunday services but all the services during the Season of Easter.

During the Season of Lent the Bishop's Notes focused on sin and, most specifically, the Seven Deadly Sins. During the Season of Easter, I would like to focus on Virtue with an examination of the Seven Godly Virtues.

St. Paul wrote to the Church in Philippi: *"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."* (Philippians 4:8 ESV)

According to the Catholic Catechism a virtue is: *"an habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions."* (Article 7: 1803) It is that habit and disposition to do good which contradicts the temptation to sin. The root to overcoming sin is not to get oneself into heaven it is to live out what it means to be a child of God. It was St. Gregory of Nyssa in his work on the Beatitudes who wrote, *"The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God"* (De beatitudinibus, 1: PG 44, 1200D.)

The Seven Godly Virtues are... in no particular order...Humility, Charity, Kindness, Diligence, Chastity, Patience & Temperance.

I wrote that the root of the Deadly Sins is Pride...equally the root of the Godly Virtues is Humility. A quick google search will bring lots of definitions but all have a similar feel - the ability to not think of oneself first but to think of others before self. This does not mean that a humble person has what is popularly known as "low self-esteem" just the opposite the person who is humble has a true self-esteem knowing that they are nothing without God but with God they are a regenerated, redeemed and reborn child of God.

The virtue of humility opens the doors for the other virtues because it recognizes it's complete and utter dependance on God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the opposite of the sin of Pride which declares



If you know of someone who would like to subscribe to the Bishop's Note, please send the appropriate email address to erin@vegas Anglican.org and he or she will be added!

I am sufficient unto myself...

This Easter Season I pray you the gift and virtue of Humility!

Happy Easter!

Bishop Menees

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April 2013 Edition of The San Joaquin Anglican

Check this edition of the San Joaquin Anglican
for current news of the Diocese!

Diocesan Calendar

Check the Diocesan Calendar for information on upcoming events!

April 13th - Daughters of the King Assembly

@ St. John's in Stockton

April 14th - Bishop @ St. John in Stockton

April 16th - Lao Mission Project Team Meeting

April 20th - Anglican 4th Day @St. Michael's in Ridgecrest

Diocesan Council @10 a.m.

April 21st - Bishop @ St. James in Sonora &

Church of the Ascension in Copperopolis

April 26th - 27th - Diocesan Altar Guild Conference

@ St. Luke's in Merced

April 28th - Bishop @St. John's in Petaluma

April 29th - May 1st - Clergy Retreat

May 3-May 6th - Well Youth Retreat @ St. Mark's in Shafter

August 2-4th - Anglican Church Women's Annual Retreat

at Camp San Joaquin

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