

THE SAN JOAQUIN ANGLICAN

The Bishop's Corner

The Right Reverend Eric Vawter Menees

During this season of Lent the church focuses on the forgiveness of sin and upon holiness of life. As part of our discipline the church calls upon her members to fast and pray. Like Jesus in the desert the moment we begin to fast and pray we are faced with temptations. Jesus gives us the example and tools to deal with those temptations - **Remembering His Word - Remembering that we are His Children - Remembering we Belong to God.**

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered,

*“It is written,
“Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”
(Matthew 4:1-4)*

When confronted with a physical temptation to prove his identity and end his hunger by turning stones to bread. Jesus confronts Satan with the Word of God - quoting from the Book of Deuteronomy Chapter 8 verse 3. When we are confronted by temptation we can rely upon the Word of God to assist us - however, to do that we must familiarize ourselves with God's Word!

*Then the devil took him to the holy city
and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him,
“If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,
“He will command his angels concerning you,’ and
“On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.”
Jesus said to him,
“Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”
(Matthew 4:5-7)*

BISHOP'S SCHEDULE AND DIOCESAN CALENDAR

Lenten Calendar

March 3 – Lent III

March 10 – Lent IV

March 17 – Lent V

March 24 – Palm Sunday

March 28 – Maundy Thursday

March 29 – Good Friday

March 30 – The Great Easter Vigil

March 31 – Easter Sunday

(Continued on page 3)

From “History of the Diocese of San Joaquin” ...

The Foundations Are Laid

[ed. note—the following is a series of historical essays taken from “History of the Diocese of San Joaquin,” Chapter 2, “The Foundations Are Laid.”]

ST. JOHN’S CHURCH, TULARE



“Tulare City” became a significant stop on the Southern Pacific Railroad through the San Joaquin Valley when the town of Visalia elected not to have the dirty, noisy locomotives pass through its neighborhood. The Rev. D.O. Kelley first held services in Tulare City Tuesday evening February 17, 1880. Despite the fact that there was but one Church family in town, 70 people turned out for the service. For a time, further services were held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Y. Sentell. This couple, and their three children, “a very intelligent and devoted Church family,” were the sole basis of Church services in Tulare City for the remainder of the year. “St. John’s Mission, Tulare County,” was organized on February 19, 1880, but it should be noted that the entire county was embraced, including Visalia and Hanford. (Kings’ County was not created until 1893.) When the Sentells moved to Hanford, early in 1881, services at Tulare City were discontinued for several years. When the congregation in Hanford chose the name, “The Church of the Saviour,” this

became the name of the County Mission until D.O. Kelley resumed work in Tulare City, and a new St. John’s Mission was organized on December 19, 1886. (Hist. of Dioc. of Calif., p. 402. District Journals list January 18, 1887.) The general County Mission no longer included Hanford, though the Vicar of Hanford served all.

In 1867, the Rev. C.S. Linsley was appointed Missionary for Tulare County, resident at Hanford. In his time the first permanent Episcopal church building was erected in Tulare City, on West King Street, on two lots donated by the S.P.R.R. In 1892, he was succeeded by J.H. Waterman. A parsonage was built beside the church, but at later times was rented out. By 1895, Linsley was back, with an added specific charge in Visalia. William Hart was in charge of both in 1898; C.M. Westlake, in 1899; Archdeacon Austin Scriven of British Columbia had charge of Tulare and Visalia in the winter of 1900. Henry Badger served here in 1901. The Rev. William Burns was Missionary in 1903. Hubert F. Carroll served from 1904 to 1908, although he built a rectory in Visalia and lived there, while Tulare’s was rented out.

Carroll was followed by the Rev. Lee A. Wood, who stayed at Visalia until 1911, and had charge of Tulare, from Porterville until 1913, while another priest was assigned Visalia for two years. As Visalia had morning services, Tulare had evening services under Fr. Wood. This made for a long day, but “the horse knew the way” and could take a buggy home through the night without driver, while Fr. and Mrs. Wood slept. By morning, the horse had stopped in front of Visalia’s vicarage.

The two missions were recombined under W.D. Williams, from September 1913 to September 1914. In 1915, Fr. Wood was again in charge, from Porterville, assisted by two clergymen, in covering all of Tulare County. His assistants were John Haysmaker, September 1914 to March 1915, and Thomas Bell, 1915-16. R.A. Greisser held Tulare and Visalia from 1916, but Arthur L. Walters had Tulare and Selma from 1916, without Visalia, from 1920 to 1927. In 1923, Journals report that an epidemic among Tulare’s children prevented the staging of a pageant written by Mrs. Walters. Near seven years was the longest charge to date, and began to give the congregation a sense of stability for a change. Evenso, during the Depression St. John’s Church was closed; the few remaining communicants were served by F.D. Graves, Assistant General Missionary of the District, and E.J. Batty, Vicar of Visalia, for brief periods.

In 1943, after being closed for about 16 years, St. John’s Mission was reopened, under the Rev. Norman E. Young, 1943-45. The Rev. Milton S. Kanaga served 1945-46, and the Ven. Joseph S. Doron, Archdeacon of the District, served from 1946 to 1952. At the same time he had charge of Lindsay and Delano. (At some time, a parish hall was built at the West King site, but the date remains undiscovered.)

Continued on page 4...

The Bishop's Corner (Cont. for page 1)

Again Jesus was tempted to prove his identity by testing God, Satan cleverly tries to convince Jesus that he's not testing God but testing His Word. Jesus' response is to remember who he is as the Son of God. Equally when we are tempted by sin we can confront that sin by remembering that we are Children of God. We are not born as children of God as some argue - we become children of God when we assent to belief in Jesus. As the Gospel of John states: ***“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,”***

(John 1:12)

“Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

***“You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.”***

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him. (Matthew 4:8-12)

With this third temptation - Jesus confronts Satan by remembering not only who he is as the Son of God but TO WHO HE BELONGS and thus whom He should worship! When confronted by temptation we too need to remember that as Children of God we also belong to God - as his adopted heirs.

“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ... (Romans 8:16-17)

As the adopted sons and daughters of the Lord we take on His name - “Christian” - we represent him. In baptism one of the great honors that priests have is to anoint the person with oil and say,

“you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.” (BCP 309)

There are no easy answers and temptations will always be a part of our lives in Christ. However, if we can remember to read and rely upon God's word, if we can remember who we are as Children of God and to whom we belong as heirs of Christ then those temptations will be easier to confront and overcome. And to that I say... AMEN!

Did You Know?

Charles Paul Gibbons VI (Charley) was born on February 18th the second child of Fr. Paul & April Gibbons! Fr. Mark Hall was named by Bishop Menees as the diocesan Church Plant Representative to Anglican 1000 - the Provincial Church Planting Initiative. Fr. Mark & Michelle Hall, Christiana Raines & Bishop Menees will represent the diocese at the upcoming Church Planting Seminar in Wheaton, Illinois.

Dcn. Wayne Hinds is beginning a new ministry at St. Alban's, Los Banos beginning this month. Dcn. Wayne will be on loan from St. Francis, Turlock.

Bishop Menees has asked Fr. Jim & Patty Snell and Fr. Lee Nelson to help represent the diocese along with the bishop and Mrs. Menees at the upcoming GAFCON 2 conference in Nairobi, Kenya. GAFCON or Global Anglican Fellowship Conference is a world wide gathering of Anglican Leaders and represents the future of Anglicanism.

History of the Diocese of San Joaquin (Continued from page 2)

The West King building served the congregation until 1957. During the time of Fr. John Wilcox (1952-58), the Warren family gave St. John's three acres of land at the corner of Prosperity and Laspina. In the same year, the present church was built and occupied. Mr. Herbert C. Evans, a skilled cabinet maker, then in his late 70s or early 80s, nevertheless did a major portion of the carpentry work of the new building, including pews, chancel furniture, and altar. Volunteer labor was given in considerable amount by the men of the Mission. In 1958, a Sunday School building was erected, and named in honor of Mr. Evans. A third building was added to the site by moving the old parish hall from King Street to the new location. It was given the name of Tex Rankin, another member of the mission, who established and ran a training school for World War II Army pilots. The cost for the moving and restoration of Rankin Hall was largely covered by the gift of Tex's widow, Shirley.

Fr. Ralph W. Jeffs was Vicar, 1958-63, when he left to study in England. Later he became a widely respected college chaplain. Thomas Masson was Vicar in 1963-64. He was followed by the Rev. John T. Raymond who served from 1964-72. In 1970, a fourth building was purchased from St. Aloysius' Roman Catholic Church for \$500. It had been a Released Time school room; it now serves St. John's Kindergarten class. Douglas Judson was Vicar from 1972-75, and Shepherd Crim, 1976-77. Fr. Watson T. Bartholome served as Vicar from 1977 until his retirement in 1987.

The congregation made a valiant effort to become self-supporting and qualify for Parish status in time for their centennial celebration in 1986. Depressed economic conditions throughout the valley caught them and they were compelled to put aside their goal of self-support for the time being. The Rev. Robert Jordan was assigned as Vicar of St. John's in mid-1987.

The "miracles" sometimes do happen is evidenced by the fact that recently a legacy of approximately \$400,000 was left to St. John's by a former parishioner. It will be interesting to see what develops at St. John's as a result of this bequest.





The true harvest

Fr. Martin Bunsy has been laboring in the harvest fields of Laos for many years now. He recently tallied information from each of the nine home churches he has planted. Here are the results:

- 1133 individuals have attended these home churches.
- 910 of these individuals have chosen to be baptized.
- 404 of the baptized are male
- 506 of the baptized are female

To give a personal touch to these numbers, please see the attached photo taken by Bishop Eric in Laos.

Pictured here is Rose Bunsy's 91 year old mother, Syvanh. She and many of her relatives and friends form the core of the growing home church movement. We celebrate the successful planting of these home churches and thank God for this precious harvest for His Kingdom.



Financial accounting

Please see tables below for records for the two Lao Mission Project accounts maintained at the Diocese of San Joaquin: “Jacob's Farm Account” for farm related expenses and “Lao Ministry M. Bunsy Account” for school and health insurance related expenses (please note that the Diocese does not collect contributions towards the Bunsy's personal support).

| Jacob's Farm Account Diocese of San Joaquin, Year 2012 | |
|---|------------|
| Opening Balance 1/1/12 | \$4,899.00 |
| Donations | \$275.00 |
| Expenses | 0 |
| Ending Balance 12/31/12 | \$5,174.00 |

New Archbishop of Canterbury Enthronement on March 21st

Well, we now officially have a new Archbishop of Canterbury. The Archbishop of Canterbury plays an important leadership role, not only in the Church of England, but also in the Anglican Communion--and takes his seat as such at a very divisive time in the life of both. May the Lord bless him and his councils with wisdom and grace. Here's the news story from the Archbishop's website:



"The Bishop of Durham, the Right Reverend Justin Welby, has officially become the Archbishop of Canterbury at a ceremony, known as the 'Confirmation of Election', which took place in the context of an act of worship in St Paul's Cathedral today.

"The ceremony forms part of the legal process by which the appointment of the new Archbishop of Canterbury is put into effect. It was presided over by the Archbishop of York with the assistance of the Bishops of London, Winchester, Salisbury, Worcester, Rochester, Lincoln, Leicester and Norwich. All were commissioned for this purpose by Her Majesty The Queen – who is the 'Supreme Governor' of the Church of England.

"Bishop Justin's name was put forward to The Queen some months ago by the Church's 'Crown Nominations Commission' in accordance with constitutional arrangements that have been in place for many years. The appointment is formalized by legal steps taken in accordance with the Appointment of Bishops Act 1533. First, his election was undertaken in January by the Dean and Canons of Canterbury Cathedral. Next, their election of him has to be confirmed by the wider Church, which is what happened today.

"The appointment is significant not only for the diocese of Canterbury (where he will be the diocesan bishop, though much of the day-to-day oversight of the diocese is carried out on his behalf by the Bishop of Dover), but also for the wider 'Province' of Canterbury – the 29 dioceses in the South of England, and the Diocese of Europe, which all fall under his general oversight.

"In addition, it is to the bishop of the See of Canterbury, with which Anglicans have historically been in communion, that Anglicans worldwide give a primacy of honour and respect among the college of bishops in the Anglican Communion - as 'first among equals' (primus inter pares). In that role, as a focus and means of unity within the Communion, the Archbishop convenes and works with the Lambeth Conference and Primates' Meeting, and presides in the Anglican Consultative Council.

"Since at least the fourth century it has been a fundamental principle in the Christian Church that the election of a new bishop must be confirmed by the wider Church, especially by the bishops of the region. The legal significance of the act of confirmation cannot be overstated: it confers upon the new Archbishop 'the care, government and administration of the spirituals' of the archbishopric. It is the confirmation of his election which makes the Archbishop-elect into the Bishop of the diocese of Canterbury and Archbishop of the Province.

"The wording used in the course of the confirmation ceremony has a long history. Before the eighteenth century it was in Latin, but in about 1733 an English translation was introduced. At the service today, a somewhat modernised version was used. It involved recital of the Mandate from the Queen, authorizing the appointment; introduction of the new Archbishop; certification of the steps taken in his election by the dean and canons of Canterbury; his Declaration of Assent to the historic doctrines and worship of the Church of England; a 'Charge' by the Archbishop of York, based on the needs of the diocese and province perceived by those involved in his appointment; and finally a 'Sentence' conferring on him spiritual jurisdiction over the diocese and province.

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Continued from Page 6 (New Archbishop of Canterbury)

Enthronement on 21 March

"After this step has been taken, there remain other formal stages before he begins his public ministry in Church and State, in particular his act of 'Homage' to The Queen. The public inauguration of his ministry – 'the Enthronement' – will take place at Canterbury Cathedral on 21 March, and will be broadcast live on the BBC.

"Meanwhile, the new Archbishop will be familiarizing himself with the tasks he will be called upon to perform over the coming years, meeting those he will be working with most closely, and preparing himself generally for all that lies ahead. He invites your prayers, for himself, his family, the Church and the nation, during this period of preparation – and beyond."

2013 Meeting Schedule

all meetings the 3rd Saturday of each month, except Dec.

Secretariat at 10 AM; Lunch at 11:30; Ultreya at 1 PM

March 16th – St. Michael's, Ridgecrest

April 20th – St. Luke's, Merced

May 18th – St. Jude's, Tehachapi

June 15th – St. Mary's, Fresno

July 20th – St. Paul's, Bakersfield

August 17th – St. Jude's, Tehachapi

September 21st – St. Michael's, Ridgecrest

October 19th – St. Mary's, Fresno

November 16th – St. Luke's, Merced



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The Anglican 4th Day Secretariat recently concluded our "Planning for the Future" retreat up at ECCO, held February 15-18 of 2013. We had a marvelous time!! This retreat was specifically held to determine how we would hold our next A4D Weekend ~ which will be A4D#4. This will be our first time to hold our Weekend at ECCO so we felt led to hold a "Prayer, Planning and Brainstorming" session on site.

Sharon Collier led us through a wonderful teaching entitled, "Moving Mountains" ~ as we transition from the mountains surrounding the Bernasconi Center in Big Pine, to the mountains which frame our beautiful retreat center at ECCO. We made some key decisions regarding our Weekend ~ but the most important one that was made was that we need to trust our all-powerful God as we move forward and that we need to abandon our will to His.

We are in prayer about a date in early 2014 but we wish to delay announcing anything until all plans and negotiations can take place between our Bishop and the wonderful staff at ECCO. We would appreciate your continuing prayers for our A4D Movement as God unfolds His plan for us.

In Christ,
Christine Miller, 4th Day Lay Director
4thdayluvr@gmail.com

(from Anglican Church Chronicle, February 5, 2013)

Theological Task Force on Holy Orders begins Phase 2



The College of Bishops approved the Task Force's Method of Procedure earlier this January during their meetings in Orlando, FL.

The College of Bishops for the Anglican Church in North America met January 7 – 11 in Orlando, FL to examine the ways in which they may continue working together in the unity of Christ while honoring the diversity of the dioceses.

During their time together, the College approved a Method of Procedure for the Theological Task Force on Holy Orders. As originally reported in the communique from the College of Bishops, the Method of Procedures includes the following steps:

Phase 1 of this five-phase procedure was to identify and appoint bishops and other scholars to the Task Force. This is now complete. At each subsequent phase, there will be a report to and dialogue with the full College of Bishops.

Phase 2 now begins. The Task Force will explore how the Authority of Scripture functions in the Church, addressing hermeneutical issues and the role of the Church's Tradition in biblical interpretation.

Phase 3 will explore the nature of the Church, clarifying the meaning of ordained Ministry and considering how the structure of the Church's ordained Ministry relates to the whole.

In Phase 4 the Task Force will discuss the arguments, pro and con, related to the ordination of women, considering the relevant Scriptural texts and historical arguments, and reviewing studies conducted within and without the Anglican tradition.

In Phase 5 the Task Force will submit a report to the GAFCON/FCA International Theological Commission (ITC).

Following a review of comments received from GAFCON/FCA, the ITC and the ecumenical partners of the ACNA, the final report and recommendations of the Task Force will be submitted to the College of Bishops.

Subsequent to the approval of this Method of Procedures, members of the Theological Task Force on Holy Orders met for the first time on 17 January via conference call. During the call, they began to discuss the focus of Phase 2 by identifying important questions regarding the interpretation of Holy Scripture.

Leading the Task Force is the Rt. Rev. David Hicks, REC Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

"The Task Force members are deeply mindful of the great privilege and responsibility that they have in assisting the College of Bishops in this very important discussion," said Bishop Hicks.

The members of the Task Force are the Rt. Rev. Kevin Allen, Diocese of Cascadia; Mrs. Katherine Atwood, Diocese of Ft. Worth; The Rev. Dr. Leslie Fairfield, Diocese in New England, Trinity Seminary (Ret.); The Rev. Canon Mary Hays, Diocese of Pittsburgh; The Rev. Tobias Karłowicz, Diocese of Quincy; and The Rt. Rev. Eric Menees, Diocese of San Joaquin.

Bishop Hicks requested the prayers of the Province in support of their work, "Please pray for God's wisdom and guidance as we pursue our work and for safe travel when we gather together in the coming months."



10th Annual Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, March 31, 2013 at 6:30 a.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Outdoor Chapel at ECCO

Breakfast follows service - \$11 per person

Reservations required for breakfast No reservations required for Easter Sunrise Service

Opera at Oakhurst April 11-15

Opera at Oakhurst has become a highly praised and consistently successful tradition founded by Bishop John-David Schofield. This April we will be comparing, critiquing, and enjoying the romantic voice of opera entitled Bel Canto with Professor Simon Williams. Rooms are filling quickly, please contact Kristen for more information at 559-683-8162 or visit our website www.eccoyosemite.org.

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Assembly 2013 - Who will you be bringing?

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

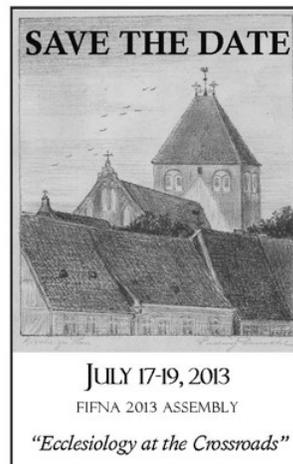
July 17-19, 2013

Where: National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL (St. Louis area)

Theme: **ECCLESIOLOGY AT THE CROSSROADS**

Speaker: **Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali**, President of OXTRAD (Oxford Centre for Training, Research, Advocacy and Dialogue) and 106th Bishop of Rochester (UK)

Stay tuned for more information...





(ACNA website, February 11, 2013)

Archbishop Duncan's Message on the Resignation of His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI



News reached us this morning of the decision of His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI to resign from the responsibilities and exercise of the ministry which he has undertaken so nobly and ably these last eight years as Bishop of Rome. The Church throughout the world has been blessed by the theological acuity and pastoral wisdom of this great man of God.

Anglicans will particularly miss this pontiff and successor to St. Peter. Benedict XVI has been a great friend to us, particularly to orthodox Anglicans in North America. His warm reception at the Papal Audience just ten weeks ago is a very fresh memory. As Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, then as Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, he wrote

these words to the Plano Conference of 2003:

“I assure you, Bishop Duncan, of my heartfelt prayers for all those taking part in [the] convocation. The significance of your meeting is sensed far beyond Plano, and even in this City from which Saint Augustine of Canterbury was sent to confirm and strengthen the preaching of Christ’s Gospel in England. Nor can I fail to recall that, barely 120 years later, Saint Boniface brought the same Christian faith from England to my own forebears in Germany.

“The lives of these saints show us how in the Church of Christ there is a unity in truth and a communion of grace which transcend the borders of any nation. With all this in mind, I pray in particular that God’s will may be done by all those who seek that unity in truth, the gift of Christ himself.”

The letter was signed “with fraternal regards.” We shall truly miss this brother, and father, in God. May God grant His Holiness a fruitful retirement to the life of prayer he envisions. May God give him joy as he reflects on the ministry he has had, and may there still be some seasons left for the theological and spiritual writing with which he has blessed so many.

Anglican Laity, Clergy and Bishops March for Life

On January 25, the 40th observance of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, 400,000 individuals converged on Washington, DC, for the March for Life. Fifteen bishops of the Anglican Church in North America joined a significant number of other Anglicans for the event which emphasizes the sanctity of life. The bishops participated in an ecumenical worship service, a rally on the Mall and the March itself, walking up Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court.

“I am honored to stand, along with my fellow bishops of the Anglican Church in North America, in recognition of the millions lost through abortion and to demonstrate our commitment to uphold the sanctity of life for all of God’s children,” said Archbishop Robert Duncan.

Speaking to a reporter during the event, Bishop John Guernsey who issued the invitation to his brother bishops, noted: “The active participation in the March for Life of more than a third of our bishops is a very public demonstration that a commitment to life is at the core of who we are as Anglican Christians.” This commitment is reflected in the founding documents (Constitution and Canons) of the province:

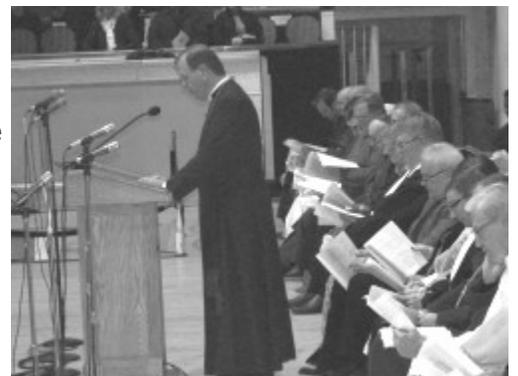
“God, and not man, is the creator of human life. The unjustified taking of life is sinful. Therefore, all members and clergy are called to promote and respect the sanctity of every human life from conception to natural death.” (Constitution and Canons, Title II, Canon 8, Section 3)



Anglicans for Life, under the leadership of Georgette Forney, also played a key role in the event. Mrs. Forney organized testimonies from individuals representing the Silent No More Campaign, which helps women and men who have experienced abortion “to find healing, forgiveness and reconciliation through the love of Christ.”

The March for Life was founded in 1974 by Nellie Gray, who died last year at the age of 86, and has been held annually for the last 39 years.

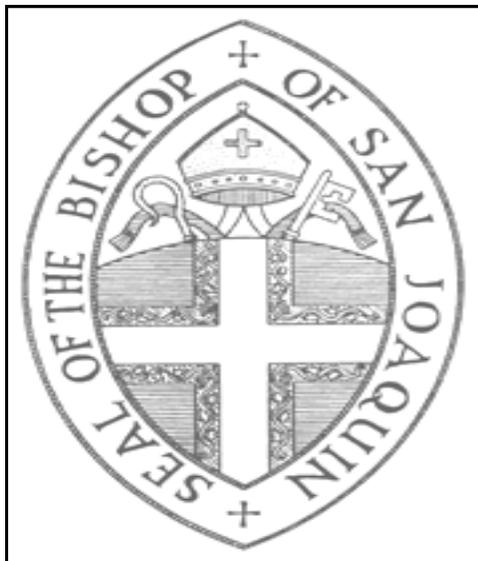
Bishops of the Anglican Church in North America during the March for Life on January 25, 2013





Link to Bishop's Note series--

The ***Bishop's Note*** is a pastoral message published weekly by Bishop Eric Menees. To subscribe, send an email message with your email to erin@vegasanglican.org.



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Submissions will be accepted for consideration any-time; Contributions must be received by the 20th of the month for possible inclusion in the newsletter in the following month.

Please send these to uncleted3@aol.com

Thank you!