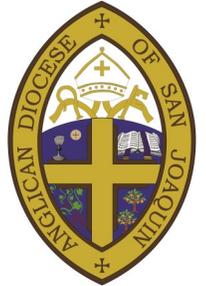


THE SAN JOAQUIN ANGLICAN



The Bishop's Corner – Marking the Moment

The Right Reverend Eric Vawter Menees

In the early 1990's there was an interesting movie starring Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell, entitled Groundhog Day. This iconic movie was set around the secular holiday which gets minor news coverage in the west and only slightly more in the east. Will Punxsutawney Phil see his shadow? Legend has it that if it's a cloudy day and no shadow is seen because of cloudy skies Spring will arrive shortly.

Many of us know about Groundhog Day but not many know about the Feast of Candlemas, and not many of us are aware that this secular holiday was linked to Candlemas. Candlemas, now known as The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ served as the basis for Groundhog Day. The legend was that if Candlemas fell on a clear day, then winter would continue, and conversely, if it was a cloudy day, spring would arrive shortly.

Of course, Candlemas or The Feast of the Presentation, has nothing to do with weather and everything to do with Jesus and the Holy Family. The Feast of the Presentation reminds us, following scripture, 40 days after Jesus' birth, the Holy Family presented Mary and Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. At this point, Jesus was already named and circumcised, and his presentation was where he was presented to the priests, sacrifices were offered, and Mary was acknowledged as being ritually pure according to Jewish law.

This Jewish ceremony continued into the medieval English church in a service called "the Churching of Women." The Jewish service was all about purification or making the new mother ritually clean, but the Christian service was all about blessing.

(Continued on page 2)

BISHOP'S SCHEDULE AND DIOCESAN CALENDAR

February 2—Bishop @ St. Mary's, Manteca

February 7-8—Institute for Renewal of Christian Catechesis Colloquium, San Francisco

February 9—Bishop @ St. Martin of Tours, Fresno

February 13-15—DiscipleLife Conference, Orlando

February 18—Bishop @ Central Deanery Clericus, St. Columba's, Fresno

February 23—Bishop @ Installation, St. Mark's, Loomis

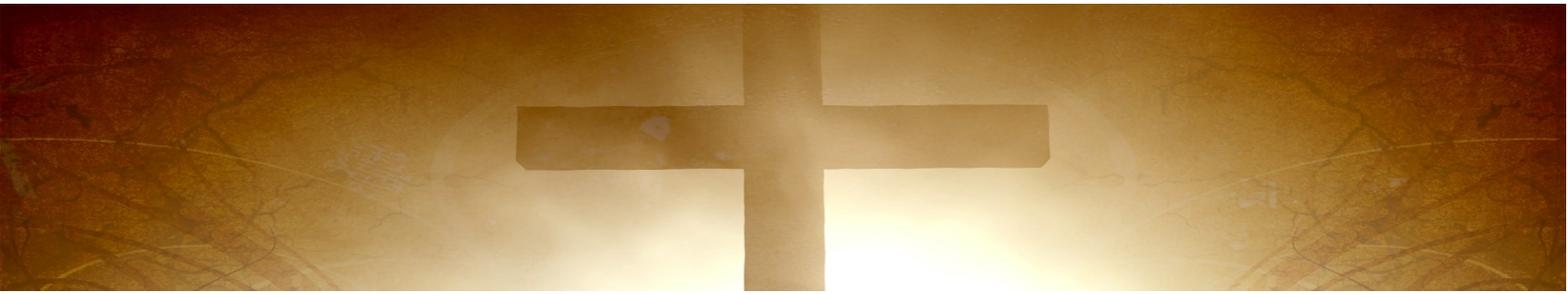
February 26—Ash Wednesday

March 1—Bishop @ St. John's, Petaluma

March 8—Bishop @ St. John's, Porterville

March 13-14—Pastoral Intervention Training, St. Columba's, Fresno

March 15—Bishop @ Installation, St. Paul's, Bakersfield



(Continued from page 1)

Following the birth of a child the mother had just gone through an incredibly stressful and dangerous event, one that took many women's lives in medieval times and today. The Churaching of Women was a time for the church and the mother to give thanks to God for supporting her through this time of transition. It was also a recognition that as a mother she would need God's blessing. A blessing was given no matter the circumstances of the child, if the child was healthy, sick, or even if the child had already died. Either the mother would need God's help in caring for and raising her new child, or she would need God's blessing dealing with her loss. The Churaching of Women was a beautiful service where the church lifted up the role of mothers.

The 2019 BCP marks the moment with the Liturgy known as the "Thanksgiving for the Birth or Adoption of a Child." Baptism is all about a person becoming a part of the body of Christ, and this service is all about coming together as a congregation and giving thanks to God for the health of the child and mother. Where baptism reflects on the duties we all have as Christians, this service hits on the duties Christians have in particular as parents. This liturgy marks the moment and blesses the family in the midst of the larger Church family.

There are so many wonderful ways to mark the moments of our lives in our new BCP and this is one that is often neglected or misunderstood by people.

If you have any births or adoptions in your family, I strongly encourage you to use this service. Bring the new parents and their child to your congregation and let them join their thanksgiving with the thanksgiving of the congregation during the Eucharist. When you, or someone in your congregation celebrates the birth or adoption of a child I encourage you to Mark the Moment with this lovely liturgy.



Transitions

- ◆ On February 23rd, Fr. Chris Fanucchi will be installed as Rector at St. Mark's, Loomis. Congratulations Fr. Chris and family!
- ◆ We want to welcome Fr. Rob Longbottom and his family back to the diocese. Fr. Longbottom has accepted the call to serve as Rector at St. Paul's, Visalia. Fr. Longbottom is a son of San Joaquin having been ordained here and then consequently serving in Upper New York and in Central Florida. Fr. Rob will officially begin his ministry at St. Paul's on March 1st. Please welcome home Fr. Rob and his family!





THE DIOCESE OF SAN JOAQUIN

ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

1300 Shaw Avenue #123

Fresno, California 93710

(559) 244-4828

Dear Rectors, Ministry Leaders, Church Planters, and Congregations:

In an effort to assist with the ministry of our congregations, the Diocesan Standing Committee's Subcommittee on Ministry Grants is accepting applications for 2020. There is no specific deadline for applying. We will accept applications immediately and they will be considered on a rolling basis, so long as funds remain available.

Your request for support must include the following information:

- A copy of the parochial report most recently filed with the ACNA,
- 2019 budget & financial statement
- A description of any anticipated changes in income & expenses for 2020.
- The request should be for a specific amount of money and should include a description of how the support money will be used in ministry,
- Current names and contact information for all key Vestry Officers and Church Staff.

Preference will be shown to congregations showing their own support (fiscal and in manpower) for the ministry the grant is requested for, whether the grant requested is specifically matching or not. If you have questions or need additional directions, please feel free to contact me.

In Christ,

The Rev. Fr. Phillip Berghuis
Diocesan Administrator

Pastoral Intervention Training

Want to know how to
pastorally support
parishioners in
spiritual warfare?

March 13-14 2020

Saint Columba Church,
Fresno CA

For more information,
contact the Diocesan Office
or visit our website

www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net

559-244-4828

Register at

<https://forms.gle/338buqGUmXFOHkzm8>





RENEWAL OF DISCIPLESHIP



Vestry

Vestry

2020 Retreat

St. Anthony Retreat Center

43816 Sierra Dr., Three Rivers, CA

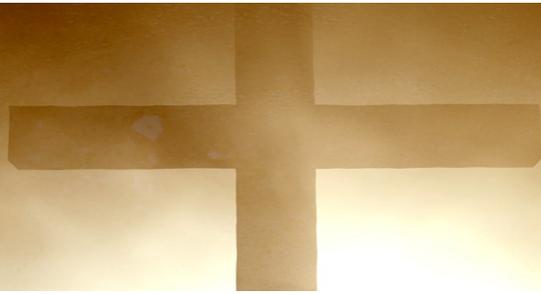
March 20-22 2020

For more information, contact the Diocesan Office or visit our website

www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net

559-244-4828

Register at <https://forms.gle/QFUskOp9rVwB4Vfj8>



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
Anglican 4th Day of North America

The Anglican 4th Day Weekend

July 9 – 12, 2020
St. Anthony's Retreat Center
Three Rivers, CA

Team applications are now being accepted for the Next A4D Weekend.

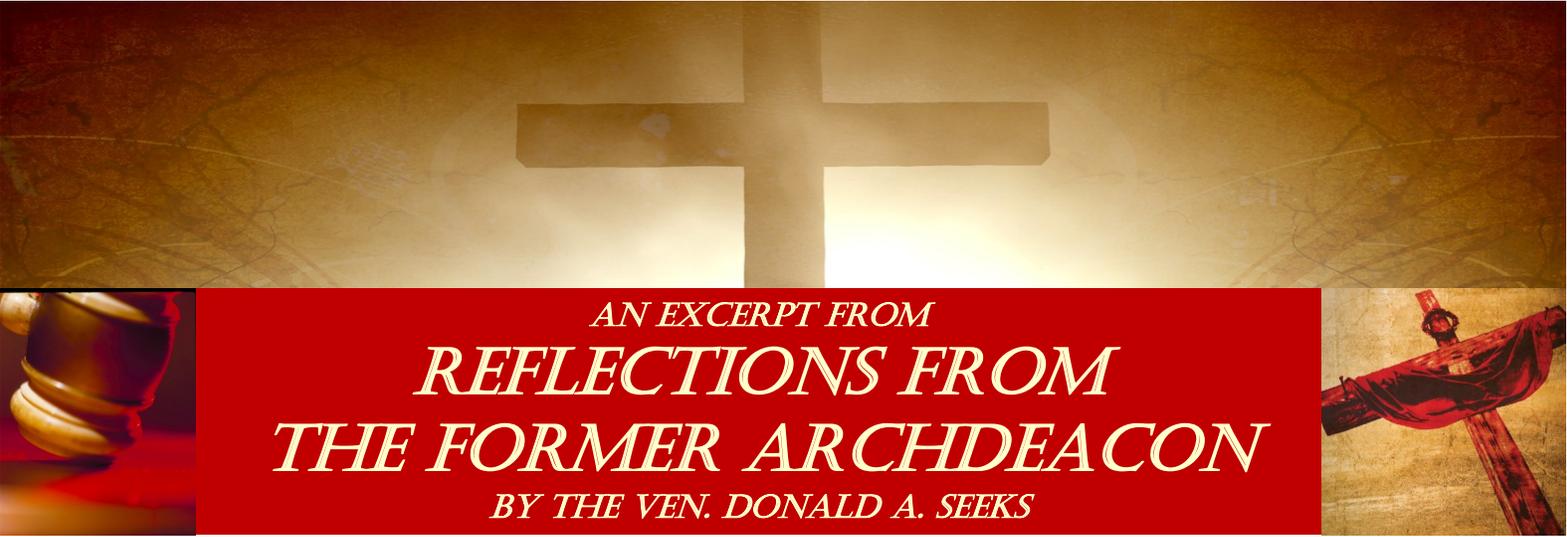
For more information and retreat reservations, please contact:

Candy Townsend, Lay Director

candytownsenda4d@gmail.com

559-750-5810 (text or call)





AN EXCERPT FROM
REFLECTIONS FROM
THE FORMER ARCHDEACON
BY THE VEN. DONALD A. SEEKS

THE HOLY SPIRIT & THE OLD TESTAMENT

It is my opinion that the Old Testament people did not have as complete an understanding of God the Holy Spirit as did the New Testament folk. It was necessary for our Lord Jesus to teach His followers and prepare them for the fullness of the Spirit after His Resurrection, Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost.

Yet there are 94 references to the Spirit of God in the Old Testament, so those believers were not bereft. Isaiah confirms that God's spirit is a real part of each of us. Through Moses it is revealed that our spirit is in God's own image. Job tells us that it is God Himself Who preserves our spirit.

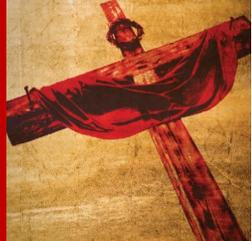
The ancients understood that the Spirit is God's animating force, that He is personal, that the Holy Spirit is One with the Father, that He possesses supernatural strength and the power to transform lives. The Spirit of God was known to be the Source of tremendous mental perception, wisdom, leadership ability, great teaching, and prophetic inspiration. He was credited as being the foundation of truth, integrity, vision, courage, fidelity, fortitude, and holiness. All the greatest of God's chosen servants were said to be possessors of the Spirit: Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Gideon, David, Micah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel, and a host of others, who felt the inspiration, the animation, the wonderful life-giving power of the Spirit of God. And the prophecy made through Joel promises that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is not just for ancient peoples, or for people who were alive when the Lord was present on earth, but it is for you and me and anyone else who will give Jesus Christ first place in daily life.

C.S. Lewis wrote that "the proper good of a creature is to surrender itself to its Creator – to enact, intellectually, volitionally, and emotionally, that relationship which is given in the mere fact of being a creature. When it does so, it is good and happy." Jesus is, of course, the perfect example of self-surrender, Who gave back to the Father "in filial obedience the being which the Father by His eternal love generated in the Son". This is the pattern we are called to emulate; when we do so, "it is Heaven", says Lewis, and there we find the Holy Spirit (or He finds us!). "In the world as we know it", writes Lewis, "the problem is how to recover this self-surrender."

What difference can the Spirit make? – all the difference in the world. For example, how do you feel at this moment? Do you face constant distractions and/or burdens from the seeming lack of time? The Holy Spirit can help free us from those tensions.

"...Where the Spirit of the Lord is...", writes St. Paul, "there is freedom". Are you worried, troubled, or anxious? Jesus said, "Let not your hearts be troubled," with "heart" referring to the subconscious mind. The mind is a vast computer containing millions of thought impulses. Some of these may cause problems, delays, even short circuits. Anger, fear, irritation, anxiety, stress, greed, lust, guilt, depression, can lay in the back of our consciousness. These "glitches" can churn our emotions, throw our body systems out of balance, create great unhappiness, loss of sleep, and problems with interpersonal relationships. Why? Because some or all of these can put up a roadblock and even kill off intentions to surrender to our Creator. Thus we cut ourselves adrift from His healing power and love. But the breath of the Holy Spirit can blow away all negative impulses and destructive influences. Under the Spirit, we can again re-establish a kind of inner peace which surpasses all understanding.

(Continued on page 8)



AN EXCERPT FROM
**REFLECTIONS FROM
THE FORMER ARCHDEACON**
BY THE VEN. DONALD A. SEEKS

(Continued from page 7)

Again, to quote Lewis, “The whole purpose of becoming a Christian is to become a ‘little Christ.’” If we surrender our will to God and let Him have His way with us, we will be sharing the experience of the One Who surrendered perfectly. Since He is the Son of God, we who share in this kind of life shall also become “sons” of God (both men and women) and the Spirit will be free to work in us as He was in the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

The Holy Spirit is the only true source of transforming power which will allow us to become “little Christs.” Just as the creative power of God transforms a seemingly lifeless bulb or seed into a gloriously beautiful flower, so God the Holy Spirit transforms a human personality which was previously lifeless and ineffective due to sin into a new and glorious person. This is the work that began and came to its fullness on the Day of Pentecost, and in its openness forms and sustains the Body of Christ, the Church, and you and me as individuals.

The celebration of Pentecost should be a powerful reminder to every Christian of the greater blessing we have received than that of those giants of the Old Testament. As the late Archbishop Michael Ramsey has written, “Pentecost helps us to answer the question, ‘Where is God?’ We know He is above us and around us, our Creator and Father. We know God is uniquely revealed to us in Jesus, ... but Pentecost marks the moment when God came to dwell *within* us, bringing the God revealed in Jesus and inseparable from the Father now within our own very being.” And to the degree that we surrender ourselves to this “God-within-us” is the degree to which we become Christ-like, and thus discover life at its greatest and best. May the Holy Spirit keep the presence of Jesus at the surface of your consciousness so that you may see life as Jesus sees it, and others will see Jesus Christ in you!





Institute for the **RENEWAL OF** **CHRISTIAN CATECHESIS**

[Learn More](#)

2020 Catechesis Colloquium

[Register Here](#)

**Catechesis as Monasticism:
Cultivating Single-Minded Devotion in a Fragmented Age**

Featuring Dr. Gerald Sittser and Rev. Dr. Greg Peters

I'm pleased to announce that registration is now open for the 2020 Catechesis Colloquium. On February 7-8, 2020, we'll gather in San Francisco to learn from two leading theologians about how the monastic tradition can help shape our approaches to catechesis.

If, as Greg Peters argues, baptism makes all believers monks—what he calls "the monkhood of all believers"—then how might we re-think the theological and spiritual formation of *all* Christians?

Likewise, in his soon-to-be released book, *Resilient Faith: How the Early Christian "Third Way" Changed the World*, Gerald ("Jerry") Sittser helps Christians today, living in a post-Christendom age, learn from the early church's practices of formation. Neither accommodating to Roman religion nor isolating themselves from it, the early Christian "third way" helped Christians remain faithful to Jesus Christ while dramatically reshaping their culture. The development of the catechumenate, you might guess, played a big role—and it can again today.

We have so much to learn from the monastic tradition about faithful Christian living, but especially when it comes to catechesis.

We'll have four presentations from our speakers, plus responses from three "catechists in the field"—Fr. Ryan and Elizabeth Jones of Eucharist Church, and Fr. Lee Nelson of Christ Church Waco—plus plenty of time for questions and conversation.

All the details about format and pricing can be found at the event page below. Or just go ahead and register.

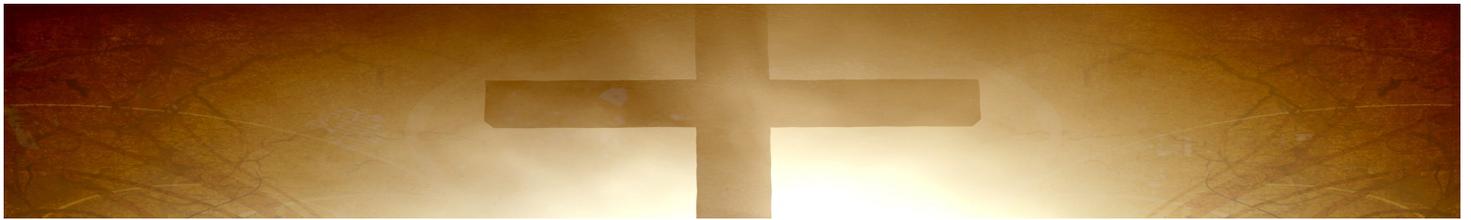
Registration Pricing: \$125

I hope you'll join us!

Yours in Christ,

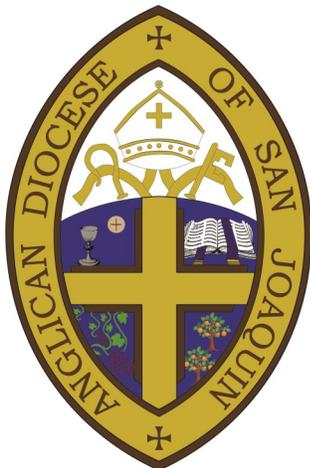
Alex Fogleman, IRCC Director





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 receptionist@dioceseofsanjoaquin.net.



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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 akr93555@gmail.com and cc: melody@ctkridgecrest.org

Thank you!