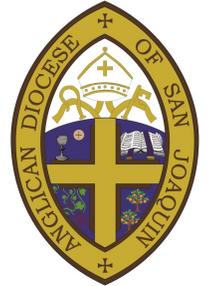


# THE SAN JOAQUIN ANGLICAN



## **The Bishop's Corner**

*The Right Reverend Eric Vawter Menees*

**S**ometimes we get those periods in our life where we can hear and see God at work around us in different ways, but all in unison at the same time! It felt like that this last month.

On May 17-19 I joined the ACNA West for their annual meeting; they are the group that supervises the examination of candidates for ordination. On May 20 I was at Nashotah House to see their commencement or graduation. I was blessed to see one of our seminarians and multiple others graduate. The following day I ordained the new seminary graduate, Jack Franicevich, to the transitional diaconate. Then I came home and on May 23 I celebrated the Feast of Pentecost by confirming multiple people at St. James Anglican Church and Our Lady of Guadalupe Anglican Church. Finally, following Pentecost were the Ember Days, a time designated in our Church calendar to pray for those preparing for ministry, and when seminarians send letters to their Bishop updating how their preparation is going for ordination. It was a 2-week period where I was bombarded with reminders about the Holy Spirit working in peoples' lives and specifically God's work in preparing and calling people to ordained ministry.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## **BISHOP'S SCHEDULE AND DIOCESAN CALENDAR**

June 6 - Bishop at Holy Cross,  
Sanger

June 8 - 10 am - Rural Deans  
Meeting

June 14-17 - Provincial Council

June 16 - 1:30 pm - Southern  
Deanery Clericus

June 17-18 - College of Bishops

June 19 - 10:00 am - Standing  
Committee Meeting

June 20 - Bishop at Holy Cross,  
Sanger and Our Lady of  
Guadalupe, Fresno

June 23 - 5:00 pm - East-West  
Deanery Clericus on Zoom

June 24 - Institution of Fr. Michael  
Bush, Oakhurst

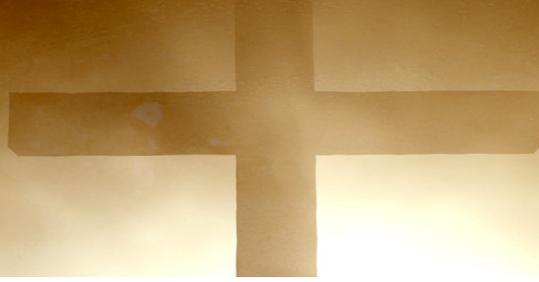
June 27 - Bishop at St. Mark's,  
Loomis

June 30 - 10:30 am - Diocesan  
Clergy Zoom Meeting

July 1 - Delegate Certifications Due  
in Diocesan Office

July 4 - Bishop at Christ Church,  
Lemoore

July 5 - Independence Day  
observed - Diocesan Office Closed



As Christians and members of the Diocese, all of us are called to be involved in this preparation in three ways. First, we need to financially support those who feel called to ministry and are engaged in that preparation. Many people leave jobs and even friends and family so they can move to a seminary and study for ministry. Like everyone in higher education they need to pay for tuition and their living expenses. We should support our seminarians at a diocesan level or a congregational level, as well as an individual level. I encourage all of you to find ways to individually support the seminarians from our Diocese. This could be by contacting them individually and then writing a check to them through the seminary. We've also recently started a seminarian support program in our Diocese so that you can write a check to the Diocese making note that it's for seminarian support.

Second, we need to support our seminarians in prayer. I spoke to Fr. Noah Lawson, a graduate from seminary a few years ago, who said that one of his seminary's largest givers got a copy of their student directory each year and daily prayed through the names of the students asking God to bless them as they prepare for ministry. He said it was a huge blessing to him and the other seminarians knowing that she was supporting them not only financially, but spiritually as well. I've got the names of our seminarians in a list at the end of this article. Please keep this and pray through the names regularly. If you can, send them a note letting them know they're being prayed for. It's incredibly encouraging knowing that people support them in their calling and that they have people frequently praying for God's blessings on their behalf!



*God's Gifts Equip  
Us for Ministry*

Lastly, all of us as Christians are called to discern where God is calling us in ministry. Christianity is not a spectator sport. We are called not to just attend church regularly as observers, but to actively minister on God's behalf in whatever way He is calling us. We shouldn't be asking what we'd like to do, but rather what God wants us to do. I believe God is at work in the lives of numerous people in this Diocese calling them to ordained ministry. Those calls may be deferred or ignored by the recipients, but that doesn't mean they're not being called. Each of us as Christians need to ask where God is calling us, and we should consider ordained ministry a possibility. To support this, I encourage you to find prayer partners in your congregation that you can mutually support in this discernment. It can also help to reach out to our seminarians and clergy to ask about their callings. Pursuing God's calling isn't something we can do just as individuals, we as part of the body of Christ should support and uplift each other in following God's calling in our lives.

*(Continued on page 3)*



Below you can find prayers for discernment as well as a list of our seminarians. As I mentioned earlier, please do all you can to support the seminarians in our Diocese. Not only financially but spiritually. If you are intentional in praying, I think you'll be pleasantly surprised at what God will do, not only in your own life, but in the life of the Church.

- Nashotah House
  - **Luke Childs**, St. Matthias, Oakdale
  - **Micah Hogan**, Epiphany, La Mirada
  - **David Peterson**, Trinity, Bakersfield
- Trinity School for Ministry
  - **Bob Bell**, St. Mark's, Loomis
  - **Dolores Vargas**, St. Matthias, Oakdale
- Recent Graduate
  - **Deacon Jack Franicevich**, St. John's, Petaluma



## Prayers for our Seminarians

**A**lmighty God, the giver of all good gifts, in your divine providence you have appointed various orders in your Church: Give your grace, we humbly pray, to all who are now called to any office and ministry for your people; and so fill them with the truth of your doctrine and clothe them with holiness of life, that they may faithfully serve before you, to the glory of your great Name and for the benefit of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**L**ord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who cares for his flock: We ask you to bestow upon your Church the gifts of the Holy Spirit in abundance, and to raise up from among us faithful and able persons called to the ministries of Deacon, Priest, and Bishop. Inspire them to spend and be spent for the sake of the Gospel, and make them holy and loving servants and shepherds of the flock for whom you shed your most precious blood. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**O** God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices; that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path we may not stumble, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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



**HOLY MATRIMONY**

**T**he Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is offered by the Body of Christ to a Christian man and a Christian woman who join together in petitioning God Almighty to sanctify their union in a supernatural way. But of course, when we ask God for a favor, He usually responds for us to do something in return. He does this, not for His need or benefit, but for our own good. In other words in Holy Matrimony, God imposes certain obligations and responsibilities which the couple have a moral and spiritual obligation to obey.

Holy Matrimony and just getting married are not the same thing, although the world differs most of the time. It has been written by good authority that there are three elements involved in marriage: the natural, the civil, and the sacramental.

In so far as marriage being a natural union; it is subject to the physical and moral laws of nature. That's why a "same-sex union" is an oxymoron and an impossibility.

Civil marriage is instituted in every society where civil law prevails. Its emphasis is more on statutory requirements. There is a contractual arrangement entered into by the two parties which permits them to become a legal entity recognized by the State.

Like every other Sacrament, the principle behind Holy Matrimony is that God takes the familiar and the commonplace and endows it with a supernatural power and divine purpose. The obligations, therefore, are far greater because now the couple's life is subject to divine authority.

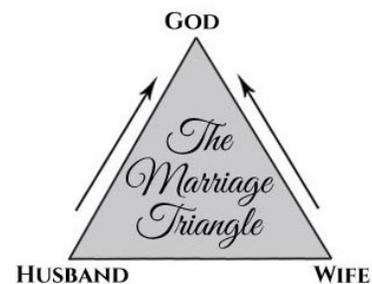
Holy Matrimony began when God "make them male and female and said, 'For this shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.'" Jesus Christ added, "What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder." God's will and plan for Holy Matrimony then is that it be a permanent indissoluble union between a man and a woman. This makes divorce, although very necessary at times in this sinful world, contrary to God's perfect design.

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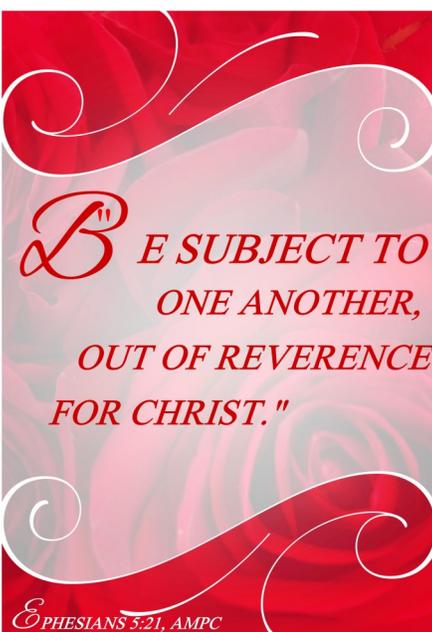


AN EXCERPT FROM  
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The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony if entered into by serious faithful Christian couples, places the two in a triangular covenantal relationship with the Lord Jesus Who is the apex of the triangle. St. Paul puts this in proper context when he writes, “Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.” If the couple’s motive is to honor Christ in their marriage, they will see such submission or servitude not as limiting, but as establishing real freedom. For when Christ is sought by both as the Divine Intermediary in their marriage, the power of the Holy Spirit is released. The Spirit endows the union with power, with guidance, and with permanence. In this holy union God is free to unite with the couple in such a way that they become an integral part of His plan for all Creation. They become outward and visible signs of God’s grace given inward. Their coming together physically becomes the material demonstration of that grace and their sexual union is endowed with sacramental character.



Holy Matrimony calls for a certain discipline. In value before God and in the place of God’s Kingdom, the husband the wife are equals. But the law of God revealed in Holy Scripture unquestionably requires that the husband be the spiritual head of the household. Many Christians who find disturbing St. Paul’s God-given direction to wives to “be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord,” tend to overlook and/or ignore God’s command to the husband.



It says, “Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by washing of water with the Word, that He might present the Church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”

This is a heavy grace filled responsibility for the husband; if necessary he must be ready for self-sacrifice in Holy Matrimony even to the point of death in order to serve his wife in a way which will allow her to appear holy before the Lord. Women who regard St. Paul’s direction to wives as oppressive probably never have met a man who is striving to serve them as Christ does His Church, so it is no wonder that misunderstanding has occurred. “Be subject to **one another** out of reverence for Christ.” This is the first and guiding principle in Holy Matrimony.

*(Continued on page 6)*



AN EXCERPT FROM  
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BY THE VEN. DONALD A. SEEKS

It can be seen then that the 40 percent or more of American children who sleep in homes where their fathers do not live will have no experience nor witness of Holy Matrimony, or example to follow. Neither will they understand the God-given command that fathers are to exercise spiritual headship over the family. Fathers who have never been raised in such a godly environment have no comprehension of the spiritual deprivation they cause for their families.

Worse even morally, many churches have ignored this teaching and have not educated the men of their congregations. These churches also fail to stand up with courage to say what is right and wrong in this situation. They have failed to call their men to repentance in this vital matter so that healing and restoration can begin. Once in a statement, Hilary Clinton called fatherhood “a heroic adventure.” I wish she had emphasized that it is a spiritual adventure in which Christian men especially are called to follow the examples of God the Father and God the Son. For if we are ever to improve the well-being and spiritual maturity of the wives and children of America, we need to begin to have fathers fulfill the role God has given them.

In an article in the *Wall Street Journal* there appeared an article entitled, “Can We Ever Go Back?” The author cited the infanticide committed by a Susan Smith whose stated desire was to get rid of her children so her promiscuous “love life” would be less hindered. The author claimed that the two things which would solve most of today’s great social problems would be a recovery of “self-denial and love.” Life is a series of obligations to be filled as honorably as possible,” he declared. But by what mechanism can people learn and have the ability to fill obligations honorably, emphasizing self-denial and self-given love? I believe it can occur only through the mediation of Christ Jesus and the sustaining power and guidance of God the Holy Spirit.

A reminder: “Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.” “Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for it.”

Only Jesus Christ can rescue us from the kind of radically selfish individualism which is presently undermining our nation. Taking a fresh look at the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, its meaning, its Godly character, and its divine obligations can help us come to where we need to be!



**Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved  
the Church and gave Himself up for it.**

**Ephesians 5:25**



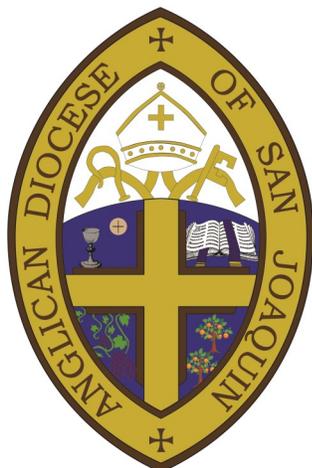


# ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

## Bishop's Note series--

The **Bishop's Note** is a pastoral message published weekly by Bishop Eric Menees.

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Please send these to [melody@ctkridgecrest.org](mailto:melody@ctkridgecrest.org).

Thank you!