THE SAN JOAQUIN ANGLICAN



The Bishop's Corner - The Battle

The Right Reverend Eric Vawter Menees

ow war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. 11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. 12 Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!" (Revelation 12:7-15 ESV)

September 29th, we celebrated the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. On this feast day we were reminded that we are in the midst of a great cosmic battle. The 12th chapter of the Revelation of St. John reminds us that early in creation some of the heavenly beings, who were also granted free will, chose like our first parents, "self" ahead of God. The archangel Lucifer – chose to turn the light upon himself rather than God. As a result, he and his followers were cast out of heaven with St. Michael and the angels leading the battle.

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Bishop's Schedule And Diocesan Calendar

October 10 - Bishop at St. Columba, Fresno

October 14 - 10:00 am - Rural Deans on Zoom

October 16 - 10:00 am - Standing Committee

October 17 - Bishop at Christ Church, Reno

October 19 - 12:00 pm - Central Deanery Clericus

October 19 - 12:00 pm - Northern Deanery Clericus

October 20 - 1:30 pm - Southern Deanery Clericus

October 24 - Bishop at Holy Cross, Sanger

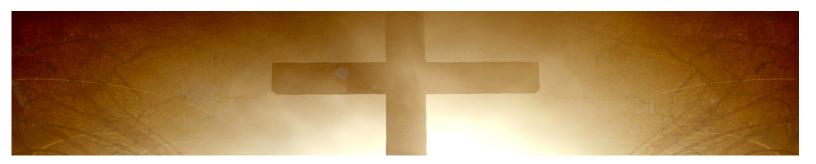
October 24 - Bishop at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Fresno

October 27 - 5:00 pm - East-West Deanery Clericus on Zoom

October 31 - Bishop Eric at All Saints, Bakersfield

November 3 - 10:30 am Diocesan Clergy Meeting on Zoom

November 5 - Diocesan Convention, Merced



That battle continues on earth and, thankfully, we are not alone in this battle. St. Michael and his angel warriors are still at work, still flanking the enemy, still forming a phalanx in front of us. However, Satan generally doesn't attack us in a full-frontal assault. Instead, Satan is the master deceiver and more subtle and often takes the long approach.

How does Satan deceive us as individuals and as a society? He generally has a three-pronged attack that comes in so quietly, so nimbly that we hardly know he's at work. Satan's goal is to separate us from God, His Church, our families and ourselves by turning us from recognizing and avoiding sin, to tolerating it, accepting it, and eventually to advocating for it! Tolerate – Accept – Advocate.

<u>Tolerate</u>: Picture the man or woman who innocently, or not so innocently, looks at pornography. Satan whispers in the ear – "This isn't so bad, these are all adults and adults have every right to look at pornography. After all, It is not illegal."

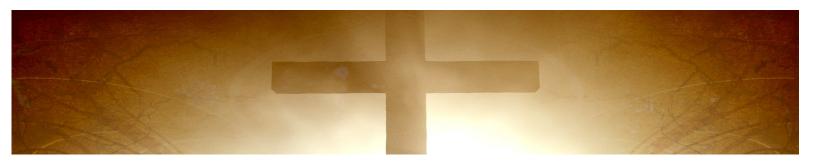
Accept: Once Satan has convinced us that we should tolerate pornography then the question becomes, "Why don't I look at it? Sex is beautiful, stimulating, a God-given gift. There is nothing so wrong with it, as long as children aren't involved, of course."

Advocate: After awhile Satan tempts us to justify our actions to the point of actually advocating for sex workers and the pornographic industry. We tell ourselves, "The problem isn't the industry. The problem is that these women and men have been harmed by a judgmental system that is sex-negative. Not only should pornography be legal and accepted, we should organize and unionize the sex trade as a whole. Why simply limit this to the digital virtual world?"

Of course, Satan seeks to close our eyes and turn our hearts from the harm that pornography causes. The objectification of women and men places an ideal that the average person cannot live up to. Pornography causes extensive harm in marriages. It does not stimulate a deeper and more connective sexuality between husband and wife, but rather divides couples spiritually as well as physically. Neuroscience has demonstrated that people who view pornography stimulate the production of endorphins that are normally produced in a loving sexual encounter. Thus, it takes more and more for the endorphins to be produced beyond a loving sexual encounter. Satan tries to hide the truth that sex trafficking goes on behind the scenes and that degrading and well documented poor work conditions are endured by these actors/sex workers. The list goes on and on regarding the harm that this Satanic-industry causes to individuals and society.

In addition to misleading and deceiving the individual, Satan uses the same ploy to undermine and change society. For example, look at the issue of abortion. Satan first said, we should tolerate abortion. "Well, abortion may not be for you but these women are suffering, it's their body after all." Then Satan said we should accept abortion. The law protects a woman's "right to choose." The child in the womb is no longer a child but a mass of "potential"—unrealized potential that may simply be a drain on the mother, keeping her from realizing *ber* potential. Finally, Satan champions advocacy that argues that no one has a right to tell any other person what they can or cannot do with their body. Again, Satan turns the eye and the heart from acknowledging the hundreds of thousands of babies that are murdered by an industry that devalues and dehumanizes human beings who have bought into the lie that

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these are not humans but merely "cells" that should be removed. The psychological, spiritual and physical harm done to women in the name of liberty is beyond our understanding, and women are suffering daily with the knowledge that they participated in an act that took a life.

Of course, if we extend this argument, we will recognize that Satan uses this same ploy of Tolerate, Accept and Advocate with "innovations" in the Church. Innovations like the ordination of women to the presbyterate, same sex "marriages," or pushing to ordain men and women who suffer from gender dysphoria.

Thankfully, God in his mercy provides us with the Truth that is the remedy to the schemes and the lies of the Devil. We have the Word of God that speaks mightily of the dignity of every human being from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. We receive the body and blood of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Eucharist when we are reminded of the sacrifice that Christ made for us, bearing the wrath of God that we deserve. It is in the reception and integration of God's grace through the sacraments that God grants us the strength and courage to go into the world with the good news of Jesus Christ. And it is the faith and strength of the Church, the bride of Christ, that grants us eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts to love. And lastly, we have a whole army of heavenly beings whose desire is to serve God by being his messengers to and defenders of us as God's adopted children.



Anglican 4th Day of North America

Community of Anglican 4th Day,

On September 25 we held our team meeting/Ultreya, hosted by Fr. Townsend Waddill and St. Columba's in Fresno. The gathering was a great chance to catch up with long time friends and meet some new friends. Kevin Robinson and Brenda and Georgia Saicoe provided the music for our opening and closing. Lynda Fillmore gave her practice roll on IDEAL and Frank Reed gave a witness talk. Both Frank and Lynda gave thought-provoking and interesting messages. We had a floating group reunion followed by a huge delicious buffet lunch. The meeting lasted from 11:00-1:30.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, November 13, 2021 at All Saints in Bakersfield. The format will be much the same as the meeting in Fresno and will be a blend of a team meeting and an Ultreya. Please plan to join us and renew your friendships and revive your spirits!

We have a great bunch of people and would love to welcome more! So, come.

Janet Robinson

Diocesan Lay Leader of Anglican Fourth Day

559-627-1783 or 559-786-9791





62nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of San Joaquin

Friday November 5, 2021

Eucharist Service Location in Merced:

St. Luke's Anglican Church,

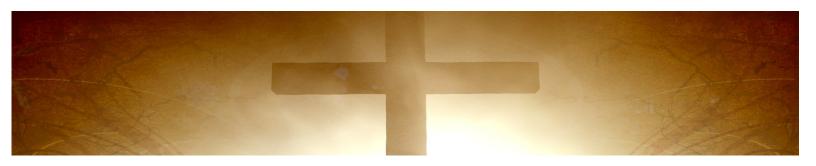
Meeting at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, 459 W. 21st St.

Convention Meeting Location in Merced: Hoffmeister Center - Central Presbyterian Church, 1920 Canal St.

Registration Deadline: October 21

Agenda:

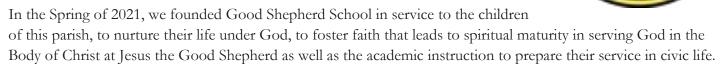
8:00 am	Check-in & Refreshments Open at Hoffmeister Center
8:15 am	Rehearsal for Convention Eucharist (Altar Party & Servers Only)
9:00 am	Convention Eucharist at St. Luke's
10:45 am	Break—move to Hoffmeister Center
11:00 am	Opening Business
11:25 am	Bishop's Address to Convention
12:00 pm	Canons & Constitution Report
12:30 pm	Blessing and Dismissal for Lunch
1:30 pm	Guest Speaker Jud Boies, Session 1
2:15 pm	Nominations Report, Elections and Appointments Confirmation
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	Guest Speaker Jud Boies, Session 2
3:30 pm	Presentation & Vote on the 2022 Budget
3:45 pm	Break
4:00 pm	Guest Speaker Jud Boies, Session 3
4:45 pm	Resolutions, Commissioning Service, and Close of Convention
_	Announcement of next Convention (date will be announced)
	Commissioning Prayer
5:00 pm	Dismissal



Good Shepherd School Program

hat is the Good Shepherd School Program?

The Good Shepherd School program is the educational ministry of Jesus the Good Shepherd Anglican Church. We believe that all Christians, as a community, are called to educate their children, forming their hearts and minds in the love and knowledge of God and of His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.



At Good Shepherd, we are living out that ministry by providing help to homeschooling families both within and outside of our parish community in the form of our Atrium classes. We also invite those who wish to homeschool, but cannot to partner with us in providing a Christian classical education experience for their children in the mornings.

The Anglican Tradition of daily prayer and reading of Holy Scripture and the Classical Methods of grammar, logic and rhetoric provide tools to think and act with the wisdom and courage of saints and martyrs.

To support our children and one another in this challenging life of faith, we need a green pasture on which to feed and refresh ourselves – Jesus the Good Shepherd is that green pasture providing spiritual food and water.

While the world teaches promiscuity, we teach celibacy and fidelity. While the world teaches socialist atheism, we teach the courage of the martyrs to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jesus on the cross is the most beautiful figure of suffering and love the world has ever known. When we live lives of chastity outside of marriage and fidelity in marriage, our lives are beautiful and established in the will God.

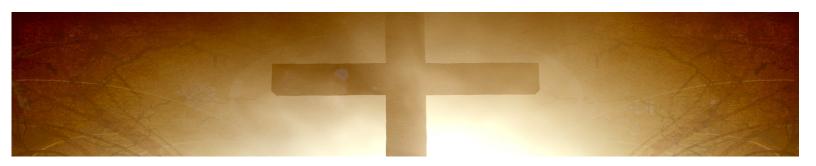
How does the Good Shepherd School Project work?

Through the Lord's grace and abundance through the parish of Jesus the Good Shepherd, He has provided generous donations of time and talent. We currently have a volunteer Headmistress, ACTS-trained Lay Catechist Margaret Douglass. She is assisted by a volunteer School Board consisting of JGS parish members. The School is a ministry of the parish so the School Board acts under the direction of the parish Vestry.

Members have donated nearly \$15,000 in the year since the first organizational meeting in fall 2020, in addition to many in-kind donations of materials and furniture.

Good Shepherd School is currently staffed by our volunteer Headmistress, 5 other volunteer teachers and 2 paid teachers. These teachers staff our Home School Atrium 4 days a week, 2 hours per day.

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What is a Home School Atrium?

Our "Atrium" is a series of extension and enrichment classes for currently homeschooled students. Whether your family is looking for a particular class or two or is interested in a full week of afternoon enrichment, we will be ready to teach your children in the love of Christ to help their formation as young Christians as we expand their knowledge.

Are you a licensed school?

No, we are a church educational ministry. We believe the Lord may be calling us to grow into a school in time, but that right now, He is calling us to serve with the tools we have. Our calling in this moment is to serve the children in our parish and to extend that service and ministry to others as we can. Thus, all parents who wish to partner with us in this ministry need to be registered homeschoolers. If a family wishes to participate and is not yet a registered homeschool family, we are happy to help in that registration process.

Does your program cost money?

We are working hard to keep the fees needed to cover costs at a manageable level for homeschool families. Small program fees and book charges are the only things we ask parents to pay. The program to date has been generously covered by our parish members who strongly believe in educational ministry.

When does your program run?

We have two fall terms planned:

Michaelmas Term:

Atrium: September 13- Oct 22

Homeschool Partner Program: September 7- October 28

All Saints Term:

Atrium: November 1- December 10

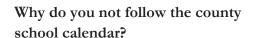
Homeschool Partner Program: November 1- December 17

(No program on November 25th)

The Atrium runs Monday – Thursday, 2 PM – 4 PM The Homeschool Partner Program runs Monday – Thursday, 9 AM – 12:30 PM



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We follow the ancient church calendar. We believe that it is important for our students to learn to order their lives around the rhythms given to us by the Lord, not the world.

Important lessons learned so far in the Good Shepherd School Project.

Number One: Listen to the Lord! When He says, "Go slow," then go slow. When He says, "Take a leap of faith," then take a leap of faith.



Number Two: Use the resources already available in the parish community and focus on serving the children of the parish first. There are so many things to learn and structures to build – take it slow and allow time for those plans to become clear.

Number Three: Celebrate the small successes. The program started in the Spring with 10 children from the parish and 2 afternoons. This year, the school added 2 children, including 1 from outside the parish and doubled to 4 afternoons per week. It may seem small - but every time a child reads the Holy Scriptures, chooses music for worship, or remembers the life of a saint, that is a victory and something to be celebrated!

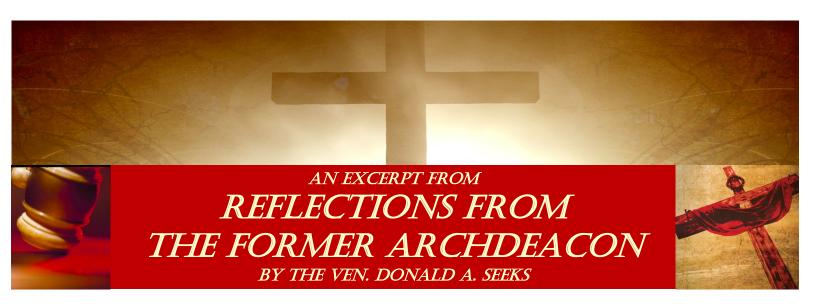
The sheer number of folks in the parish who are willing to give substantially of their time, talent and treasure to support the youth is amazing. These folks want to pass on the faith to the next generation, and they are on fire to do so by giving sacrificially of their time and resources.

Raising saints and martyrs is not quick. Developing the depth of faith required to stand firm in the face of danger and persecution and to live lives of righteousness requires drinking deeply of the waters of the Holy Scripture and Christian traditions. Daily chapel led by the students including selecting music is a good place to start learning to pray regularly in the Anglican way.

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Church Growth

Since this article was written, the Diocese of San Joaquin has suffered the loss of all property, bank accounts, and church buildings. It seems odd, therefore, to be speaking of church growth when our congregations are struggling against the injustices committed by the legal system in California which claimed the Episcopal Church as an hierarchial church when it is not. Most of our congregations are carrying on with great difficulty. Those church families which are simply hanging on are not being criticized by the following article, but the principle for growth in the Diocese remains, even though it may be on temporary hold. Time and prayer are needed, because I believe the Anglican Church in San Joaquin has something to offer that essentially is a reformed catholic church that reaches out to all.

ast week, at the Bishop's request, I had the privilege of attending two five-day classes at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. The weather was very cold, but the warmth and love exhibited by faculty, students, and seminarians helped greatly to keep a longtime Californian's blood from freezing. Trinity is a relatively recent institution formed upon faithfulness to the Gospel and is being blessed with excellent leadership, staff and student body.

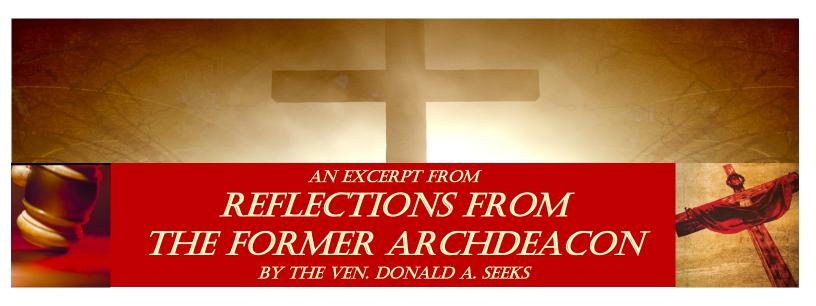
One of the classes was led by The Rev. Canon James Wong, rector of the Chapel of the Resurrection in Singapore. The membership of that church is actually divided into two congregations, each numbering about 250 communicants. From that base Dr. Wong has planted at least a dozen more congregations in the Singapore area. Truly he is well qualified to teach a course entitled, "How to Start Congregations."

In order to plant new churches, one must be **mission-minded** and committed to the principles of church growth. Church growth seldom takes place unless a congregation commits itself to a program of evangelism.

According to the Rev. John Stott, one of the greatest evangelical Anglicans of our century, the local church is the most normal, natural and productive method of spreading the Gospel today, and for two reasons: (1) because it is commended to do so in Scripture, and (2) since each local church is located in a particular area, it is best able to minister to the people who live there. Every congregation is called by God to be a worshipping and witnessing community. If we worship and He is first in our life, we will have a burden to make Him known to others.

Unfortunately, some congregations are more committed to maintenance than to missionary evangelism and growth (see the opening paragraph). In a book entitled, *Church Growth and the Power of Evangelism*, the Rev. Howard Hanchey of Virginia Seminary describes an inward-looking maintenance-minded congregation as having little interest in bringing in new members except as a way of increasing the number of pledging units. The clergy in charge tend to focus more on present problems rather than offering an exciting vision for the future or for sharing a burden for those who don't know Christ as Lord and Savior. Maintenance type congregations don't usually greet

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visitors or assist them through our books and bulletins. Coffee hours, if held at all, are opportunities for greeting and exchanging with old friends while many are standing alone, sometimes the people who God has brought to the church for the first time! Vestry or Bishop's Committee meetings are largely filled with budgetary concerns rather than plans for outreach into the community. Maintenance congregations usually see themselves as religious people doing religious things together, but only or mostly on Sundays. They take pride in the advantages of being small and "knowing everyone." The problem is, if we only face each other, we most surely turn our backs on the wounded world. Worship and fellowship often take the place of evangelism and caring about the unchurched.

On the other hand, **mission-minded congregations** have an internal life devoted to apostolic teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayers (Acts 2:42). But this is balanced with a hunger to share the Gospel in all sorts of ways and in every opportunity. The mission-minded church is very conscious that it is being led, empowered from above, and blessed by the Holy Spirit. There is a desire to serve the community in which it is located by many sacrificial ways of reflecting the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

A mission-minded congregation will not become dependent upon clerical authority and/or leadership, but will have many members who are encouraged to exercise their unique gifts and ministries both within the church and the community at large, spreading the Good News about Jesus at every opportunity.

Dr. Wong informed our class that every time a congregation at Chapel of the Resurrection reaches 200, plans are made to begin a new congregation with at least 20 active members. A similar approach was planned in Bakersfield, where 3 congregations now exist and have committed themselves to plant a fourth congregation by selecting 10 active families to form the nucleus of the new congregation.

A Decade of Evangelism called the Anglican Communion around the world to face a responsibility which it often tended to shirk, namely to call to bear witness to the saving power of Jesus Christ. At the Lambeth Conference of 1988, the Anglican bishops defined evangelism as making known "by word and deed, the love of the crucified and risen Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, so that people will repent, believe, and receive Christ as their Savior and obediently serve Him as their Lord in the fellowship of His Church."

If every diocesan congregation would commit itself to become *mission-minded* (despite the present hardships or the loss of a building) rather than maintenance-minded, the Church in San Joaquin would surely grow and eventually new opportunities to plant new churches would occur everywhere. Then we would be following the express command of our Lord as it was understood by the Apostles who went forth preaching, teaching, and healing with new courage, building exciting new church communities with a quality of life hitherto unknown – all to the glory of God Who gave us His Only Son, that we all might have life, and have it abundantly.

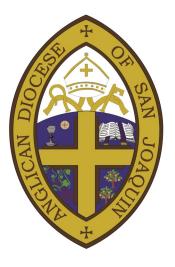




Bishop's Note series--

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 anytime. Contributions must be received by the **20th** of the month for possible inclusion in the newsletter in the following month.

Please send these to **melody@ctkridgecrest.org**.

Thank you!