

What's New in the Diocese of Quincy?

November 19, 2009

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

The Diocese of Quincy held its 132nd Annual Synod in October 16-17, 2009. The Church of the Transfiguration hosted the event in Princeton, IL. We had a historical meeting as many significant resolutions were considered and passed at the Synod.

At the Synod, the diocese formally aligned itself as a constituent member of the newly formed Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), a group of more than 700 Anglican churches in the US and Canada that was founded in June. Two of the largest Provinces of the world-wide Anglican Communion, Nigeria and Uganda, have already formally recognized the new ACNA.

The diocese also reaffirmed its pastoral relationship with the Anglican Church of the Southern Cone which offered the diocese "safe harbor" a year ago when the diocese separated from the Episcopal Church. As ACNA receives growing recognition around the Communion, the diocese will maintain its pastoral relationship with the Province of the Southern Cone as its "official" link to world-wide Anglicanism.

The Constitution and Canons for the Diocese of Quincy were revised to incorporate changes due to our relationship with ACNA and the Province of the Southern Cone. Some modifications were made to the Canons at the Synod. The final version of the Constitution and Canons will be posted to the Diocesan Website very soon.

In addition to routine business, the Quincy synod welcomed three new parishes into the diocese. The three had applied to become members of Quincy, because they knew our diocese had taken a firm stand for the historic faith and practice of the church. They knew we adhere to biblical teaching and biblical morality, and they wanted a home with us. The three churches, All Saints Anglican Church in Montrose, Colorado, St. Dunstan's Anglican Church in Largo, Florida, and St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Nashville, Tennessee, also left the Episcopal Church because of the theological and moral drift of the Episcopal Church. Several other churches are also talking to the Quincy leadership about joining the diocese.

The Synod also received a report from the Bishop's Search Committee. They have been meeting regularly since July. An application, questionnaire, and Diocesan Profile have been developed. These materials will be mailed to the list of candidates currently submitted by November 1st. You may view the materials on our Diocesan website, beginning in November.

The general timeline is to accept applications between November 1st and January 1st. After January 1st, the Committee will begin the interview process. It is the Committee's hope and prayer to elect a Bishop by late Spring or early Summer 2010.

Nominees for Quincy IX may be submitted to any member of the Search Committee. The members of the Committee are as follows: Donald Dexter (Chair), Talmadge Brenner, Rosalie

Brownell, Mike Gabor, Becky Gamage, Tom Swegle, Gayle Stewart, Mary Wright, Leah Day, Deacon K Krewer, Fr. Frank Dunaway, and Fr. Lewis Payne.

Elections are also an important part of the annual Synod. The Standing Committee would like to thank all those who served faithfully on the various committees and councils whose terms ended with this Synod.

New members elected to Standing Committee are Fr. Frank Dunaway and Mr. Le Roy Groff. The new officers of the Standing Committee are Fr. Spencer, President and Vicar General, Fr. den Blaauwen, Vice-president, and Cris Potthoff, Secretary. On Diocesan Council, Fr. Joe Scalisi, Mrs. Rosalie Brownell and Mr. David Quigg were elected. The Standing Committee also appointed, Mrs. Kathy Scott, Dcn. Rod Bales and Dcn. Michael Henley to the Diocesan Council. Fr. James Marshall, Mr. Bernie Camp and Mrs. Katrina Honnold were elected to the Ecclesiastical Court. Our representatives to the Provincial Assembly are Fr. Michael Brooks, Fr. Andy Ainley, Miss Becky Gamage, Mr. Ron Harroun and Mr. Shane Spellmeyer. Those elected to the Provincial Council are Fr. den Blaauwen, Mr. Tad Brenner and Mrs. Louisa Brooks.

It is with great sadness that the diocese said good bye to Fr. Bill and Linda Knapp. While they are now enjoying a well deserved retirement, we will definitely miss them within the diocese. We thank God for their faithful witness and pray that God will continue to bless them in this new phase of their lives. Fr. Andy Ainley will be serving at both St. Mark's in Silvis and Holy Trinity in Geneseo.

We rejoice in the 150 years of celebration at Grace Church in Galesburg, IL. This was celebrated on All Saint's Day with a joyous Mass including Bishop MacBurney as the celebrant and preacher.

As many of you have heard, Bishop Ackerman wrote Katharine Jefferts-Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, a few months ago and asked that he be transferred to the Diocese of Bolivia, part of the Province of the Southern Cone. Instead, Jefferts-Schori claimed he had renounced his orders in the Episcopal Church and removed him from the TEC House of Bishops. Despite her actions, Bishop Ackerman remains an active bishop, in good standing, in the Anglican Church in North America and will continue to make pastoral visits to ACNA churches. If your church would like to invite him to make a visit, please contact Fr. Spencer to make arrangements.

We've got some exciting and fun diocesan events coming in the next few weeks. The St. Andrews (Peoria) cookie exchange and luncheon will be Saturday, December 12th at 12:30PM. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Marlene Crandall at 309-697-1143.

And you won't want to miss the Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 13th hosted by our cathedral, Christ Church, in Moline. The event will begin at 6PM.

Youth Quake is coming January 15th through the 17th in Ridgecrest Conference Center, Asheville, North Carolina. This year's theme is Redeemed. More information can be found on the <http://youthquake.a29.com/youthquake/details> or on the Diocesan Youth Blog at

<http://doqyouth.blogspot.com/>. And while you're visiting the Youth Blog, please note that many updates have been made to the Diocesan Website. We know there are more to be made, so if you note something, please be sure to pass that information along. You can use the "Contact Us" option on the website.

As we draw to the end of the year, both in a liturgical sense and from a secular point of view, we consider ourselves to be very blessed to serve in such a wonderful and loving diocese. We thank God for the faithful of this diocese who are willing to stand firm in their faith, despite the challenges to Christianity from our secular society. As we prepare to start a new year, please prayerfully consider how your church might participate in our diocesan family life. In addition to praying for the diocese, could your church be called to host a clergy day, a youth retreat or a women's event? We are looking for ways to encourage and strengthen our diocesan family. We are very interested in hearing from you!

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow!

Standing Committee
Diocese of Quincy
Anglican Church in North America
Anglican Province of the Southern Cone

The Very Rev'd John R. Spencer
President & Vicar General

The Very Rev'd Canon Ed den Blaauwen
Vice-president

The Rev'd Frank Dunway

Mrs. Cris Potthoff
Secretary

Mrs. Leah Day

Mr. Le Roy Groff