Together

in the
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF THE RIO GRANDE

JULY / AUGUST 2018

Photo by Raymond Raney
My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In my final travels around the Diocese, making my last pastoral visitations to all our congregations, I am thankfully finding that people are excited and hopeful in the election of a new diocesan Bishop. Bishop-Elect Canon Michael Hunn, his wife Meg and their daughter Daisie now are preparing to come to the Diocese, and the Diocese is preparing to warmly receive them. On November 3, 2018, the Rev. Canon will become the Rt. Rev. Michael Hunn and will be Bishop, and I will gratefully begin a new journey into retirement life after 42 years of ordained ministry. The Lord has been very gracious to me and serving you as Bishop has been the greatest and most fulfilling blessing of my ministry. I thank each and every one of you.

The Global Migrant Crisis

So, with these recent reflections in this final pastoral letter I am grateful to be able to address all the laity and clergy of the Diocese of the Rio Grande, particularly at this most disturbing historic turn of events on our Southern border. The destructive, heartless and morally unwrse political policy to intentionally separate families has justifiably caused an international geopolitical crisis. These are those who are helpless, forced economic migrants and political asylum seekers. I believe the focus needs to be this: our country and other democratic nations must confront the seriousness of our global unresolved issues from which these people flee: ruthless dictators, crushing poverty, neglected causes of crime, unjust economic compensation for workers, lack of good jobs, political corruption, social injustice, social inequality, racism and wars. The great chasm between the rich and poor is now at a breaking point and demands that we, the nations of the world, take decisive action.

The United States is not the only country, of course, working to manage migrating populations and secure its borders. The crisis is global. The reasons young men are crossing our border are very complex and varied. The crisis is跨境. The reasons why young men are crossing our border are very complex and varied. The crisis is caused an international geopolitical crisis. These are those who are helpless, forced economic migrants and political asylum seekers. I believe the focus needs to be this: our country and other democratic nations must confront the seriousness of our global unresolved issues from which these people flee: ruthless dictators, crushing poverty, neglected causes of crime, unjust economic compensation for workers, lack of good jobs, political corruption, social injustice, social inequality, racism and wars. The great chasm between the rich and poor is now at a breaking point and demands that we, the nations of the world, take decisive action.

The United States is not the only country, of course, working to manage migrating populations and secure its borders. The crisis is global. The reasons young men are crossing our border are very complex and varied. The crisis is caused by political and economic factors, as well as by cultural and social factors. In many cases, young men are fleeing violence and poverty in their home countries, and hope to find a better life in the United States. The crisis is also caused by the policies of U.S. immigration officials, who have been deporting young men who have crossed the border illegally. The crisis is also caused by the policies of U.S. immigration officials, who have been deporting young men who have crossed the border illegally.

My first hope-filled dream is that the Diocese will be able to join in the conversation about what we can do about it. Together with all the faithful we can and should make a major benefactor. Also as you pray for our success please confide in each other. God’s name in Christ Jesus and God’s presence will be glorified in our generation and diocese in building the new house of prayer. I am grateful for your consideration and personal assistance.

My second hope and dream is that you consider continue convening Clergy and Lay in education and formation Summits. At these gatherings laity, clergy and bishop will be able to share plans, hopes and visions for the future of the DRG congregations and pastoral ministries in both the Southern and Northern regions of the Diocese.

Brothers and Sisters, I believe our future is very bright and that the Diocese is healthy and blessed. We are now certainly poised for not only an orderly transition, but also for further spiritual and congregational growth in the near future. In this hope and expectation, we place our trust in God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I will keep the Diocese, all our congregations, and each and every one of you in my prayers. Please remember to pray for each other, for our diocesan family and for the Lord’s choice of this new Bishop. Many blessings, and arrivederci,

+ Michael

FROM THE BISHOP

What to do at a time like this:

Many of us are very concerned about the plight of the children who have recently arrived on our borders, those who arrived unaccompanied, or those who have been separated from their parents. Our Bishop has spoken out about it, and while an executive order has been issued to stop the separations, plans for reunification seem nebulous at best. People are mobilizing around the nation to address this issue.

What can YOU do?

The Rio Grande Borderland Ministries suggests that our best efforts lie in assisting those agencies who are “boots on the ground” and involved in this issue. Here is a document from the Roman Catholic Diocese Migrant and Refugee Services from the Diocese of El Paso with a lot of useful information. We offer it for your consideration.

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Convention approves expansive language for Rite II

[Episcopal News Service – Austin, Texas] Deputies dottedit the last i and crossed the last i on July 15 with a historic resolution giving all Episcopalians the ability to marry whomever they choose.

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The options offered in D078 are to be provided to the church at no cost via electronic distribution, the resolution says.

• Praises may begin any of the three rites by saying, “Blessed be God, most holy, glorious and undivided Trinity.” The current opening acclamation of “Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit” is also an option.
• At the beginning of the Great Thanksgiving in all three rites, the priest may say, “God be with you,” instead of “The Lord be with you.”
• The Sanctus can now be said using “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”
• In Eucharistic Prayer A, celebrants now have the option of saying, “you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.”
• Eucharistic Prayer B contains an optional wording of “Unite us in the sacrifice of Christ, through whom we are made acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.”
• Eucharistic Prayer D offers the option of adding the word “matriarchs” after “patriarchs.”

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Deputies agree with Bishops on new plan for liturgical and prayer book revision

[Episcopal News Service – Austin, Texas] In an overwhelming voice vote, the House of Deputies on July 11 concurred with a plan for liturgical and prayer book revision that had been adopted by the House of Bishops the day before.

This sets the stage for creation of new liturgical texts to respond to the needs of Episcopalians across the church while continuing to use the Book of Common Prayer that was adopted in 1979.

Resolution A068 originally called for the start of a process that would lead to a fully revised prayer book in 2030. The bishops instead adopted a plan for “liturgical and prayer book revision for the future of God’s mission through the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement.”

The bishops’ amended resolution calls for bishops to engage worshipping communities in their dioceses in experimentation and creation of alternative liturgical texts that they will submit to a new Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision to be appointed by the presiding bishop and the president of the House of Deputies.

It also says that liturgical revision will utilize inclusive and expansive language and imagery for humanity and divinity, and will incorporate understanding, appreciation and care of God’s creation.

Standing with the Immigrants

One of the defining moments of this General Convention was the prayer vigil held July 8 outside the T. Don Hutto Residential Center, an immigrant detention facility little more than a half-hour outside of Austin. A massive gathering of more than a thousand Episcopalians prayed and sang in support of immigrant parents and children who had been separated.

“We do not come in hatred, we do not come in bigotry, we do not come to put anybody down, we come to lift everybody up,” Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said in his sermon at the prayer vigil. “We come in love. We come in love because we follow Jesus, and Jesus taught us love.”

Deputies of the Rio Grande

During one of the few interludes when non-deputies are allowed on the floor at General Convention, Bishop Michael Vono joined the deputation for a photo opportunity. The decorated Standard marking the Rio Grande Borderlands Ministry was awarded “Best Standard” at General Convention 2018. Pictured are (from left): Bishop with Deputies Alan Leora; Mark Goodman, Guy Gronquist, Cathy Bailey, Alternate Mark Childers, Carole McGowan, Joe Alarid, visitor Cindy Lose, Scott Ruthven, Diane Butler and Daniel Cave. Not present is first alternate Vic Rizza (Photo by Raymond Raney)

General Convention welcomes Cuba as a Diocese of TEC

[Episcopal News Service – Austin, Texas] “Welcome home,” said House of Deputies President the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings following a July 11 unanimous vote by deputies to concur with the House of Bishops and admit the Episcopal Church of Cuba as a diocese in Province II, which includes dioceses from New York and New Jersey in the United States, Haiti and the Virgin Islands.

Immediately following the House of Bishops’ July 10 vote, Cuba Bishop Griselda Delgado del Carpio was seated in the House of Bishops. Immediately following the July 13 vote, the Rev. Gerardo Lajides and Mayelin Aqueda were seated as deputies.

“Right now, I feel that the Holy Spirit is blowing on this entire convention and that it is moving. It’s moving here for all of us to really work with it in this very difficult world to make sure that we fulfill the needs of this world,” said Delgado through a Spanish-language interpreter. “We meet like this in convention to put the family in order; that’s what’s behind it. And this is done so that we can welcome everyone.”

More than 1000 raise their hands in prayer for the women incarcerated at the Hutto Residential Center in the distance. (Photo by Raymond Raney)
Albuquerque Parishes Host Vacation Bible School

Six parishes in Albuquerque hosted a joint Vacation Bible School June 4-7 at St. Michael & All Angels Church. The four evenings led more than 40 children through the story of Moses and the journey to the promised land, including building a life-size replica of the tabernacle in the parish’s east meadow to house the Ark of the Covenant.

In addition to St. Michael’s, the other sponsoring parishes were St. Chad’s, St. Mark’s, St. Francis of Rio Rancho, St. Thomas of Canterbury, and the Cathedral of St. John. Volunteers and clergy from each of the parishes helped to plan and execute the activities, which included dinner, worship, class time, and a “market place” of craft activities.

The Bible School, which provided programming for children from age 3 through grade 5, also incorporated nightly skits by the teenage group that dramatically brought the story of Moses to life. The parish’s sanctuary was filled with costumed children dancing like Miriam herself, and the center aisle became the Red Sea whose waters parted on the left and on the right so that the people of Israel could pass through on dry land.

The week ended with worship at the newly constructed Tabernacle, and with the thought that next year the story will simply pick up where it left off!

Ruidoso Bed Race Benefits Youth Ministry

The Second Annual Great High Mountain Bed Race and Green Chile Cook Off was held in Ruidoso on June 2 to benefit youth experiencing homelessness in Lincoln County. Eleven teams paraded and raced beds through midtown Ruidoso. They were joined in post-race fun by local restaurants competing in the Green Chile Cook Off, musicians, a silent auction, a celebrity jail, photo contestants and games for all ages. Proceeds go to operating the Evening Drop-In Center, a safe haven for teens ages 14-19 in need of free resources to help them stay in school. For more information, visit http://www.highmountainyouth.org or email The Reverend Deacon Laurie Benavides at laurie@highmountainyouth.org.

Meet Esther: An Afternoon Event for Teen Girls

The Women’s Ministry of the Diocese is joining the Youth and Young Adult Ministry for an exciting afternoon for teen girls. Meet Esther will be September 8 from 1-3 PM at St. Francis, Rio Rancho. It is open to all girls entering grades 6-12. Girls and adult helpers will interact with the story of Queen Esther of the Bible in a fun afternoon of art, worship, drama, and discussion as we discover ways to be queens in and for God’s Kingdom. There is no cost.

Invite a friend to join you and RSVP to Paula Mote (peashorn@q.com) or Cindy Davis (cynthiadavisauthor@gmail.com) so we can have enough snacks. A schedule is available on the Women’s Ministry website (VarietiesOfGifts.blogspot.com).
The Journey to Adulthood (J2A) program at St. Michael & All Angels, Albuquerque, culminated this year in a 12-day pilgrimage to Canterbury and other sites throughout the United Kingdom. The participants in the program were given a choice about where they most wanted to go, including such possibilities as Taza or Mexico City, and they chose Canterbury for its rich history and role as the mother church of the Anglican Communion.

The choice proved strategic, since the parish’s rector, Joseph Britton, has a long association with Canterbury, having led many pilgrimages there while he was a seminary dean. He commented that the cathedral’s uniquely succinct mission statement, “To show people Jesus,” is vividly fulfilled through the warm welcome given to every pilgrim who arrives. “Dean Robert Willis leads the whole cathedral staff in extending extraordinary hospitality,” Britton noted. “He truly embodies something essential about the Anglican tradition, which is its rootedness in relationship.”

The ten pilgrims first journeyed to London, where in addition to worshiping at St. Paul’s Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, they visited the Central Mosque of London. Coming during Ramadan, the visit was a real eye-opener into the practice of faithful Muslims.

On May 26, the pilgrims arrived in Canterbury on the Feast of St. Augustine, who was sent by Pope Gregory the Great in 596 to re-evangelize southern England after the collapse of the Roman Empire. On this day in 1570, St. Augustine was violently murdered by three knights in the year 1170 was a truly spine-chilling moment!

The ten pilgrims then traveled to Stonehenge, Salisbury, and St. Michael’s Mount on the coast of Cornwall. But the consensus among the pilgrims was that the most memorable moment of the entire trip was the late evening pilgrimage through Canterbury Cathedral itself.

If you watch medical dramas, the interns are always told by the senior doctors, “See one, do one, teach one.” What that means is learn it, do it, and pass the knowledge along. That is what it is to do when I learn a new talent, or learn a new way to use that talent for something that serves others. You don’t have to be a professional at anything, you just have to have a commitment to the intent of helping others. What does having a commitment to helping others actually require? It requires doing your absolute best at whatever the project is. If you are making something, don’t do it sloppily. Your shabbiest work, even if you think it is good enough for you, is not what God wants you to give. He wants you to do a quality job, especially for Him.

Whether we want to believe it or not, the world judges you and the quality of person you are. We are judged by our level of compassion, dedication, cleanliness, approachability, temper, commitment, charitable nature, patience, all the qualities that make you the person you are. Your attitude about work can speak volumes about you. You can always make an excuse for poor work, sloppiness, and not caring. Maybe you had a rough day or a sad experience in your life that you are using as an excuse to be less than you can be. Grief or sadness doesn’t need to be the controller of your life. It doesn’t need to be the excuse you use to not serve God.

There is a program called Good Grief Camp for Gold Star Kids that is sponsored by the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). Gold Star Kids are kids who have a parent, sibling or close relative, die while serving in the military. These kids not only have grief for the loss of their loved one, but also fear because of the circumstances of their death, in most cases caused by war. When a child knows a family member is going to serve in order to protect their country, and then loses the person because of something that threatens our country or others, it gives a sort of stress that is different than many of us deal with in our everyday lives.

These kids are taught coping skills, one of which is helping others makes us feel better. And it opens up the opportunity for God to bless us by doing that! Legacy mentors, kids who have already been there and grown older, teach empathy to the younger ones, to go out and do good deeds together. They have comfort in each other, because they have a common background. Rather than dwelling in their own sadness, they get together and make life better for each other and themselves.

This is true in every one’s life, doing for others can give a sense of peace and accomplishment, not only making others and yourself happy, but the Lord happy as well. As Luke 6:38 says, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” I see this as meaning the good works you do will come back to you and bless you. The older generations of Gold Star Kids are mentoring the younger generation of kids, and by serving them the Lord is blessing them in ways they don’t even know yet.

One of the things we don’t realize is that by serving others in small groups, or even large groups, it helps us build relationships, not only with God, but with other people who seek God’s love as well. The older mentors in the Gold Star Kids program have become surrogate siblings for their mentees. These kids do need each other, and building love for a substitute sibling may fill more than one hole in a child’s life. They are not only learning to love that person, but learning that God loves them through that person. God sent them that person. We have to open up our heart and mind to receive God’s love, and these kids had to be open to participating in this program. You can’t be blessed if you don’t open yourself up to be blessing. I have seen people push away God’s blessings, and then complain they are not blessed. Wake up! A person so filled with self pity, or self centeredness, believing that no one can understand their pain, that closes themselves up in a box is shutting out God. We all get depressed sometimes, but we can only overcome that depression with God’s help if we are ready to receive him and make ourselves available.

Kids have a unique ability to serve other kids. Kids need other kids to help them through rough spots in their lives. They also need to learn that, but also peer acceptance is very important to kids, so as a kid, you are a very valuable blessing hand of God. Kids also have the ability to touch adults in a special way too. They are able to soften the hearts of the hardest of adults in circumstances where God lets them in.

I have some senior citizen friends in Cloudcroft that belong to the VA where we do a Wounded Warrior Transition program. These Vietnam Veterans, some of whom suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) find relief from their stress in helping other young Wounded Warriors who are able to get a grip on their new lives with their new disabilities and physical adjustments as well as their PTSD. They prove to me that God’s ability to bless others is a generational thing. The older ones learn it and hand it to the next generation. It is a cycle. They experience it first hand, learn from what happened to them, and then teach others how to manage theirs. God expects us to step forward and do this. It’s like the big folks holding a child’s hand when they cross the street.

The thing about blessings is, we are God’s hands – and he uses us to do the blessing. So, if you have been depressed, go out and make an effort to cheer someone else up. In the meantime, you yourself may be cheered up while doing that, and that is the blessing we receive back from our action. And if you don’t succeed in cheering someone else up, then you may be doing just the opposite! Go back and try again. God is full of second chances. You can only become good at something by practicing it frequently. So actually, we can change the phrase from “see one, do one, teach one” to “see one, do as many as you can, and teach as many as are willing to learn.”
One of our 50 is NOT missing
(Standard joke in NM)

By Rickie Sherrill
Diocesan UTO Coordinator

My story is when I called Princeton University Press to order books, I told the clerk my name and where I live. Her response was “We cannot ship books out of the country.” After explaining that NM was indeed a state, she took my order. And, you probably remember when a man from here tried to order tickets for the Olympics in Georgia, and he was told the same thing. “We can’t sell tickets to people outside of the US!” He gave up and had a friend in Arizona order his tickets. The United Thank Offering certainly knows where and who we are, and that NM became a state. Jan 6, 1912, and that our Episcopal Diocese is part of the Diocese of the Rio Grande, which includes southwest Texas. Heather Melton, a staff officer for UTO, emails us monthly thoughtful articles composed by her. The most recent article is entitled Resurrection and Gratitude. Here are a few excerpts from The Rev. Canon Heather L. Melton.

“I spent my seminary years being cared for and formed by St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, San Francisco. At Easter, I think of St. Gregory because the congregation does an amazing job of bringing Holy Week to life and blends the ancient to our modern-day context. What is really profound about the sermon is that my response is gratitude. The sermon of John Chrysostom serves as a reminder that you are loved beyond measure. If you find that you commit yourself to a daily gratitude practice, gratitude will change you.”

“Thank you Heather, we are most grateful for you!”

Deepening Prayer:
A Retreat with Deborah Smith Douglas for All Women

All women of the diocese are invited to join the Daughters of the King for Deepening Prayer, with Deborah Smith Douglas, on August 4, starting at 10:30 am at the Bosque Center. Registration for non-Daughters is $25 to cover lunch, and is available beginning July 1, via the Daughters of the King website (drgdagughters.blogspot.com). The event will end with Eucharist about 3 pm. Ms. Douglas is a Lay Preacher for the service. Copies of her book, The Praying Life, are available from Dona Ace at St. Chad’s (acedona@gmail.com). Deadline to register is July 15.

This event is part of the Daughters of the King annual Assembly, which will be August 3-4 at the Bosque Center. Daughters are encouraged to register for Assembly as early as possible.

If you are interested in learning more about The Ordre of the Daughters of the King® speak to your parish priest, the president of your parish chapter, or contact Cindy Davis, diocesan president (cynthiaadavisauthor@gmail.com). This international Order has 22 chapters in the diocese and includes women and girls from the 107 who follow rows of Prayer, Service and Evangelism. You can find out more on the National website: doknational.org, or at drgdagughters.blogspot.com.

WOMEN’S MINISTRIES

The Women’s Ministry of the Diocese is holding their 7th Annual Bosque Center event on August 17-18. Starting with the Crazy Quilt Conversations event in 2012, we have met annually at the Bosque Center for fellowship, inspiration, and shared learning. All women are invited to join the conversation this year as we vision to continue enriching the lives and ministries of women in the Diocese of the Rio Grande.

Titled Boldly Forward, this year’s event will explore the lives of some Biblical women and what we can teach us about our vision for living our ministries in Christ in the Diocese of the Rio Grande. By looking at the lives of women like Mary of Nazareth, Mary Magdalene, Judith, and others, we will see that these women are much more than the meek, mild, and quiet persons, as they are often portrayed. They were obedient to God’s call and are powerful servants of God in their own right. These women are mentors and inspiration for our own daily- to-day lives. Come and be inspired to live more fully and boldly as a woman of God.

Registration for the event is available on the Women’s Ministry website (VarietiesOfGifts.blogspot.com). The cost is $50 to cover supplies and 3 meals, provided by the Bosque Center chef. As always, some partial scholarships are available for registration. Rooms are available at the Bosque Center for $50/night for a single room with shared bathroom. You may also contact Cindy Davis, Coordinator of Women’s Ministries, for a registration form. (cynthiaadavisauthor@gmail.com)

The Women’s Council met in July and continues to look for new ways to reach all ages of women and girls. One new adventure is a joint effort of the Women’s Ministry with the Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the diocese in the Meet Esther event for teen girls that will be held September 8 at St. Francis, Rio Rancho. See info about this exciting opportunity elsewhere in this edition.

Anglican Church of Canada Elects its First Female Archbishop

The Bishop of New Westminster, Melissa Skelton, has been elected as Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon. She will continue in her role as Bishop of New Westminster while taking on responsibility for the internal province. She is the first woman to be elected on an Established basis in the Anglican Church of Canada and only the second within the Anglican Communion. Earlier this year Bishop Kay Goldsworthy was elected as Archbishop of Perth in the Anglican Church of Australia. Archbishops Melissa and Kay are responsible for internal provinces, and therefore are not primates.

There has been one female primate in the Anglican Communion: Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori of the Diocese of the Rio Grande. The Women’s Council met in July and continues to look for new ways to reach all ages of women and girls. One new adventure is a joint effort of the Women’s Ministry with the Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the diocese in the Meet Esther event for teen girls that will be held September 8 at St. Francis, Rio Rancho. See info about this exciting opportunity elsewhere in this edition.

Archbishop Melissa was installed as diocesan bishop in March 2014 at the Vancouver Convention Centre and Christ Church Cathedral. The Ecclesiastical Province of BC and Yukon is one of four Provinces that comprise the Anglican Church of Canada. In her new role, the new archbishop will have responsibility for six dioceses: Yukon, Caledonia in northern British Columbia, the Territory of the People in central British Columbia – that comprises the Anglican Parishes of the Interior, and prior to that, Cariboo, Kootenay in the eastern part of British Columbia, including the Okanagan, British Columbia – Vancouver Island and the coastal islands, and her own diocese of New Westminster, which covers the urban and suburban communities of Greater Vancouver and the Fraser Valley including the Sunshine Coast, from Powell River to Hope.

She was elected in the first ballot when 21 of the 24-member Provincial Electoral College gathered for a telephone conference and electronic vote. This vote was historic in two respects: the first woman was elected Archbishop, and it was the first election held entirely by electronic means, according to a diocesan spokesman.

She will succeed Archbishop John Privett, who stood down as Metropolitan at the end of April, and who will complete his ministry as Bishop of Kootenay at the end of May. “I’m thrilled and deeply grateful for the support of so many in this process,” the Provincial House of Bishops, Executive Council members, and those who worked diligently to create the electronic/ phone balloting process that we used today.”

Succeeding Archbishop John Privett is a humbling task. My hope and conviction is that we’re now embarking on a time of increasing cooperation and purpose in the life of our Province that will build on Archbishop Privett’s good work over the past nine years,” Archbishop Melissa said.

The new Archbishop takes office immediately and will be installed formally at the commencement of the Provincial Synod at Sorrento, BC, in September.
RIP: The Rev. William H. Martin
May 7, 1924 – May 11, 2018

The Rev. William Henderson Martin, priest, teacher, musician, photographer, passed away May 11, 2018, at age 94. He was born in Sonora, Texas, May 7, 1924, to John Allen and Willie Henderson Martin, and grew up on a ranch near Sonora, in Del Rio and San Angelo, Texas. He is preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, John, Sam, Taylor, and Robert, and four sisters, Gladys Taylor, Mary Martin, Mabel Ellis and Debbi Almond. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Joan Herndon Martin, nephews, nieces, and a flock of loving friends.

He is a graduate of McMurry University, Abilene, North Texas State University, Denton, and the General Theological Seminary, NYC. Fr. Martin was ordained priest in 1955. In 1967-1969, he was chaplain at St. Luke’s Hospital, NYC, and the State Hospital for Mentally Ill in Philadelphia. During this time, he was also associate priest at the Cathedral of St. John the Devine, NYC.

He spent most of his ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande. He was Vicar of St. Mary’s, Lovington, NM, and in El Paso he was Rector of Christ Church the King, associate at St. Albans’, and in retirement, for periods of time, cared for Holy Spirit, St. Luke’s, St. Francis on the Hill, St. Christopher’s, and All Saints. He touched the lives of many through his work in Cursillo and church camps, and through the retreats and quiet days he frequently conducted.

In 1982-1983 he interrupted his ministry here to be Rector of St. Paul’s Anglican Church, São Paulo, Brazil. Before ordination, Fr. Martin taught in high schools in West Texas, Sul Ross State University, and the Escola Graduada de São Paulo.

Fr. Martin was one of the founders of Hospice of El Paso and served as their first chaplain. It is fitting that this caring group ministered to him at the time of his death.

He was a World War II Veteran, having served in the South Pacific, an accomplished organist, and a sensitive photographer.

By Kristi Gurule,
St. John’s, Farmington

Prayer Shawl knitters Everett Burkholder and his daughters: Linda Brown, kneeling next to him, and Kristi Gurule.

We at St. John’s in Farmington have the blessing of a Prayer Shawl Ministry. We may be few in number, but we are mighty knitters thanks to God. Our members are starting to grow. Everett Burkholder is teaching a few who are interested in joining the ministry.

Our shawls start with prayers and continue until completion. Father Guy Mackey, our rector blesses them and they are distributed to whoever needs God’s comfort, healing or just the warmth of his love. Ann Merrick distributes them primarily at the hospital and cancer center, but has been known to give one to someone on the street.

The power of these shawls is absolutely amazing. Personally, I’ve seen His power at work. My cousin was in the hospital with excruciating pain and paranoia on her left side. The doctors could not find anything wrong. I took a prayer shawl to her, explaining what it was. She immediately put it all along her left side and drifted off to sleep with a very peaceful look on her face. When she woke from her nap, her pain was totally gone and so was her paranoia! Praise God!

We all know the power of God and how much our prayers can really matter. May God bless each and every one of you in whatever way you serve our Lord Jesus Christ. No matter how small our effort may seem, God can make great things happen in Jesus name.

More on Prayer Shawl Ministry

We at St. John’s Parish in Farmington have in our midst some quiet ministers who touch many who are receiving care at San Juan Regional Medical Center, cancer center, and oncology center. These three have provided the loving time and prayer focus for the past 11+ years to provide literally hundreds of shawls. There are people beyond them who donate funds for the yarn so it literally hundreds of shawls. There are people beyond them who donate funds for the yarn so it can provide shawls. There are people beyond them who donate funds for the yarn so it can provide shawls. There are people beyond them who donate funds for the yarn so it can provide shawls.

Weeds - Gardening in the Ground of the Soul
By Kristi Gurule,
St. Andrews, Roswell

Recent thunderstorms brought some blessed rain, breaking the drought, momentarily, and leading me to abandon my ironing board, grab my gloves and head outside to pull weeds while the ground was soft and moist. I was struck by the thought that sometimes what is designated a weed has more to do with location than type. Clumps of grass that would be very welcome in my sparse lawn are yanked out root and branch, simply because they’re growing in my flower bed, or brick walkway. It’s only partly a joke that all you need to grow lush green grass is a crack in your sidewalk.

Then I move on to the sparse lawn, and remove half the greenery, because some weeds are weeds no matter where they are. Of these, I have the greatest admiration for dandelions. Not for their pretty yellow flowers, nor yet for the memories of blowing their fluff away. In my cruel old age, I’m more likely to throw a bag over their heads before pulling to avoid releasing the fluff. No. I admire them because they are perfectly adapted to thwart my attempts to eradicate them. First, they’re built low to the ground, so they are hard to grasp. Then, when you do grab them, the tender leaves pull away, leaving the tough root in the ground to sprout again and again.

In a paradox, Jesus used weeds to mean evil, bad thoughts and worse actions. The weeds of my soul seem to all be dandelions. I can tame them on the surface. I can behave like I’m not selfish or angry or envious. But when I’m taken unprepared, the weeds sprout, the anger flares, and I envy others’ good fortune. I put my own interests ahead of others. I will eat the whole bag of chips without leaving any for others. The bad habits and vices always seem to have tough, resilient roots, but the good habits are such hot-house flowers. A little adversity or temptation and they dry and wither. Perhaps it’s because as Fr. Bob Williams once said, “Good habits aren’t habits. They’re disciplines.” No one ever fell into purity or diligence − virtues have to be chosen, committed to and cultivated. But the good news, as lawn care experts will tell you, is that healthy grass will eventually choke out weeds. The good disciplines of prayer and study and loving action will form your inner soil to bring forth healthy plants.

Of course, in this soul gardening, as in ordinary gardening, all our efforts and disciplines aren’t the whole story, or even the most important part. The main work of growing healthy plants or healthy souls is God’s work. We plant the seed, but God gives the increase. His rain, His Spirit carries the nutrients that feed us, and his miracle calls forth the New Life in our gardens and in our souls.
By David Paulsen, Episcopal News Service

Knit together the communities on both sides of the river, Reed said. The government cracked down on river crossings, the flow of people in both directions were significantly reduced.

Jobs in Terlingua, she said. There aren’t a lot of jobs to steal. Before the federal crossing closed. Now, a trip that once took a few minutes by pickup truck across the river instead takes three or four hours by way of the official border crossing to the west in Presidio, Texas.

“With Mother’s Day weekend in 2002, when U.S. authorities detained 50 people on immigration charges and made clear they were ending the open passage as part of an effort to secure the border after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. Now, anyone entering the U.S. by crossing the river at Lajitas risks arrest.

A government spokesman, told the San Antonio Express-News in a story about the Lajitas Crossing, and Mexicans and Americans passed freely across the river to visit relatives, shop, attend school and work. That changed on Mother’s Day weekend in 2002, when U.S. authorities detained 50 people on immigration charges and made clear they were ending the open passage as part of an effort to secure the border after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. Now, anyone entering the U.S. by crossing the river at Lajitas risks arrest.

Except on this one day.

The U.S. government previously declined to actively patrol the Lajitas Crossing, and Mexicans and Americans passed freely across the river to visit relatives, shop, attend school and work. That changed on Mother’s Day weekend in 2002, when U.S. authorities detained 50 people on immigration charges and made clear they were ending the open passage as part of an effort to secure the border after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. Now, anyone entering the U.S. by crossing the river at Lajitas risks arrest.

Starting in 2013, the organizers of Voices From Both Sides arranged for federal and local authorities to bend the rules for a few hours, allowing for this border-straddling party, with music, food, drinks and religious worship. “The organizations have kept up its pace since the beginning,” Moore said. The Diocese of the Rio Grande is the largest among the contiguous 48 state and international dioceses of the Episcopal Church. Moore is chair of Rio Grande Borderland Ministries.

“We’d love to have more people join us,” he said. “In addition to his parish duties, Moore is chair of Rio Grande Borderland Ministries.

The Diocese of the Rio Grande is the largest among the contiguous 48 state and international dioceses of the Episcopal Church. Moore’s church is about 90 miles to the north of the Lajitas Crossing, and Mexicans and Americans passed freely across the river to visit relatives, shop, attend school and work. That changed on Mother’s Day weekend in 2002, when U.S. authorities detained 50 people on immigration charges and made clear they were ending the open passage as part of an effort to secure the border after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. Now, anyone entering the U.S. by crossing the river at Lajitas risks arrest.

I hope it continues, because it’s just a day,” said Nancy Reed, an Episcopalian who lives about 15 minutes away from Lajitas. She and her husband are teachers at the Terlingua school, and some of their students have family members back in Mexico. Voices From Both Sides is a way for those relatives and friends to reconnect without having to drive hours out of their way, she said. “I was really nervous last year with Trump in office,” she said. “Would President Trump’s stance on immigration mean an end to Voices From Both Sides?” she said. “I really wasn’t sure it was going to happen. It still did.”

Last year, the Episcopal service was first on the day’s lineup at 10:30 am, which meant the sound system hadn’t been set up yet and only about 150 to 200 people had arrived for the day’s festivities. Even so, about 30 people from both sides of the river received communion.

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For the second year, members of the board of RGBM and members from Good Shepherd in Silver City and St. James’ in Alpine, joined with hundreds of others at Lajitas, Texas, to celebrate Voices From Both Sides/Voces de Ambos Lados, a popular event that celebrates the unity of peoples across the Rio Grande. Fr. Paul Moore, Pastor Sarah Guck and many assistants, celebrated a bilingual Eucharist in the middle of the river and distributed communion to any who wished to participate on both sides of the international boundary.

Unlike last year, when the river was only knee-deep, changes in the channeling of the river made a boat necessary in chest-deep water. Gratitude is due the good people at Otra Vez who were hugely instrumental making this event a possibility once again. “For me, it was a statement that borders are political, not spiritual, realities,” Moore told Episcopal News Service. “That people in the church are joined and are one.

Residents of the Big Bend region of Texas, however, also are divided by and forced to overcome great geographic distances. Reed and her husband sometimes drive 80 miles to attend St. James’ Episcopal Church in Alpine, Texas, because services are sporadic at Santa Inez in Terlingua. Along the way, they take advantage of the better grocery options in Alpine.

They sometimes take trips into Mexico, such as when a student invites them to a quinceañera, a 15th birthday celebration, in San Carlos. The community of Paso Lajitas on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande has all but dried up since the river crossing closed. Now, a trip that once took a few minutes by pickup truck across the river instead takes three or four hours by way of the official border crossing to the west in Presidio, Texas.

It’s a deal, the boat will become after...
AT THE BORDER

Gifts from Mexico

Fr. Paul and Rev. Sarah

Tradition and Culture

A woman priest!

Voces makes the news

Photos by Stewart Warren
March for Human Rights and Interfaith Service in Santa Fe

Several St. Bede’s members participated, along with other Santa Fe residents, in the rally and March for Human Rights on May 1, International Workers’ Day. This event was organized by Somos Un Pueblo Unido and supported by the St. Bede’s Justice and Peace committee. The main issues they wanted to highlight as workers’ rights were the need for paid sick leave and “wage theft” - asking workers to work more hours than they are paid. However, the march was generally in support of immigrant rights, as the signs and slogans showed. The picture shows my family and me at the rally, just before the march, holding signs we used in the march, which read, “Negocios en Santa Fe Dependen de Manos Trabajadoras” (Businesses in Santa Fe depend on workers’ hands) and “Santa Fe en Pie de Lucha” (Santa Fe: Stand up and fight). All along the march route, cars honked to show support and people were out offering us water and sandwiches. From research in my field of health services, I know the importance of visible signs of support like these for oppressed peoples, and I could feel this on our march. We left with the children still chanting the main slogan “No somos unos, No somos cien, Somos MILLONES!”. Cuentanos bien” (“we are not one, we are not a hundred, we are MILLIONS! count us well”).

The two-and-a-half mile march ended at San Isidro Roman Catholic church with supper and an Interfaith Service for immigrant justice. Representatives and clergy from most of the faith groups in Santa Fe participated in this service, including Padre Pedro Cuevas from St. Bedes’. It was gratifying to see the large number of Santa Fe clergy with a good grasp of Spanish. Spanish is Padre Pedro’s native language and he helped interpret remarks or prayers of others, as well as participating in his own right. The picture shows Padre Pedro at the lectern at San Isidro church giving a closing prayer. The service theme, “Healing Hearts; Building Hope” was echoed in the prayers and talks. We heard from long-time resident immigrant families, who had, as most do, a mix of children who were born here and are citizens and children who came over with their parents when they were young and are as yet undocumented. Especially moving were the talks by some of these children about living under the threat of deportation for a parent or for themselves, and the shattering of their dreams that would happen then. We also heard from children whose parents had already been deported and whose family is mourning the loss, while at the same time trying to stay afloat day to day. It was not hard to imagine the significant contribution these enormously articulate, poised and intelligent children with big dreams could make to our community, if the fear of deportation were removed and if they were allowed to continue their education. We left warmed by the expressions of support, and at the same time saddened by what our policies are doing to families.

Standing up at the Poor People’s Campaign

After accidentally running into each other at the rally on May 14, shown are members of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande Deacon Lane Perdue and Jill Cline, Youth Minister at St. James, Taos. The statewide gathering at the Santa Fe Roundhouse was organized by the New Mexico Poor People’s Campaign. The campaign was organized by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. fifty years ago. The 40 days of nonviolent action have weekly themes nationally. 40 states have organized committees for participation in the actions.
Record number of people confirmed or received at Bishop’s visit to St Bede’s

By Gerry Fairbrother, PhD

The Rt. Rev. Michael L. Vono, D.D. had his annual visit to St Bede’s on Sunday, April 29. He attended all three services and confirmed, received or baptized at all three. Three people were received and one confirmed at the 9:30 a.m. service. The Bishop blesses Estella Lopez, Cristina and Angel

Bishop at Holy Faith

Bishop Michael L. Vono addresses the gathering of Parishioners in Palen Hall at St Bede’s on Sunday, April 29. He attended all three services and confirmed, received or baptized at all three. Three people were received and one confirmed at the 9:30 a.m. service.

How Firm a Foundation: Holy Faith Undergoes Restoration

Story and Photographs by James Overton

That refrain from “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less,” a 19th-century English hymn, proved to be more than a metaphor when the parish learned that a threat greater than sinking sand lurked beneath the spongy floors at The Church of the Holy Faith. The problem was rotting joists and beams. The nave was at serious risk of literally crumbling into itself. Junior Warden Paul D’Arcy said a simple request led to the discovery.

Jack Lott, then Senior Warden, noticed that the carpet covering the central aisle of the nave was looking worn. At the same time, Fr. Robin Dodge indicated he would really like to move the baptismal font from the northeast corner to the traditional bap of the nave in the center aisle. The sectional stone font, carved out of four stone blocks and weighing a hefty 200 pounds, dates from Holy Faith’s beginnings in 1882. “It would have made the floor sag over time if not properly supported,” D’Arcy said.

A closer inspection by Parish Administrator Mark Childers and former Junior Warden Van Horn also revealed the presence of asbestos. At one time in the distant past, there had been a furnace below the floor which heated the nave, and the asbestos had been used to protect the floor joists from the furnace. The asbestos was quickly removed, and the remediation process was reviewed and approved by an expert asbestos remediation professional to bring it into compliance with New Mexico Environment Department standards. Also confirmed was the growing suspicion that structural issues were more complex than just shoring up an old, yet historical, floor. “We noticed that the floor was in danger of collapsing and we were afraid that the joists and wedges and supports for the floor joints were out of place, and some were twisting in place,” D’Arcy said. “No one was going to fall through the floor, but it would have been irresponsible not to remedy the problem once we knew about it,” said current Senior Warden Guy Granotz.

The decision was made to ask restoration expert Ed Crocker to do a professional assessment of the situation. Crocker, though not a parishioner, was baptized at Holy Faith decades ago. His firm, Crocker Ltd., is an architectural conservation and historical preservation company specializing in the structural stabilization of all building types. Crocker was for many years a mainstay and driving force at Camelot Stone Community Partnerships, a Santa Fe nonprofit dedicated to preserving the architectural and cultural traditions of the Southwest. Since 1986, Camelot Stone has restored more than 380 architectural treasures, many of them historic churches. Included among the churches the Crocker firm has restored is the Salisbury Cathedral in Salisbury, England, which was originally built in 1258.

Crocker and his son, Jess, confirmed widespread evidence of dry rot and poor condition of the joists and beams. “Wood that is encapsulated in masonry never dries out, if it gets wet,” Jess Crocker said during an interview after job completion. “Structural wood buried in masonry usually rots. We’ve seen this time after time.” The floor of the Holy Faith nave was being propped up by old railroad ties and repurposed 2x12 lumber, some chip-carved and painted in the style of Northern New Mexico craftsmen, and shimmed with wedges from all sizes of available wood. The drop ceiling below the nave was a case study in do-it-yourself maintenance, by all accounts. “In some places, they even dropped 2x4 logs in dirt beneath the building. It was like talcum powder that would never last,” Jess said.

Crocker was asked to make a proposal for the remediation of the problems that were known to exist. At this point the question of how best to gain access to the joists and make the repairs arose. Working in a limited crawl space below the existing floor appeared impractical, which suggested the work required a “top down” approach. Buddy Roybal of Coronado Paint & Decorating suggested replacing the entire floor. This would allow Crocker pretty much unfettered access to the area below the nave, reducing labor costs and eliminating the need to compromise getting the proper materials in place to shore up the nave floor.

At the request of the Vestry the plans and remediation proposed were reviewed and signed off on by a licensed structural engineer. On April 23 the Crocker crew showed up and began the project. Scaffolding was erected and a ceiling-to-floor wall of plastic drop material was draped in front of the steps to the chantal to prevent dust from settling into the pipes of the largest church organ in Northern New Mexico. The construction detritus would have caused a tonal calamity.

Hymnals, prayer books and Bibles were packed in moving boxes. The 14 Stations of the Cross were taken down and moved to a safe location. Next, the work crew – a tight-knit team of restoration professionals who have been working together for more than a dozen years – ripped up the old red carpet from the center aisle. At the same time, another crew from Coronado began the systematic process of removing every pew in the church. The pews were taken to a warehouse off site for refreshing and refinishing.

Crocker’s crew then draped the stained-glass windows with plastic and covered them with sheets of plywood to protect them from damage during the project. Once the nave was stripped bare, the restoration crew began cutting up the floor, removing the wooden flooring. Hand-wrought nails had been used to secure the oak flooring to the subfloor. “Once they let us tear up the floor, we knew we could do this right,” Jess Crocker said.

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Continued on page 12

How Firm a Foundation: Holy Faith Undergoes Restoration

Numbers especially strong from the Hispanic Congregation. This is evidence of the vibrant ministry to Hispanic Community

By Gerry Fairbrother, PhD

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Replacing joists and beams was a complex construction task that required an engineering solution. Crocker used what’s known as steel helical piers to support the beams and joists of the new plank floor. A helical pier is basically an “earth screw” with large fins drilled into the ground at high hydraulic pressure. The screw-in piling and ground anchoring system is widely used for building deep foundations in new and restored buildings.

The Crocker crew installed six piers on each side of the 60-foot-long nave – fixed with three shear pins that snap when the pilings hit solid surface and signal the six piers would be perfectly flat. The “beams” which ran inside the nave were then put in place on top of each pier to support the floor would be perfectly flat. The “beams” which ran inside the nave were then put in place on top of each pier to support the

The foundation repair is only the latest project in a series. “For years, we had no budget for capital improvements,” Childers said upon reflection. “But when things started turning around financially in 2013, we began some lighting improvements. That’s when we discovered that our ancient breaker box probably dated back to Thomas Edison. Suddenly, we came to the realization that the church could burn down because of a simple electrical failure.” The electrical system was updated and brought up to code requirements. “And, then, if we had never talked about moving the font, we would never have known about the serious structural problems,” Childers said.

Childers, D’Arcy, Van Horn, Jack Lott, Gronquist and others involved in the massive repair project spoke about the spirit of openness. To me, entering Holy Faith is like no other in our memory, whose faith and wisdom led the way, nurtured our own faith and reminded us of the faithfulness of God when every single challenge emerged. Her spiritual perseverance inspired us all.

With no doubt, we can say that our faith has grown during this year of our “diapora.” God’s love and faithfulness have been concretely evident in our journey, at every single juncture of this great spiritual challenge. Do plan to visit us this fall, when we return home to our beloved St. Bede’s Episcopal Church.
**News of the Northeast Deanery**

**Holy Faith, Santa Fe, Donna Lukacs**
The Church of the Holy Faith is again hosting summer concerts of the Santa Fe Desert Chorale. The program is Bernstein, Bolcom, and Barber. Twentieth Century American Masters, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Leonard Bernstein, the 80th birthday of William Bolcom, and the music of Samuel Barber. For dates, times and ticket information, please visit http://desertchorale.org/.

**St. Jerome’s, Chama, Rev. Colin Kelly**
We are actually BUILDING the new Parish Hall
Praise the Lorp!

This Parish Hall has been a dream of the members of St. Jerome’s for over 20 years and much effort has gone into raising the funds over those years. At last now our vision is becoming a reality and our faith and hard work are bearing fruit. Thanks be to God! We also owe a huge debt of thanks to Dan Goedjen of St. Jerome’s, our Overseer, Lisa Jo Durham of Trinity on the Hill as our architect, and George and Chandra Marsland of Trinity on the Hill, who will be finishing out the interior to help raise funds from an anonymous donor for the Mexico Ministry. Everybody wins on this deal!!!

Our plan is to not only use our new building for our own congregational needs, such as our weekly Great Books study, Coffee Hour, Vicar’s Office, etc., but also for staging for our Coat Ministry to our neighboring schools, as well as to meet other community needs.

We also hosted an Ice Cream Social and silent auction along with a raffle and special musical program of Tunes and Tales of America presented by newcomers Bill and Beth Filiowich in July.

**St. James, Taos, Gwenneth Glenn**
The Rev. Pamela Tyler of Dade City, Florida is shown here in the churchyard of St. James Episcopal Church in Taos, NM. Mother Pam is serving as Priest-in-Charge while Fr. Mike Olsen and his wife, Sandy, are on Sabbatical.

**St. Paul’s Peace, Las Vegas, Rev. Madelynn Johnston**
Summer is a busy time for all of us. St. Paul’s Peace is happy to share the news that we will be sending children to Camp Stoney for the first time in a number of years. We celebrate having children to send as well as their interest in attending.

We are planning for a time in July for the congregation to come together to dream and vision - and to enjoy some good food together. We ask your prayers for our visioning.

**Trinity on the Hill, Los Alamos, Claire Singleton**
On May 13 we honored our graduates from kindergarten, 8th, 11th, and 12th grade, both during our worship and afterwards with a potluck in Kelly Hall. We wish them all well in their continuing educational journey.

The Anglican Pilgrimage to the UK - 20 members of our Evensong Choir, plus choristers were in London and Portsmouth, where they were the resident cathedral choir for a week. The music they sang included works by CV Stanford, T. Tertius Noble, H. Frieidell, Henry Purcell and Maxine Thevenot.

TOTH is very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Nelly Case as its new Choirmaster. Nelly is already in Los Alamos and has attended several services at TOTH in preparation for taking up her duties with the Chancel Choir in September. John Singleton has resigned as director of the Youth and Evensong Choirs. We very much look forward to Nelly’s music ministry at Trinity on the Hill.

An annual highlight of summer for TOTH parishioners is our annual outdoor worship and picnic at Rancho Nambe held on Sunday, July 1. We always look forward to enjoying the beautiful location, its sights, and sounds, a cookout, and the outdoor pool!

**Mission Conference 2018:**
**Living in the New Pentecost**

**By the Very Rev. Daniel Webster**
Interim Dean, St. John’s Cathedral

The Bishop’s Annual Congregation Revitalization workshop explored how to be church in the new Pentecost. The late Phyllis Tickler’s book, The Age of the Spirit, suggests the Holy Spirit does something new every 500 years: the Great Reformation in the 1500s, the Great Schism (1054CE), the Great Fall and Decline (500CE), and the Great Transformation (33CE).

The Holy Spirit is clearly doing something in our time. Church leaders are busy trying to figure out what that means. Leadership requires openness and a willingness to try new things, to open our eyes into new ways of doing and being church. Across the country there are dinner churches, coffee houses, art and music communities, that congregations are experimenting with.

One idea seeing results is to become an indispensable community asset. Find out the unmet need in your neighborhood or community. If necessary, seek partners to fill that need. One dwindling Lutheran congregation in Renton, WA, tore down the church building to build veterans’ housing upstairs from Luther’s Table, a cafe on the ground floor where they also had a worship space and meeting rooms.

Each congregation attending the conference was asked to go home and invite community leaders to a lunch. It’s a first step in learning what unmet needs may exist. They were also reminded of the words of the prophet Isaiah 43:18-19, “Don’t remember the prior things, don’t ponder ancient history. Look! I’m doing a new thing, now it sprouts up, don’t you recognize it?”

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**Serenity Retreat Set for August 24-26**

**Registration is open for this year’s Serenity Retreat, held August 24-26 at the Bosque Center.**

This year’s focus is Finding Serenity in the Steps.

**Registration fee schedule:**
- Single-Resident, Friday night – Sunday morning - $182
- Couple- Resident, Friday night – Sunday morning - $272
- Commuter - meals only - $98
- Friday night dinner and open speaker meeting - $20

*Find us on Facebook, a private group: Rio Grande–Episcopal Recovery Ministry. Please contact Sondra Jones for information about registration.*

*Email: sondraljones@gmail.com or call 915-203-3251.*
Electing Convention
May 5, 2018
Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque

Penitential Rite I
Provides setting for election of the next Bishop

The Electing Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande at the Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque convened at 8:00 am on Saturday, May 5, not as a business meeting but as a congregation gathered for Eucharist following Penitential Rite I. Bishop Vono bid those gathered to “come boldly before the throne of grace and humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.” A congregation absolved of its sins listened as the Rev. Canon Raymond Raney, who served as Secretary of the Convention, reflected on the history of Episcopal elections in the Diocese, and as he reminded those gathered how far we have come. He reflected that eight years ago we as a Diocese were considered as outliers of The Episcopal Church. Today we are among the leaders of The Episcopal Church. He also reminded delegates of the building of The Bosque Center, the revitalization of Camp Stoney, and the creation of ministries reaching out to Hispanics, Native Americans and work in the Borderlands.

Canon Raney quoted Jim Gordon, who had written an article on the movement of the Holy Spirit in the Search process. “One important attribute that we worked very hard on was developing and maintaining trust, trust for each other, trust for the process, trust in our discernment… and trust for the Holy Spirit’s presence in our deliberations. I do believe very strongly that the Holy Spirit was very active in the whole process. We weren’t without problems, but the Holy Spirit definitely was evident in how we were able to reconcile our differences and stay focused on our task to find three incredible candidates… No, it didn’t go as expected, it went as we hoped.”

The sermon closed with the prayer used at the Cathedral during its interim period.

O Faithful God, as your people, we cherish our memories and our history as a sacred gift. We ask you to guide us in our time of transition. We need your wisdom, that we might be receptive to change, conversion and growth. We need your grace to redirect our hearts that we may be willing to offer ourselves in joyful service. Do not allow fear, ignorance or pride to limit the work of your Spirit, nor custom to prevent the creativity within us from bearing fruit. Open our hearts to the call of the Gospel. Give us courage and renewed hope, that we may meet the challenge of being the church of our time.

We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

With that prayer and the collect for the election of a bishop, the balloting began, interspersed with readings selected for the day, the singing of hymns, and periods of silence and conversation. It was an historic election. For the first time a woman was on the ballot for election as bishop of the Diocese. For the first time the Lay vote reflected a preference for the Rev. Canon Michael Hunn, with the Rev. Canon Lucinda Ashby was a close second. The second ballot for the Rev. Canon Michael Hunn, with the Rev. Canon Lucinda Ashby was a close second. The second ballot showed election of Canon Hunn by a majority, and a third ballot was required for election by both the Lay and Clergy orders on the same ballot.

Before the announcement of the election, Bishop Vono arranged for Archdeacon Patty Soukup to enter from the back of the nave and process down the aisle swinging the thurible and swirling white smoke to the organ sounds of the Doxology. As the congregation of delegates became aware of the impending announcement, they rose to their feet and began to applaud. After some minutes, quiet was restored and it was announced: “We have an election.”

Bishop Vono announced the peace and the service continued with the Holy Eucharist and the sharing of God’s blessings through Jesus Christ, and ended with Archdeacon Soukup’s dismissal. “Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.” And the people responded in a grand voice, “Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.”

Dr. Morag Smith brought her cellphone to the pulpits to bring the voice of the Bishop-elect to the convention.

“With gratitude in my heart I accept God’s call and yours to be your next bishop. I already feel such love and gratitude as we look forward to our future together. Meg and I are eager to make our home among you, and I can’t wait to begin our work together. As we enter this transition, and as I contemplate beginning my service as your Bishop, I am particularly grateful to Bishop Michael Vono and for his ministry among you. For his joyful spirit, loving heart, his healing ways, and the strength of his ministry let us give thanks. We know that what is possible in one episcopate depends greatly on the tenure of the Bishop who went before. I feel blessed to join our Diocese at this particular moment. Thanks to Bishop Vono, we are ready for the challenges and joys God has in store for us. I am just beginning to understand the magnitude of this call but my heart is already full to bursting with love for our Diocese of the Rio Grande and for our Creator and Redeemer whose love made us and is ever calling us to be the loving, graceful, compassionate body of Christ.”

Clergy and Lay Delegates stand to applaud at the announcement of the election of the next bishop. (photo by Robert Batton)
Together

MAY 5, 2018 – CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN, ALBUQUERQUE

Sergeants at Arms pass out ballots to the convention delegates. (Photo by Doug Weiss)

Christopher Jewell, head Sergeant at Arms, oversees the distribution of ballots. (Photo by Doug Weiss)

The Venerable Patricia Soukup precedes the announcement of the election with the white smoke from the thurible. (Photo by Robert Batton)

Diocesan staff count ballots under watchful eyes of proctors Lane Perdue and Bob Clark. (Photo by Doug Weiss)

Bishop Vono opens the service flanked by Registrar Mary Jewell and Secretary of Convention Canon Raney. (Photo by Doug Weiss)

Secretary of Convention Raymond Raney, sequestered in the sacristy, certifies the ballot results. (Photo by Doug Weiss)

Bishop Vono provides absolution following the confession. (Photo by Doug Weiss)

Canon Raymond Raney provided perspective in his sermon prior to balloting. (Photo by Doug Weiss)

Dr. Kathleen Pittman, president of Standing Committee, announces the slate. (Photo by Robert Batton)

Dr. Morag Smith, chair of the electing subcommittee, shares a message from the Bishop-elect. (Photo by Robert Batton)

Election results show on the screen behind the headtable who join in applause. (Photo by Robert Batton)

Bishop Vono, Canon Raney, Archdeacon Soukup and the Deans prepare to commune convention. (Photo by Robert Batton)

Bishop Vono provides absolution following the confession. (Photo by Doug Weiss)

Sergeants at Arms pass out ballots to the convention delegates. (Photo by Doug Weiss)
Consecration: Save the Date!

November 3, 2018, 11:00 am, will commence the ordination and consecration of our Bishop-Elect Michael Hunn. This event will be at First Presbyterian Church, 215 Locust St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102. It’s certain to be a magnificent occasion you won’t want to miss! The Transition Team will keep you informed as details are finalized. In the meantime, if you have questions you may use the Contact the Transition Team form on the DRG Transition Team website www.DRGBishopTransition.org.

Gift Fund Donations for Bishop-Elect Hunn

When a bishop is ordained, it is customary to present the new bishop with gifts and accoutrements for his/her new role. The Diocese of the Rio Grande has designated a special donation fund through which such gifts and accoutrements may be acquired.

The purpose of this donation fund is to allow groups and individuals throughout the Diocese to contribute any amount, thereby extending their own “personal” welcome to Bishop-Elect Hunn. There may be some groups in the Diocese who would like to present specific items. For others who would like to fund Bishop-Elect Michael Hunn or something similarly descriptive, the Diocese will know where to credit the amount. All contributions are welcome.

Each deanery will present to Bishop Vono a special retirement gift from their deanery. Feel free to contact your Dean directly.

If you have questions about the retirement celebrations, please contact your Dean directly.

Stay tuned as plans are finalized. In the meantime, the Diocese encourages individuals to support Bishop-Elect Hunn as he prepares to assume the role of Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande.

For nomination forms go to: www.dioceserg.org/ForCongregationsClergy/diocesan-convention

For more information about the Diocese of the Rio Grande, visit the Diocesan website at www.dioceserg.org

66th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande

November 1-3, 2018 • Embassy Suites • Albuquerque, New Mexico

The next major step in our transitional journey toward a new Diocesan bishop is to join Bishop Vono as he celebrates his much-deserved retirement. Retirement celebrations are planned in each of the four deaneries, and everyone in the Diocese is encouraged to attend any or all of the events. Locations, dates, and times for the retirement celebrations:

- Saturday, September 22, at Holy Faith, Santa Fe, 4:00 pm. Evensing will precede celebration.
- Saturday, September 29, at St. Andrew’s, Las Cruces, 2:00 pm.
- Saturday, October 6, at Grace Church Parish Hall, Carlsbad, 12:00 pm.
- Saturday, October 13, at the Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque, 1:00 pm.

Each deanery will present to Bishop Vono a special retirement gift from their deanery. Feel free to contact your Dean directly to help in this effort. At the Bishop’s request, we are encouraging gifts from individuals.

Stated plans are final as of now. In the meantime, if you have questions about the retirement celebrations, please contact your Dean directly.

You may use the Contact the Transition Team form on the DRG Transition Team website www.DRGBishopTransition.org.

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Donations for the Bishop-Elect’s gift fund should be sent to the Diocesan office at 6400 Coors Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120. Please be sure to note in the memo line of your check “Gifts Bishop-Elect Michael Hunn” or something similarly descriptive, so the Diocese will know where to credit the amount. All contributions are welcome.

If you wish to subscribe to the Diocesan weekly e-mail newsletter, please send your name and mailing address to Together@dioceserg.org.

To receive notification of the availability of the electronic version of Together for download, please send your name, congregation and email address to Intheloop@dioceserg.org.

Deadline for the In the Loop submissions is 100 pm. Mondays.

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TOGETHER SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR 2018
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018 Submission deadline: August 10
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018 Submission deadline: October 12
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019 Submission deadline: December 7

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