

# DEUS AMONG US

A NEWSLETTER FOR ANGLICANS

Vol. 2

Edited by Carolyn Kerouac

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

## FROM THE BISHOP



### Holy Orders

#### Answering the Call

By  
Canon Michael Kerouac

One of the best indicators of the health of Diocese, or even a Church, is how the Holy Spirit is manifested in the inspiration of men to Holy Orders. As we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit in Pentecost, we can be thankful that this Diocese has been deeply blessed with men who have interest in serving the Church. In just the last few weeks, Frank Cossentino was ordained to the Deaconate, and Father Jason Ellis was ordained as a Priest at St. Patrick's in FL. Wiley Hawks was installed as a Subdeacon at St. Stephen's in MD. Within the month, we will ordain John Novicki and Michael Belt to the Deaconate at St. Stephen's Anglican Church in MD. Two of our newest parishes have each recommended two men to the path to Orders, and one more postulant has started training in North Carolina.

With such an explosion of activity by men coming to Holy Orders, it would be helpful for us to have a discussion about what the process is, and how it might be navigated. The Anglican Tradition is a sacramental and Apostolic Tradition. We are dedicated both to the proper teaching of the "Word" as given to the Apostles through Our Lord, and keeping the sacraments that connect us to the Mystical Body of Christ and His grace. This Tradition requires holy ministers, men who humbly and prayerfully learn the Orthodox and proper interpretation of Scriptures, and who can preside in their "Office" as Ministers of our sacraments.

Holy Orders, are Deacons, Priests and Bishops. In the liturgy for ordination for each of these offices, which is preserved in our Book of Common Prayer, men are set aside and anointed for the purpose of being THE offices conferred by ordination, or holy ministers. The privilege of becoming this kind of special servant to the Church and to God's people requires dedication to Daily Prayer, a heart to serve, and the willingness to submit to the authority of the Church. There is no more damaging sin to the body of Christ than the hypocrisy of its ministers, and so this path is one to be taken seriously, and with Holy Fear. Any of us on this road pray daily that we will not be the source of scandal or pride that causes one of Our Lord's children to flee from their home in the Church.

A man may believe he has a calling to serve the Church, but that call has to be validated. In fact, acceptance into preparation for Holy Orders, becoming an Aspirant or Postulant, is an invitation for the Church to examine a man's vocation, test its validity, and prepare for its acceptance. No matter how deeply one feels moved by the Holy Spirit toward serving as Minister of God, only the Church, through its Bishops, has the right to recognize that vocation, validate it and license it.

Aspirants are in the earliest stage of testing their vocation. They begin studies, commit to prayer and prepare for their sacramental roles by assisting as Lay Readers, Acolytes and even Altar Guild. An aspirant may become a Subdeacon, which allows him to assist the priest at the Altar, preach with the supervision and approval of the Bishop or rector, and become a Lay Eucharistic Minister. Postulants make the commitment to complete their studies and preparation within a defined period of time, usually no

more than two years, and are in earnest study and prayer for their vocation under the direction of the Bishop, the Board of Examining Chaplains, the Standing Committee, and their own Vestry, each of which interviews, examines and recommends a man for Orders. Postulants must also write a letter to the Bishop about their progress toward their vocation during the Ember Days, which occur at the beginning of each season. Ember Days are days or prayer especially devoted to vocations for the Ministry.

Deacons are an ancient and holy order of ministry that extends back to the Book of Acts, when the Apostles prayerfully chose men of high reputation and charity to serve the poor on behalf of the Church. Among the first seven Deacons was St. Stephen, the first martyr. Every priest or bishop was a deacon before they assumed their current office, but no matter what their office is, even Bishop, they are always a deacon. A Deacon can assist at Eucharist, preach the Gospel, with approval of the Bishop.

Priests are sacramental ministers of the Eucharist, have the right to provide absolution, and are required to preach the Gospel. Bishops have the requirement to protect the teachings of the Church from any heresy, and to perform those Sacramental functions that represent charism's or gifts of the Holy Ghost. Specifically, only a Bishop can perform Confirmations or Ordinations. The best descriptions of the duties and privileges of each office can be found in the Ordinal, the Liturgy for each level of Holy Orders, which can be found in the Book of Common Prayer.

A man with a desire to test his vocation for Holy Orders should express that desire to his priest. If recommended by his priest and his Vestry, he can be eligible to be recognized as a Postulant by the Standing Committee, the Board of Examining Chaplains and the Bishop, all of which supervise the continued preparation. The road to Holy Orders is a long path, requiring dedication, humility and prayerfulness. You can be confident that your Deacons, Priests and Bishop that have come through this Diocese have been properly prepared and their vocation has been proven.

## POSTULANT CORNER

### GOD WILLING

PLEASE PRAY FOR GUIDANCE  
AS MICHAEL BELT AND JOHN NOVICKI  
PREPARE FOR THEIR ORDINATION ON  
JUNE 9, 2013 AT 4PM, ST STEPHEN'S  
ANGLICAN CHURCH 11856 Mays Chapel  
Road, Timonium, MD 21093  
**BISHOP JOHN VAUGHAN PRESIDING**



Wiley Hawks' Subdeacon reception at St. Stephen's.



Diocese of the Eastern United States



Traditional Anglican Communion



Anglican Church in America

Please send parish updates monthly to [carolyn.kerouac@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.kerouac@gmail.com)

## AMONG US



Going high tech...in Palatka, FL

Website: [www.stpetersanglican.com](http://www.stpetersanglican.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stpetersanglicaneastpalatkaflorida](https://www.facebook.com/stpetersanglicaneastpalatkaflorida)

Youtube: [www.youtube.com/user/stpeteranglicanfl](https://www.youtube.com/user/stpeteranglicanfl)

From Fr. John Jacobs...

I post a thought for the day on Facebook to both encourage those who read it and give us something to think about during the day.

St. Peter's is pursuing two used modular buildings for their new church location, one as a sanctuary and the other as a parish hall.



Easter on the altar with Fr. Jon Filkins

## St. Stephen's Anglican Church



A new playset invites families with young children to attend our church, and is already enjoyed by all current members, as you can see! Sunday School has been held outside in the cool of Spring to expel some energy..



Fr. Guy Hawtin leads an outdoor Easter Vigil at St. Stephen's in Timonium, MD



King Henry VIII (Fr. Jon Filkins) entering the Garden Party, led by Fr. Rhae Kelley at St. Stephen's.

## FROM THE CLERGY WIVES

Maureen Waller has been reaching out to new clergy wives and an updated contact list has been distributed since our Synod in February.

Some work on a new website has begun and we hope to unveil it very soon! It is our hope that the wives will continue to communicate throughout the year and reach out to each other for support and prayer!

## ✠DEUS PRAYER LIST ✠

**TRAVEL:** Bishop Vaughan ✠, Bishop Marsh ✠

**RECOVERY:** Fr Guy ✠, Rhae ✠, Charlotte, Brice

**ALL of those ON ACTIVE SERVICE and ALL Clergy**

**DAILY PRAYERS:** ALL CLERGY, POSTULANTS, THEIR WIVES AND FAMILIES WHO SUPPORT THEM

**Fundraising Ideas: NEXT ISSUE**

SILLY SUMMER SUPPERS

LOCAL FESTIVALS

COOKIE WALK FOR CHRISTMAS COOKIES

BREAD SALE

HOST A SOUTHERN BBQ

PLANT SALE

**WEBSITES NEEDED?**

**PLEASE CONTACT**

**[CAROLYN.KEROUAC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CAROLYN.KEROUAC@GMAIL.COM)**

✠ DEUS Among Us ✠

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