



KOINONIA



One bread, one body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all. • 1 Cor. 10:17, Eph. 4:5

Volume 7, Issue 24

Advent/Christmas 2013 A.D.

‘The Son of God
became a man
to enable men
to become
the sons of
God.’

C. S. Lewis



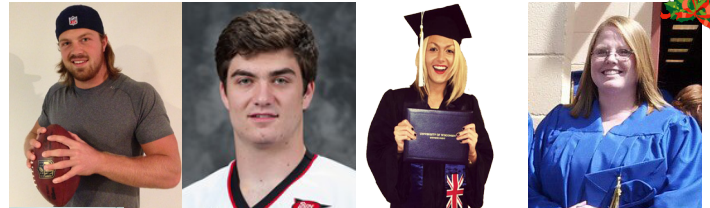


Editorial It's Christmas! Another year of God's grace and Love poured upon us that we may wise up and seek Him and abide in Him with all our heart. This Advent/Christmas Edition of Koinonia celebrates the Lord's birth, the importance of accepting His Lordship in our lives. Great article on C.S. Lewis who embraced Christ as the Lord rather than Liar or Lunatic after his search for Truth. We rejoice with Canon Joseph David who has been a faithful steward of the Gospel as he celebrates his 100th birthday and We appreciate the work of Fr. Jack Shrode for a major part of his life as a deacon and later as priest and his entry into everlasting life... the rest on the Episcopal visitation a testament of how our faithful are holding on to the faith once delivered and investing into His Kingdom.

A special thanks to Canon Patrick Comerford for his continued contribution and support to Koinonia.

May the Lord find us ready at His Second Coming - until then let us continue as His faithful stewards and keepers of Faith once delivered.

Wish you and your family a Blessed Christmas.
In our Blessed Lord
+ Leo & Holly Michael Editors



Congratulations to our HCCAR kids! From L-R, Jake Byrne is an NFL player now with the Kansas City Chiefs, Nick Byrne played in the NOLA Bowl for the Ragin Cajuns (Dec. 21), and Betsy Byrne and Ashley Lay graduated from college. Shawn Shepper-son's State Championship for the Longhorns!

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NEW ORDO KALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE! This Calednar is dedicated to the Kinners and celebrating beautiful WYOMING!

Holy Trinity Anglican Seminary welcomes you!




Holy Trinity Anglican Seminary (HTAS) is owned and administered by the Holy Catholic Church Anglican Rite of the diocese of Holy Trinity and Great Plains. It's location in Kansas City, mid-America makes travel easy to meet the campus schedule. It forms part of a long tradition of the Holy Catholic Church of Anglican Rite and continues this important work of evangelization of the Kingdom of Christ in the United States of America and beyond its mission territories.

With the advancement of communications, Holy Trinity Anglican Seminary will offer online and on campus training for its students. Holy Trinity Anglican Seminary firmly believes that Good Formation will ensure FRUITFUL Ministry. Keeping in mind the Great Commission of the Lord, HTAS will train its candidates in strong Scriptural foundation, Sacramental worship in the Apostolic Tradition as enunciated in the conservative Anglican Tradition. With qualified faculty and commitment to the cause of priestly formation, Holy Trinity Anglican Seminary is set to impart the traditional Anglican orthodoxy even in the emerging social and pastoral challenges. The seminary will also offer courses for lay students as well.

The Seminary primarily serves the Holy Catholic Church Anglican Rite while students belonging to other denominations are welcome to participate in our program of study and reflection. The Holy Trinity Anglican Seminary will soon be accredited with a view to conferring the Bachelor's Degree in Theology.

Holy Catholic Church pays special attention to the formation of her ministers. Church directives require that candidate to the priesthood undergo a minimum of three years devoted to an intense and specific priestly formation. These directives are implemented at this seminary, with particular emphasis on the Anglican traditions of the Holy Catholic Church.



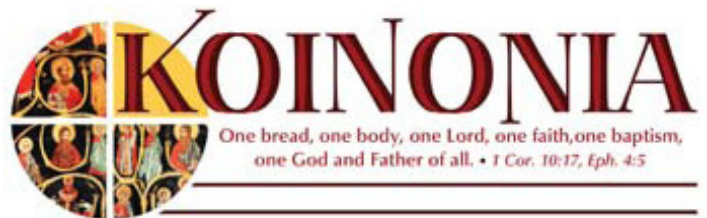
With Gratitude to God
We request the honor of your presence at the
Liturgy of the Ordination of
Jason L. Rice
To the Diaconate
in the Holy Catholic Church Anglican Rite
by the Rt. Rev. Leo J. Michael, Bishop Ordinary of the
Diocese of Holy Trinity and Great Plains
Holy Catholic Church Anglican Rite

Saturday Dec 21st in the year of our Lord 2013 at 11 am at
St. Paul the Apostle Holy Catholic Church Anglican Rite,
Old Stone Church - Corner of 4th & Pacific & off Hwy 76,
Branson, Missouri

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Join the Morning and Evening Prayer call during this Lent. Wake up with God. You can join the prayer conference in the rhythm of daily morning and evening prayer. We have dedicated clergy and postulants faithfully hosting the prayer call daily at 7:00 am and 7:00 pm central time. Ask your clergy for the phone number.



In the Koinonia masthead, the circle with the cross in the center symbolizes the paten and the diverse elements which form a whole. The Mosaic represents the great cloud of witnesses and the church tradition. The red in the letters represents the blood of Christ with the font comprised of individual pieces of letters that are not joined until the blood unifies them. Koinonia is the official publication of the Anglican Province of the Holy Catholic Church-Anglican Rite (HCCAR) aka Anglican Rite Catholic Church. It is published quarterly at St. James Anglican Church, 8107 S. Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO 64131. Phone: 816.361.7242 Fax: 816.361.2144. Editors: The Rt. Rev. Leo Michael & Holly Michael, Koinonia header: Phil Gilbreath; email: koinonia@holycatholicanglican.org or visit us on the web at: www.holycatholicanglican.org Cover picture: The Incarnation by Eleftheria Syrianoglou, who exhibited a number of "table icons" worked in on various shapes of olive wood Photo by Canon Patrick Comerford.



The Incarnation of God

Rt. Rev. Ken Kinner HCCAR



Photo by Bishop Leo from the Museum of Fine Art, Houston, Texas

Luke 1:38 "Mary said, 'Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to Thy word'"

With this acceptance of a sacred pregnancy, Mary made possible the Incarnation of God, the taking of human flesh by His Son and her son. We, through the Son, are able to know *what God is like* !!

How could we possibly know so much about the Nativity of Our Lord? The answer is in another scripture, authored by St. Luke: Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14

"Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet... and when they had entered they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers."

Let us put ourselves into their position: witnessing a horrific crucifixion, an astounding resurrection of a human body on the first day of the week, 40 days listening to Him speaking of the Kingdom of God and then in plain sight, returning to Heaven in His ascension. Could our minds quickly comprehend it all?

The first followers were told to wait, to wait in Jerusalem! They found strength in companionship and together they prayed. In



some way, are we not like them?? Would not our questions go to Mary: "None of us were with you when Jesus was born! 'Mary, what was his birth like ? What did you experience? How did He grow up as a boy ?

Mary related: "In the sixth month (of my cousin Elizabeth's pregnancy) the angelic messenger, Gabriel, came to me, a virgin, I was engaged to Joseph, a descendant of King David and said: '*Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with thee. I was greatly troubled, what kind of greeting is this?*'

Gabriel said to me: '*Do not be afraid Mary, you have found favor with God. You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.*'

"How can this be, since I have no husband ? - - - With God nothing is impossible. The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God "

All Creation held its breath waiting for Mary's answer !!

"I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to thy word "

Then Mary, in her joy, walked in haste to the hill country outside the capitol to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Can we imagine the joy of those cousins carrying babies at the same time? What a visitation!! The baby boy inside Elizabeth leaped at the presence of the baby inside Mary.

The Blessed Virgin was chosen by **God the Father**, the conception by **God the Spirit**, and the baby is **God the Son**. Mary, in one profound acceptance, experienced the **Holy Trinity!**

And Mary summarized the meaning of all of this in her pregnancy, in the song we call:

Luke I :46-55 **The Magnificat**

Mary sang: "My soul doth magnify the Lord,"

Her Son said: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" Luke 10:27

Mary sang: " and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my savior."

Jesus said: "Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven;" Luke 6:23

Mary sang: "for he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden."

Her Son spoke: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 5:3

Mary sang: "For behold, from henceforth, all generations shall call me blessed;"

Aged Simeon holding Jesus said: He is- "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people. Israel" Luke 2:32. "

Mary sang: "For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name."

Jesus said: "For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ, will by no means lose his reward." Mark 9:41

Mary sang: "And his is mercy is on them that fear him, throughout all generations."

Her Son taught: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." Matthew 5:7

Mary sang: " He hath showed strength with his arm, he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts."

Jesus affirmed: Hear me. "What comes out of a man is what defiles a man pride." Mark 7:21

Mary sang: "He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek."

On the Mount - Jesus: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."Matthew 5:5

Mary sang: "He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away."

Again on the Mount: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." Matthew 5:6

And Mary finished her song: "He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever."

And Jesus tells us: "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and as glad 'Before Abraham was, I am.'"

How can we summarize what all of this means ?

"Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in



An Anglican Apologist

Recalling CS Lewis 50 years after his death

& A Literary Giant

by Canon Patrick Comerford

While visiting Oxford a few weeks ago, I was conscious that this was the academic haven of so many Irish writers, including Louis MacNeice, Oscar Wilde and Seamus Heaney, but also of CS Lewis, who died fifty years ago on 22 November 1963 – the same that John F Kennedy was assassinated.

Seamus Heaney, who died earlier this year on 30 August, was a Fellow of Magdalen College while he was Professor of Poetry in Oxford. Magdalen is also the college of the Dublin-born Oscar Wilde, and of the Belfast-born CS Lewis, who in 1925 was elected a fellow and tutor in English Literature at Magdalen.

The Belfast-born writer, CS Lewis (1893-1963) is known worldwide for his literary criticism, children's literature, fantasy literature and, essays, as well as his works in theology and as a Christian apologist. His great works include *Mere Christianity*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Four Loves* and *Surprised by Joy*.

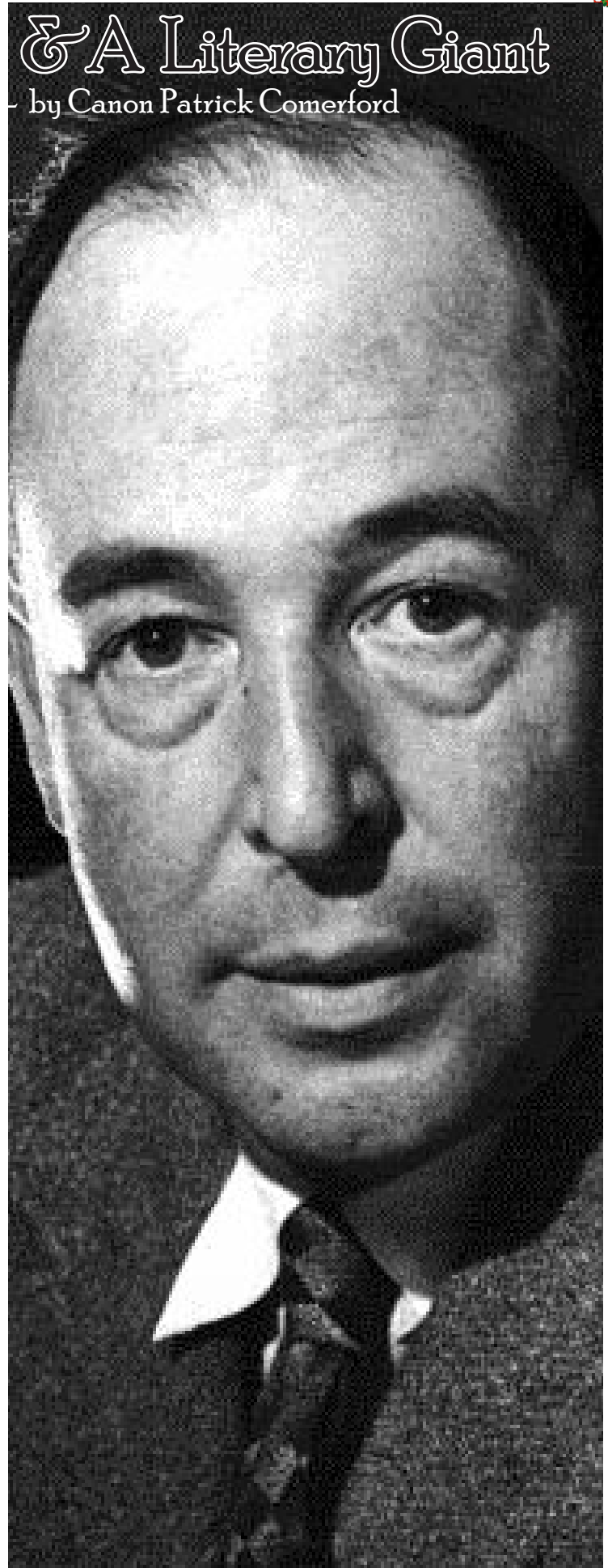
Clive Staples Lewis, known to his friends as Jack, was born in Belfast on 29 November 1898, the son of Albert James Lewis (1863-1929), a solicitor from Co Cork, and Flora Augusta (Hamilton) Lewis. He was baptised two months later, on 29 January 1899, in Saint Mark's Church, the Church of Ireland (Anglican) parish church in Dundela, on the Hollywood Road in East Belfast, by his maternal grandfather, the Revd Thomas Hamilton, who was the first Rector of Dundela.

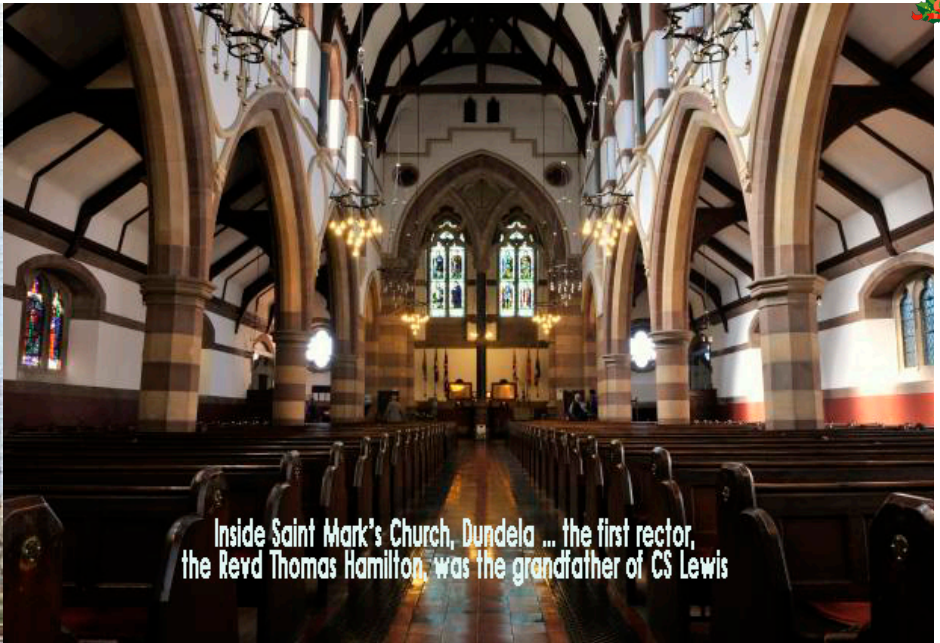
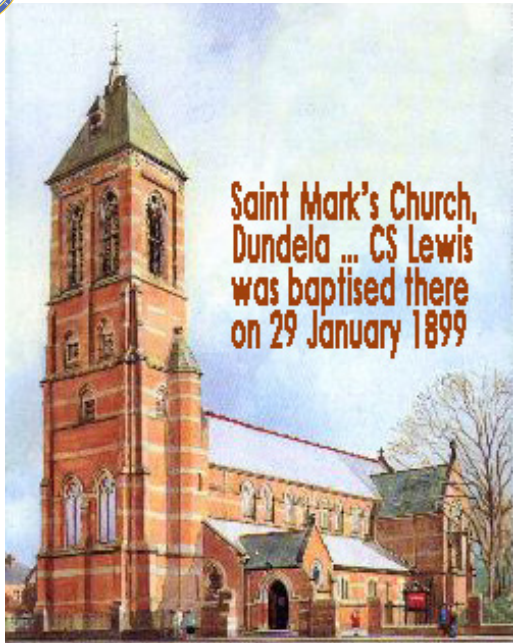
Saint Mark's Church was designed by William Butterfield (1814-1900), an internationally-known architect of the Tractarian Movement; his work includes All Saints' Church, Margaret Street, which has the tallest church spire in London, and Keble College, Oxford. The foundation stone was laid in 1876, and the church was consecrated in 1878. Arthur Lewis was a Churchwarden and the first Sunday School superintendent in Saint Mark's, and presented the silver Holy Communion vessels still used in the parish. Flora Lewis's family, the Hamiltons, were a well-known clerical family, with successive generations of priests back to the 1720s.

From the age of four, CS Lewis was known to his family as Jack. Flora died when her son was only nine, and this grievous loss stayed with him all his life. In 1905, the family moved to 'Little Lea' on the Circular Road, Belfast, and this house provided the location for the wardrobe that plays an important role in *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

As a young boy, he was sent first to the Wynyard School in Watford, then to Campbell College, Belfast, and on to Malvern College, Worcestershire. He returned to Dundela after the Revd Arthur Barton (1881-1962) became Rector of Saint Mark's. Barton later became Bishop of Kilmore (1930-1939) and Archbishop of Dublin (1939-1956), and Lewis refers affectionately to him in his autobiography.

Meanwhile, Lewis was awarded a scholarship to University College, Oxford, in 1916. However, in 1917 he volunteered for the British Army, and on his 19th birthday was sent to the trenches in the Somme in France. On 15 April 1918, he was wounded and two of his colleagues were killed by a British shell





falling short of its target.

He suffered from depression and home-sickness during his convalescence, and was discharged in December 1918. He soon returned to Oxford, gaining a First in Greek and Latin Literature in 1920, a First in Greats (Classics and Philosophy) in 1922, and a First in English in 1923.

From 1925, Lewis was a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, for almost 30 years. His students included the poet John Betjeman, the critic Kenneth Tynan and the monk Bede Griffiths. Betjeman later became Poet Laureate, but as his tutor Lewis regarded Betjeman as an "idle prig." For his part, Betjeman found Lewis unfriendly, demanding and uninspired, and described him as "breezy, tweedy, beer-drinking and jolly."

Betjeman cultivated the common misapprehension that he did not complete his degree because he failed to pass the compulsory examination known as 'Divinity.' In Hilary term 1928, Betjeman failed Divinity for the second time, and had to leave Oxford for the Trinity term to prepare to re-sit. When he returned in October, Lewis told the tutorial board at Magdalen College that he thought Betjeman would not achieve an honours degree of any class. Betjeman finally left Oxford at the end of Michaelmas term 1928 without a degree. His poor performance at Oxford would haunt him for the rest of his life; he was never reconciled with CS Lewis and continued to detest him bitterly.

Return to Christianity

Meanwhile, Lewis had met JRR Tolkien at Oxford for the first time in 1926. They became life-long friends, and both were members of the literary group known as the "Inklings."

In 1929, at the age of 32, through the influence of Tolkien and other friends, Lewis returned to the Anglicanism of his birth. In his rooms in Magdalen, he had been struggling with questions about faith, and he returned to Christianity in 1929. In *Surprised by Joy*, he writes:

"You must picture me alone in that room in Magdalen, night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last





The stained glass windows in Saint Mark's commemorating the parents of CS Lewis



come upon me. In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England.”

JRR Tolkien was a Roman Catholic with conservative tastes who disliked Vatican II, and so he was surprised when Lewis returned to Anglicanism rather than becoming a Roman Catholic. Lewis became “a very ordinary layman of the Church of England,” and for the rest of his life his faith exercised a lasting influence on his work.

Albert Lewis died in 1929, and three years later in 1932 his sons, CS Lewis and Warren Lewis presented a stained glass window to the church in Dundela in memory of their parents. The writer also presented the parish with a portrait of his grandfather, the first rector of the parish.

Initially, his Anglicanism was markedly evangelical. In a letter to a Church of Ireland priest, Canon Claude Lionel Chavasse, he described the Anglo-Catholics as the “Neo-Angular ... set of people who seem to me to be trying to make of Christianity itself one more high-brow, Chelsea, bourgeois-baiting fad.” He singled out the poet TS Eliot as “the single man who sums up the thing I am fighting against.”

But Lewis became friends with Charles Williams (1886-1945) who is less well-known today than either Lewis or Tolkien as one of the “Inklings.” Williams was an Anglo-Catholic, and came to know Lewis through his work at the Oxford University Press, which published Lewis’s first important book, *The Allegory of Love*. In 1939, Williams moved to Oxford, where he became part of the “Inklings,” and Lewis arranged for him to lecture there. Williams once said that Oxford, however nice, was still a parody of London.

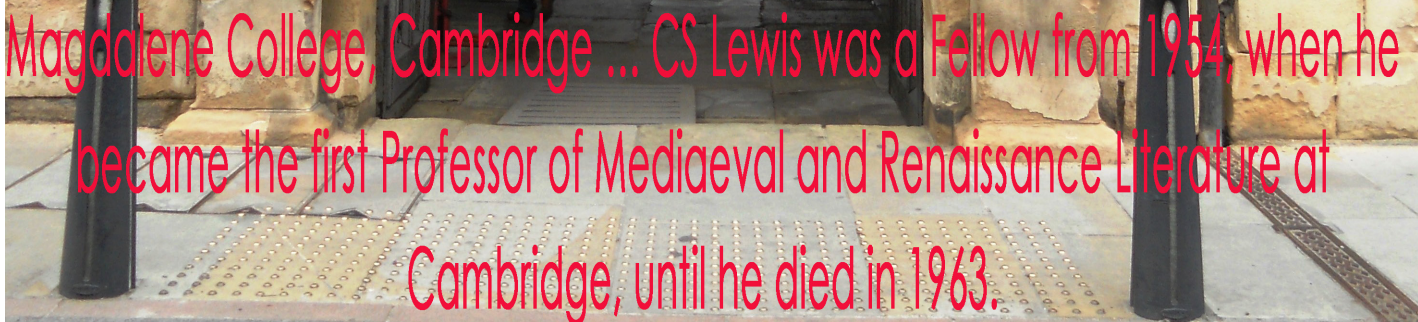
The “Inklings” continued to meet in Oxford in the 1930s and 1940s for lunch on Tuesdays at the “Eagle and Child,” a pub on Saint Giles known to students as the “Bird and Baby,” and on Thursdays they met in CS Lewis’s rooms in Magdalen College.

In the closing months of World War II, Williams introduced Lewis to TS Eliot in the Mitre Hotel in Oxford. In 1930-1931, Eliot had angered Lewis by taking six months to reject his originating essay of the Personal Heresy, which had been submitted for publication in *The Criterion*. Now the two were on the brink of becoming friends, although Lewis never cared for Eliot’s poetry.

Final days in Cambridge

Lewis left Oxford in 1954 to become the first Professor of Mediaeval and Renaissance Literature at Cambridge and a Fellow of Magdalene College, Cambridge. However, he never had the same impact on Cambridge as he had on Oxford.

In 1958, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, appointed both Lewis and Eliot to a commission charged with reviewing the Psalter. In the following years the two met each other regularly during the meetings at Lambeth Palace that resulted in *The*



Magdalene College, Cambridge ... CS Lewis was a Fellow from 1954, when he became the first Professor of Mediaeval and Renaissance Literature at Cambridge, until he died in 1963.

Revised Psalter (1963). After a conference in Cambridge of the Psalter commission, Lewis and Eliot even had lunch together, with their wives, Helen Joy Davidman and Valerie Fletcher. In their shared Biblical work, the two greatest Anglican literary figures and apologists of the 20th century were reconciled and would become fast friends.

Meanwhile, in 1956, Lewis married the American writer Joy Davidman Gresham. She was 17 years his junior, and died four years later of cancer at the age of 45. After her death, Lewis submitted a pamphlet about his grief to Faber for publication under the pseudonym NW Clerk in 1961. At Faber, Eliot immediately recognised the work of Lewis and published it as *A Grief Observed*. This booklet stands out as Lewis' most personal piece of writing.

Lewis died three years after Joy, and in the same year as *The Revised Psalter* was published. He died on 22 November 1963, a week before his 65th birthday and is buried in the churchyard at Holy Trinity Church in Headington, Oxford.

CS Lewis is commemorated on 22 November in the calendars of the Church of England, the Episcopal Church and other Anglican churches, but not in the calendar of the Church of his birth and baptism, the Church of Ireland.

Lewis as an Anglican theologian

For many of us, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *The Chronicles of Narnia* are so much part of the world of children that as adults we readily forget that CS Lewis was an important theological figure in the 20th century. Among theologians, Lewis is probably better known for his apologetic works, including *Mere Christianity*, *The Problem of Pain* and *Miracles* and *The Four Loves*.

CS Lewis adopted the term "Mere Christianity" as his own. It was a phrase he borrowed from Richard Baxter (1615-1691). Through the influence of the poetry of George Herbert, Baxter described his faith as "catholic" or "mere" Christianity.

The Four Loves (1960) is a late book, written in his last days at Cambridge. Here he identifies the four loves as: affection (στοργή), which he calls the humblest love and is unmerited; friendship (φιλία); eros (ἔρωσ); and caritas (αγάπη).



Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) of Diokleia, one of the leading Greek Orthodox theologians in the English-speaking world, introduced me to the meaning of love in the writings of CS Lewis in a series of lectures in Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, in recent years. Metropolitan Kallistos met Lewis when he was an undergraduate at Magdalen, where he took a Double First in Classics as well as reading Theology. But he admits he was too shy to speak to him face-to-face.

Metropolitan Kallistos said the “Inklings” shared a concern to promote a visionary imagination, and in pursuit of this they wrote works of Christian fiction, novels and stories for children, supernatural thrillers and epics. Through these stories, they tried to convey an authentically Christian understanding of our place in God’s creation, evoking joy and wonder.

Metropolitan Kallistos notes that Lewis has little to say about ecclesiology or the theology of the Church, and little to say about the Trinity, lacking the Trinitarian emphasis found in Williams.

Lewis, according to his private secretary Walter Hooper, could have been talking about Eliot and himself when he wrote in Chapter four of *The Four Loves*: “Friendship arises out of mere Companionship when two or more of the companions discover that they have in common some insight or interest or even taste which the others do not share and which, till that moment, each believed to be his own unique treasure (or burden).”

For much of his life, Lewis did not like ritual and was not interested in churchmanship. While he attended the chapel in Magdalen College, Oxford, daily, he never attended Choral Evensong there and went to the early Sunday morning service in his local parish church. However, the literary historian Barry Spurr believes Lewis’s later friendship with TS Eliot influenced and reflected Lewis’s journey towards Catholic faith and practice within Anglicanism late in life: “Their friendliness seemed to exemplify Eliot’s theory in ‘Little Gidding’ about the resolution, under grace, of old antipathies.”



The Mitre Hotel, Oxford ... where Charles Williams introduced CS Lewis to TS Eliot in 1945
(Photograph: Patrick Comerford, 2013)

Patrick Comerford is Lecturer in Anglicanism and Liturgy, the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, an Adjunct Assistant Professor, Trinity College Dublin, and a canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. He is a frequent contributor to Koinonia.



St. Francis: A 21st Century Servant Leader

Story & Picture Br. Rodd Umlaut, TOF

Earning to be a servant is not only a constant pursuit of Franciscans especially, but of all followers of Jesus.

“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister; and to give his life a ransom for many “ (Mark 10:45 KJV).

Interesting -- A king who came to be a servant; to be enthroned to the service of others. In the Kingdom of God, our leader, Christ, is a servant.

This past September the Sisters of Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center sponsored a seminar at the local Roman Catholic Church, in Woodruff Wisconsin. The featured speaker was Tom Thibodeau, Distinguished Professor of Servant Leadership, at Viterbo University, LaCrosse Wisconsin. I had never heard of Tom Thibodeau, nor did I know that there was a Franciscan University in La Crosse, Wisconsin, my home state. The topic of the seminar, “St. Francis: A 21st Century Servant Leader,” caught my attention and it sounded like something I should pay attention to, so I made plans to attend.

After a short introduction the presenter asked his audience questions about what they thought were the character traits of a leader. As the seminar participants voiced the positive character qualities of a leader, Tom wrote them down on large sheets of paper (no power point presentation, as he noted, that high tech presentation was not his style). The character trait list was a collection which we might expect, but the well spoken and engaging speaker pointed out to us, that the greatest leaders who have had the most important influence in our lives have not been those of high level social positions or national political figures. Instead, it has been those involved with the closest details of our daily lives.

The most important point brought home in Tom’s talks was pretty obvious, but one that most people don’t think about : “Jesus is the greatest leader of all time.” Why ? Jesus did not go out of His way to rub shoulders with the rich or people in high places of society. He sought out the poor and the suffering, the common people who had needs of various kinds. Granted, Jesus did have a message for those who are rich and to those in places of high visibility, but most of all he spent time with the common folk. He touched people by paying attention to their needs. Jesus became a servant of the least, the poor of spirit, and sinner like you and I.

In the imitation of Christ, St. Francis is a model of 21st century leadership because he walked in the footsteps of Jesus, attempting to mirror the life of our Savior. Francis gave up the riches and comforts of his well to do family in order to obey the Gospel, seeking out the poor and being a servant to lepers. He went about the countryside, preaching the Good News in word and deed, attempting to follow in the same path as Jesus. One of the most thought provoking statements our presenter made during the seminar was , “ To live the life of a servant leader is to embrace Old Testament Wisdom as modeled in the life of Jesus. St. Francis did this, as is Pope Francis in our day, of which our presenter gave many heart warming examples.

With all of the above being said, what must we see to cultivate servant leadership ? These are the highlights that I picked up from Professor Tom’s lectures.

1. There must be a heart for leadership. Not so much seeking places of high visibility, being in charge, heads of committees, and the like, but a desire and willingness to be there for people and to have the courage to step forward to help and guide them in the wise path.

2. We must have the humility and meekness to realize that all we have is the result of the work of others. In order to be a servant leader we must belong to a community and see the dignity of each person in the community, putting away the pride of the “self-made man” attitude.

3. We must realize that being a servant leader requires being involved in the messiest parts of peoples lives; paying attention to needs, and embracing them with a compassionate kindred spirit. There also has to be a spirit of “gifting”, giving of our time and person, and often times our possessions. We have to give up our own desires in order to recognize the privilege of crucifixion.

4. There should also be a spirit of true joy and enthusiasm when we seek to meet the needs of others. Those that we serve need to sense in us that we do so with genuine happiness and that our helps are not burdensome. When we participate in community, loving others, looking to meet needs, we need to “show up”, really be present in our words and affectionate actions. The ones we serve need to know that they have 100% of our attention and that we have a joyful attitude.

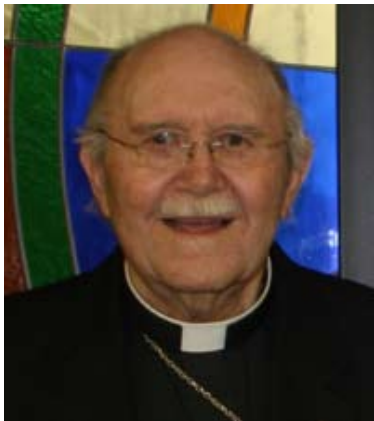
5. Servant leadership also requires prayer. We pray for those we serve, the conditions of their lives, and seek the Holy Spirit to do His work as He guides us in every situation of life. For without the Spirit of God assisting our hands, we can do nothing.





HAPPY 88th Birthday

by Fr. Jack Shrode. St. John's Mission, Evansville, Indiana



Yes, football, American style, is responsible for my collegiate education. I received a football scholarship at my hometown college and enrolled as a freshman at Evansville College, Evansville, Indiana in the class of 1943. However I missed graduating with my class due to

World War 2. Just after President Roosevelt made the famous request of Congress to declare war against the axis powers of Germany, Italy and Japan on December 8, 1941 I proceeded to the U. S. Army recruiting office and enlisted in the Army Medical Department. It was my intention during my college studies, up to that point, was in the field of medicine. That episode of my life ended my football days and five years later after serving in U. S. Army Field and General Hospitals I returned to Evansville for my last year in Evansville College now the University of Evansville. After completing my last year I was accepted in Graduate School at Washington University, St. Louis, MO School of Medicine for the Graduate Program of Hospital Administration. After a one year of Administrative Residency in Harris Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas, I remained in Texas as a Hospital Administrator, and by-the-way, The Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas decided I should be the Licensed Lay Reader for a new Mission in Kermit, Texas. From that point on my life was spent in my secular appointment as a Hospital Administrator and the beginning of my clerical journey serving in Holy Orders. After five years in Texas I was recruited and accepted the appointment as President/CEO of Wesley Hospital later to become Presbyterian Hospital in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Also, continuing at St. John's Episcopal Church as a Lay reader until the year of 1970 following studies for five years for Holy Orders. On June 20, 1970 I was ordained Deacon by the Right Reverend Chilton Powell of the Diocese of Oklahoma. I later began preparation for the Priesthood having been assigned a Master of Studies. After two years the Church began to move away from what existed before and my love and attention also waned. I did serve the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky until my wife Minnie and I decided to move back to our "Hometown" Evansville, Indiana and where I met Bishop Leo Mi-

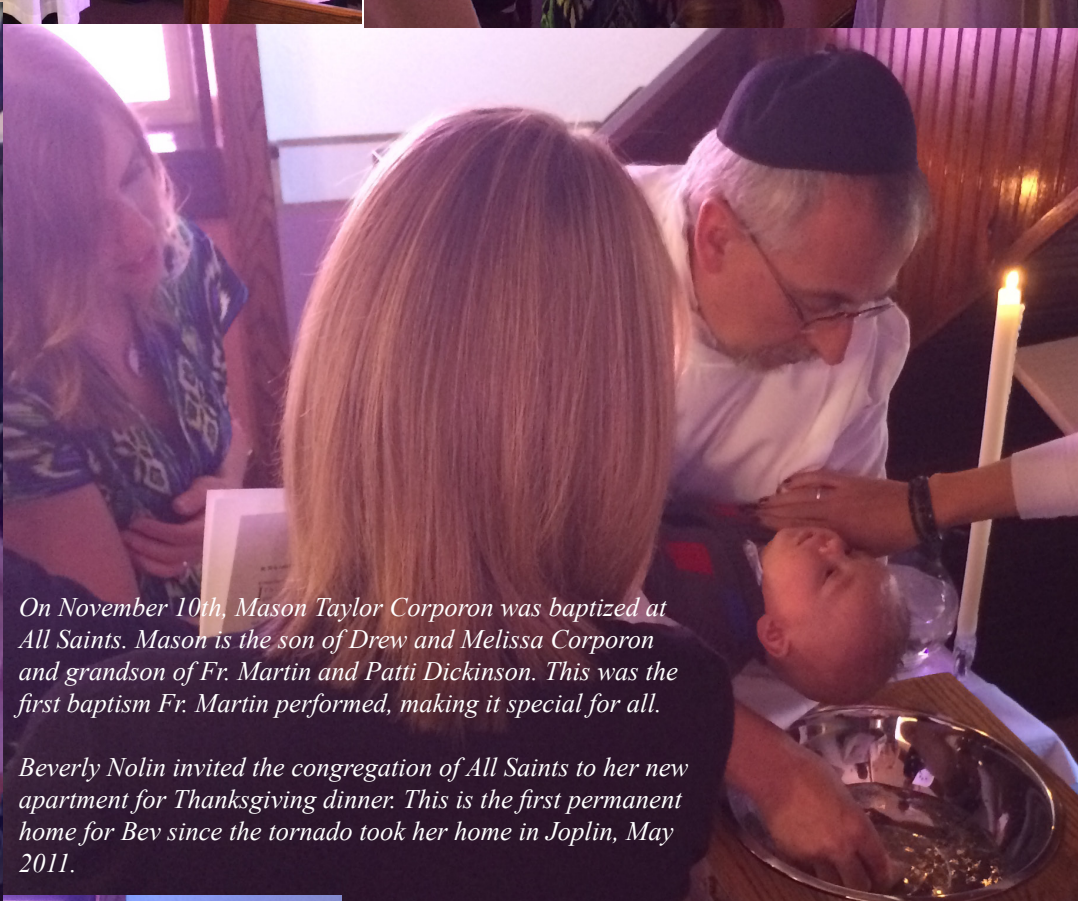
chael. He became my mentor and deemed me worthy of Priesthood and he ordained me a Priest in the United Episcopal Church of North America. When Bishop Michael became the Diocesan of The Trinity and Great Plains of the Holy Catholic Church - Anglican Rite, I informed him that if there was some way I could remain a member of his clerical family I would indeed be most grateful. He granted me a license as a Priest in the Holy Catholic Church - Anglican Rite which I am most pleased and happy to belong.

My regret today is that my age, and health has become a hindrance to my Godly service and I only wish I could be more service to the good and Godly people of this great Church. I have very fond memories visiting years ago the church of the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming and thinking at the time how I would love to be of some service to that Church with the large Indian Tom Tom.

Above Reprint from 2008 article by Fr. Jack: Our condolences to the Shrode Family

Adieu Fr. Jack Shrode: Till We Meet at Jesus Feet

Sept 28, 1920 - Nov 1, 2013 ELIZABETHTOWN, KY Jack Warren Shrode, Sr. passed away November 1, 2013, in Elizabethtown, KY. He was born September 28, 1920, in Evansville, IN to the late Walter N. and Elsie M. (Griffin) Shrode. He was a graduate of the University of Evansville and attended graduate school at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. He was a WWII veteran Army Captain serving in the hospital corps in Europe. Jack was the hospital CEO of the predecessors of the Oklahoma City OU Medical Center Hospital, 1952-1974, which was Wesley and Presbyterian Hospitals; then CEO at Tahlequah City Hospital until 1983. Jack was an ordained Episcopal Church Deacon and later ordained as an Anglican Church priest. He is survived by his wife, Minnie Shrode, of Elizabethtown, KY; sons: Jack Shrode, Jr. and wife Trecia, of Elizabethtown, KY; and John Shrode, of Oklahoma City, OK; four grandchildren: Jeffrey and wife Kelly Shrode, of Louisville, KY; Jason Shrode, of Dallas, TX; Jared Shrode and fiancée Emily, of Austin, TX; and Angela Drelleck and husband Josh, of Fort Leonard Wood, MO; and two great-grandchildren, Emily and Jonathan Shrode, of Louisville, KY. A member of the Greatest Generation, Jack was a man of God, a leader, and a true family man. A service will be held at a later date. Condolences may be made online at www.AlexanderEastChapel.com www.alexandereastchapel.com - See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/oklahoman/obitua>



On November 10th, Mason Taylor Corporon was baptized at All Saints. Mason is the son of Drew and Melissa Corporon and grandson of Fr. Martin and Patti Dickinson. This was the first baptism Fr. Martin performed, making it special for all.

Beverly Nolin invited the congregation of All Saints to her new apartment for Thanksgiving dinner. This is the first permanent home for Bev since the tornado took her home in Joplin, May 2011.





Holy Baptism, Holy Family, Casper. Colby & Jennifer Frontier, with their son, Alden Bruce, Janelle & Chris Price, godparents. Jennifer and Janelle are daughters of Paul & Linda Kinnor. Colby qualified in the Denver trials for the Ninja Warrior Finals in Las Vegas, one of 33 finalists from around the nation. The 'spider wall' got to him! Colby is a high school teacher, Jennifer a Doctor of Physical Therapy



Holy Confirmation

Church of the Morning Star - Wind River Indian Reservation - Nov. 10, 2013
 Confirmand - **Loveeda Susan White** - on right.

Her mother, Alanita White - who did the bead work on my mitre.

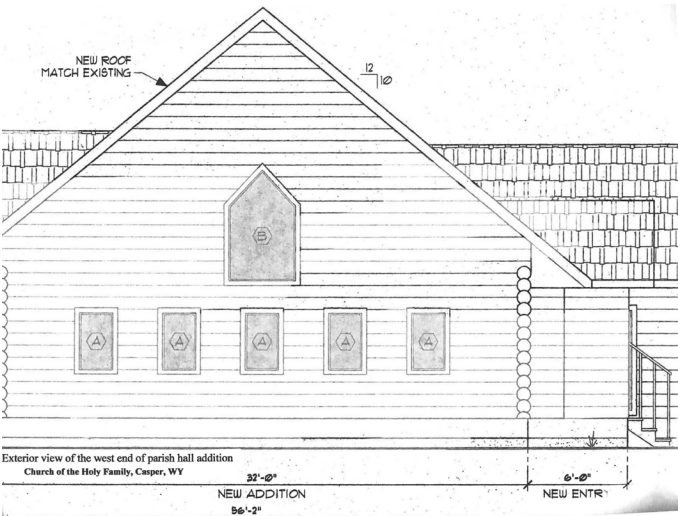
Deacon Tony Sawick, presenter and Bishop Ken Kinner

Loveeda, representing Wyoming Indian High School, took 2nd place in Cross Country in the whole State of Wyoming. She is also a key player for the Lady Chiefs basketball.

SHAWN SHEPPERSON, CONFIRMED IN CHRIST IN SEPTEMBER, IN THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, MEETEETSE, WYOMING, USES HIS COURAGE WELL, TO HELP HIS 6-MAN FOOTBALL TEAM, THE LONGHORNS, WIN A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ON THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING FIELD IN LARAMIE, NOV. 16th.



From left, Meeteetse's Carter Johnson, Shawn Shepperson, and Scott Sessions hug during the final seconds of the Wyoming State High School Class 1A/6-Man Football Championship on Saturday at War Memorial Stadium in Laramie. Meeteetse defeated Midwest 65-30 to earn the state title.



clude the construction project. The architectural and engineering costs will be about \$9,000, the basic building cost \$157,860. Dave Kalinowski, the builder, has thoughtfully outlined ways in which he may be able to reduce some costs. The paintermembers of our parish, have volunteered all exterior and interior painting finishes.

"I submit to myself and to you, that we would dis-honor our benefactors and betray our stewardship responsibilities to God, to accept all of these gifts and past generosity without sacrificially participating in the work at hand with prayers and monetary offerings!" All offerings will be gratefully accepted and acknowledged! Then, an anonymous benefactor has offered matching funds for every gift of one thousand dollars or more. Our goal is to both build and sustain the "fellowship hall" for future generations of our Christian descendants. We need the participation of everyone! "May the Lord bless you in your gifts to minister to His people! +Ken Kinner



Holy Catholic Church Anglican Rite

*The 2014 Calendar has been dedicated to Bishop & Prescilla Kinner for their dedication in Wyoming
 Great pictures of Wyoming...*

2014 ORDO KALENDAR

Based on the 1928 Book of Common Prayer & American/Anglican Missals



CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, CASPER WY

October 1, 2013

DEAR CHRISTIAN FRIENDS,

THE LORD IS GIVING US, THE PEOPLE A NEW AND WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A PARISH HALL: WHERE BOYS AND GIRLS~ MEN AND WOMEN CAN GATHER TO LEARN. TO SHARE FOOD, TO SHARE JOYFUL, CHRISTIAN LIFE! WHAT A-BLESSING TO REACH OUT TO PEOPLE IN TIDS FACILITY!

'Ground was broken' on Sunday, September 29: the plans have general acceptance by our Vestry; the contract with Masters Construction is being signed on Wednesday, October 2nd, and we hope to have the roof on before severe winter sets in. In fact, the Vestry will consider Bishop Leo's hope that we can host the June, 2014, Diocesan Synod here.

Benefactors, in the 30+ years of our parish life, have left us monetary funds with which we can begin and practically con-



Bishop Kinner confirming Shawn Shepperson the Great Great Great Grandson of Fr. John Roberts



Brando Washakie being confirmed by Bishop Kinner, the Bishop of the Missionary Jurisdiction of the American Indian People



Bishop Kinner confirming Ondi Shepperson, the Great Great Granddaughter of Fr. John Roberts, the pioneer missionary in Wyoming



Fr. John Roberts Great Great Granddaughter with Fr. Roberts' Holy Bible



Church of the Holy Spirit HCCAR, Meeteetse, WY



Installation of Fr. Patric Copelello as the Rector of St. Peter's Anglican Church HCCAR Albuquerque, New Mexico



St. Peter's Albuquerque, NM Reception



Church of the Morning Star, Ethete, WY Confirmations



St. John's Lander WY - Episcopal Visit



Church of the Holy Trinity Sheridan WY - Confirmation



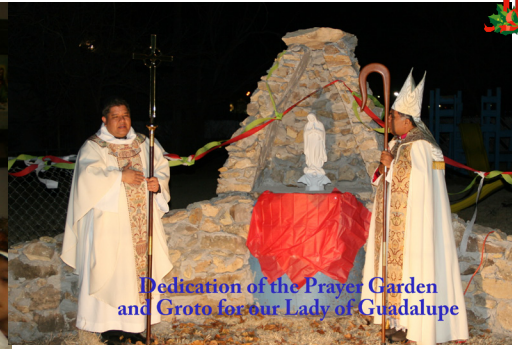
Church of the Holy Family, Casper WY Reception of New Members



Confirmation @ St. Gabirel's Greeley, CO



Dancing for Blessed Virgin at St. Joseph of Glastonbury, Wichita, KS On the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Dedication of the Prayer Garden and Grotto for Our Lady of Guadalupe

St. Joseph of Glastonbury, Wichita, Kansas Dedication of Prayer Garden outside the church. Designed and built by members of St. Joseph, especially by Omar & Patricia Nunes, Jonathan, Hector, Wes and Fr. Julio



Dancers for the Blessed Virgin with Fr. Beaver, Bishop Michael & Fr. Jimenez



Fellowship after the Holy Mass



Fr. Julio visiting with the members of St. Joseph'





ANNUAL THANKSGIVING WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP
@ST. JAMES HCCAR, KANSAS CITY, MO



Great Thanksgiving Tradition: Each year we gather on the eve of Thanksgiving to celebrate Thanksgiving Mass & Dinner. On the left is Holly Michael, the Chef at work in the kitchen, who cooked the entire meal herself and other pics of fellowship.





100 Thankful Years...



Canon Joseph David, HCCAR

by Irene David Daughter of Canon David & Mother of Dn. Alfred Sturges

A few years ago, Canon Joseph David told his doctor that he wanted to celebrate communion on his 100th birthday. Last Sunday, December 1st, 2013, through God's grace, he was granted his wish.

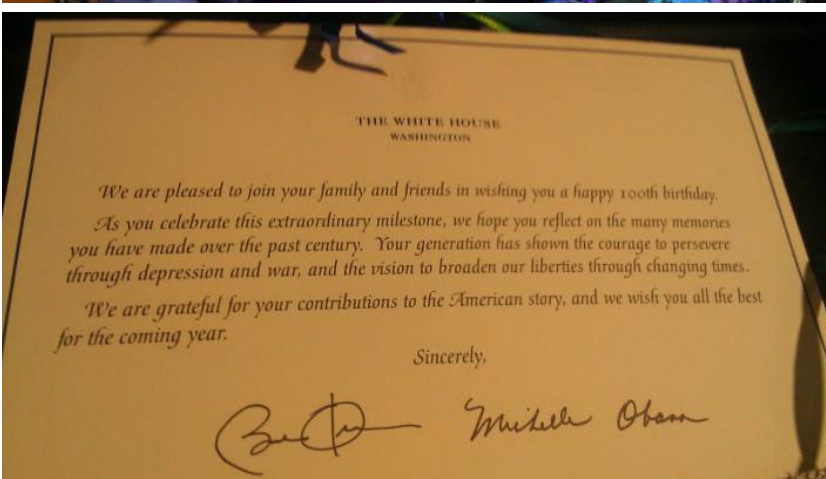
On Saturday, the doctor in the intensive care unit at the hospital didn't think that my Dad would be able to get out of bed on his birthday and he was not allowed to eat anything. On Sunday, he went down to the chapel twice and stayed alert through the service at Overlake Hospital, reading the blessing at the end better than the absolution and consecrations near the beginning. Only God could have made him improve so much in one day!

There were so many family and friends there to celebrate with him that we couldn't fit in the chapel. Fortunately, there were no surgeries on that floor on Sundays, so we were able to move to the large surgery waiting room. One of his friends suggested hymns that we sang *a capella* during the service. His grandson, Deacon Alfred Sturges, flew over from Colorado to help him and read most of the service.

After the service, he posed for some pictures, ate a slice of cake, did a video call with his grandson in England, and his daughter Minnie opened and read him all the birthday cards he had received, including one from President Obama. He was on oxygen, but he didn't look tired at the time my husband and I left because we were tired.

Back when he was in his 70's, he told his cousin, who was a priest, that he had always wanted to be a priest but he had never finished seminary. His cousin, who is now a bishop, told him to go ahead and become a priest. He said, "I don't know, I am retired." His cousin said, "What difference does that make?" So while his wife was still working in Seattle and taking care of their house in Bellevue, he went back to New York state to attend Holyhood Seminary at the age of 79. He was 81 years when he graduated. He had a lot of friends and relatives in the greater Seattle area so he asked his Bishop if he could be ordained in Bellevue. They rented a Congregational church for the ordination and the Bishop flew in from California for the ordination. The church was packed, so the Bishop told him to start a congregation here.

He and his wife, Dolly David, started the San Tomas Church in Seattle. They named it San Tomas in honor of one of the twelve apostles, St. Thomas, who went all the way to India to spread the Good News and they were from India. St. David Emmanuel in Shoreline, Seattle, allowed them to hold services at 3 pm on Sundays for a small donation of \$10. At first a friend played the piano at their services, but later he recorded organ music for Dolly David to play on a tape recorder during the service. They often gave two or three people a ride to the service. Six months after his ordination, the Bishop and a committee voted unanimously to make him a priest. Until she passed away in 2009, his wife used to provide the snacks and beverages after the service. She told me that "when 2 or 3 are gathered in His name, there He is in the midst of them." So Fr. David held services even when the congregation dwindled. He would in-



vite people to attend. One couple who attended are now pastors in a different denomination but they told me that he is a great role model for them. After his wife passed away, the family became concerned about him living by himself in that big house in Bellevue, so his grandson moved in with him and took him to the services every week. He mentored his grandson and encouraged his grandson to pursue priesthood and he is currently a deacon at St. Gabriel's in Greeley, Colorado. He continues his services even when he is in a wheelchair or can not travel. He was discharged from the hospital yesterday and has returned to his daughter's house.



Crete's icon writers: a living tradition offering new opportunities for mission

by Canon Patrick Comerford

The Incarnation by Eleftheria Syrianoglou, who exhibited a number of "table icons" worked in on various shapes of olive wood -Photo by Fr. Patrick Comerford



There is an old proverb in Crete that says: “Chania for weapons, Rethymnon for letters, Iraklion for wine.”

These three ancient cities, with their mixtures of Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman heritage, are strung along the northern coast of this most southerly of Greek islands. Culturally, Iraklion is the city that has produced great writers such as Nikos Kazantzakis, author of *Zorba the Greek*, and a school of great icon painters, whose masters include Mikhail Damaskinos (ca 1530/35-1592/93) and Domenikos Theotokopoulos (1541-1614), known to the West as El Greco.

Iraklion's Museum of Religious Art is housed in Agia Aikaterini Museum, beside the Cathedral of Saint Minas. The church once belonged to the Monastery of Saint Catherine on Mount Sinai and now serves as a museum for the Orthodox Archdiocese of Crete, with outstanding icons that include works by Damaskinos.

But there is a real germ of truth in that Cretan aphorism, for Rethymnon is truly at the heart of cultural life in Crete. The small city, with its walled old town, celebrates its cultural heritage with an annual Renaissance Festival, which has now been established for over a quarter century – for as long as I have known this charming city with its narrow streets and rich architectural heritage.

For the past two years, we have stayed in an hotel in a converted old Venetian mansion, behind the library and close to many of the town's great Byzantine and Venetian churches, with their interiors decorated richly with traditional icons and frescoes.

This year, we visited an exhibition of icons that was staged as part of the 26th Renaissance Festival of Rethymnon in the Artillery Hall, close to the entrance to the old Fortezza, which looms above the old town. This was the second year an exhibition like this had been organised as part of the festival.

About 30 icon writers or painters took part in this year's exhibition. Some of them are well-known in Greece, but at least three remained anonymous, exhibiting simply in one case as a member of the Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration, with three icons in the exhibition, and in another case as two members of the community of nuns at the Holy Monastery of Saint Irene.

George and Christopher Karaviotis, who exhibited ten icons, gave each other equal credit for their works. There was also once icon on loan from the Byzantine Art Centre in Rethymnon, which stands in an old Venetian/Ottoman mansion in the old town, close to our hotel.

Many of the icon writers or painters in this year's exhibition were neither priests nor monks, and there were some woman among the exhibitors, including Eleftheria Syrianoglou, who ex-



The Icon Exhibition in the Artillery Hall in the Fortezza is part of the 26th Renaissance Festival of Rethymnon - by Fr. Patrick Comerford



Our Lady of the Angels by Alexandra Kaouki, who works close to the Fortezza in her workshop on Melissionou Street

hibited a number of “table icons” worked in on various shapes of olive wood.

Emmanuel Nikolidakis, who had three icons in the exhibition – including one of the Holy Four Martyrs of Rethymnon – works on glass, and then frames them against a red background so they can be seen distinctly. George Christides had three large modern interpretations of traditional themes: the Lamentation at the Burial of Christ, the Annunciation, and the Angel of the Apocalypse.

Alexandra Kaouki, who works on modern, bright and vibrant icons and frescoes that are true to the tradition and inherited styles, drew particular acclaim for her three exhibits: Our Lady of the Angels, Christ Pantokrator and Our Lady of the Way.

There were new interpretation of the images from Fayum, which tell us a lot about the early development of icon painting, an amusing image of the “Sea gives up its Dead” ... although the artist was not listed in the catalogue. This was an exciting collection of works seeking to maintain, develop and reinterpret a tradition religious art form. The exhibition was sponsored by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Diocese of Rethymnon and the Municipality of Rethymnon.

Last year’s exhibition in 2012 was visited by the Ecumenical Patriarch, Patriarch Bartholomeos, and the Metropolitan or Bishop of Rethymnon, Metropolitan Evgenios, who at the time voiced their hope that this exhibition would become an annual event. Later in the week, I visited Alexandra Kaouki’s workshop on Melissionou Street in the narrow streets and alleyways below the Fortezza. She works away at her easel, unperturbed and undisturbed by the casual visitors and the curious tourists who walk in off the street, often unaware of the rich heritage they are being invited to experience. She is one of the many icon writers who work in store-front studios and workshops throughout Rethymnon. It was in one of these workshops that I first bought an original icon from Andreas Theodorakis 25 years ago.

These icon writers are expressing theology in art, but their open workshops and their exhibitions are also an engaging form of mission, offering the essential story of salvation to tourists and holidaymakers who are invited to experience the Living Word in a way that is paradoxically both ancient and modern. ~ Canon Patrick Comerford

Patrick Comerford has been visiting a major exhibition in Crete that shows the tradition of icon painting is alive and creatively vibrant on the Greek island



What does the Fox Say What does GOD say

by Holly Michael

When one of my kids showed me the YouTube sensation, “What Does The Fox Say,” I thought it was hilarious, listened to it a few times. Then, Bam! It got stuck in my head for days. Drove me crazy. The song is meaningless, but seems to have gone viral, replacing last year’s “Gangnam Style,” which was equally as weird. Not sure why people went crazy over an overweight, older Korean man crossing his arms and kicking up his legs, and singing nonsense, but anyway...

In order to get “What does the Fox Say,” out of my head, I had to sing, “Praise God from whom all blessings flow...” about forty-nine times. Whew!

After all of that, I’m still not sure what the fox says, but before it gets back into my head, let’s forget about that. What does the Bible say?

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:8

In C.S. Lewis’ Screwtape Letters, the devil says, “It is funny how mortals always picture us as putting things into their minds: in reality our best work is done by keeping things out.”

After Christmas, I’ll be facing my fiftieth birthday and I’ve discovered, after half of a century of living, that whatever I put in my mind, matters. Words, thoughts, and images that my brain registers, tend to stick there. I wonder if what we put in our heads leaks from our mind into our soul. If so, do we carry it all into Heaven with us, or have to get rid of it before we get there? Either way, seems it’s easier to keep the trash out of our heads.

James, a senior gentleman, walks over from the nursing home each Sunday to St. James. He shows up early to make coffee, pick up trash, even washes dishes if he sees them dirty in the sink. Then he attends the service. He may have had a stroke at some point in his life. He mumbles a lot and it’s hard to understand what he’s saying, but if you listen closely, you’ll often hear him quoting Scripture, not what the fox says.

Scripture contains jewels of wisdom from God, given to humanity. And Christians have written wonderful books, made inspiring movies, created beautiful art. We should spend time reading Scripture, watching good movies, admiring Christian art, especially during this Holy Season, when the secular battles against the Sacred.

So, to keep the useless, dumb and just plain wrong stuff out of your mind, as a writer and book reviewer, I recommend these good Christian reads:

I haven’t bought **The Life of Our Lord**, but want to read it. Charles Dickens wrote The Life of Our Lord during the years 1846-1849, just about the time he was completing David Copperfield. In this charming, simple retelling of the life of Jesus Christ, adapted from the Gospel of St. Luke, Dickens hoped to teach his young children about religion and faith. Since he wrote it exclusively for his children, Dickens refused to allow publication. For eighty-five years the manuscript was guarded as a precious family secret, and it was handed down from one relative to the next. When Dickens died in 1870, it was left to his sister-in-law, Georgina Hogarth. From there it fell to Dickens’s son, Sir Henry Fielding Dickens, with the admonition that it should not be published while any child of Dickens lived. Just before the 1933 holidays, Sir Henry, then the only living child of Dickens, died, leaving his father’s manuscript to his wife and children. He also bequeathed to them the right to make the decision to publish The Life of Our Lord. By majority vote, Sir Henry’s widow and children decided to publish the book in London. In 1934, Simon & Schuster published the first American edition, which became one of the year’s biggest best-sellers.

Silver Bells: Song of the Season Series is a one of Deborah Raney’s heartwarming Christmas reads. As Elvis croons from the radio and Christmas descends upon a small Kansas town, two people find the miracle of love. Michelle Penn has dropped out of college to work as a reporter for a tiny weekly newspaper. The boss’s son, Robert Merrick III, is quickly making her forget all about her former sweetheart, Kevin, who has shipped out to Vietnam. Rob loves the newspaper business but feels trapped working for his father. He dreams of having his own newspaper, but now that he’s met Michelle, she is what he wants most of all. Rob is forbidden by office policy to date Michelle, but if he were to quit his job, he’d have nothing to offer her. As snow blankets the town, it seems that the gifts Rob and Michelle most desire -- each other -- are out of reach. But then, they didn’t count on a small Christmas miracle. *About the series: Songs of the Season™ is a line of inspirational romance fiction that overflows with seasonal cheer. Each standalone novel bears



the title of a popular Christmas song from a nostalgic era.

A Door County Christmas: Four Romances Warm Hearts in Wisconsin's Version of Cape Cod (Romancing America) by Becky Melby, Eileen Key, Rachael Phillips, and Cynthia Ruchti. I was born and raised in Door County and experienced quite a few of these Christmases. In this novel, peer behind the closed doors of a Wisconsin tourist town gone dormant for the winter season. Watch as the drama and romance start to heat up--just as Lola the innkeeper promised her four single friends a year ago when she gifted them with her prayers and a Christmas cactus. Will each woman find love--along with cactus blooms--as promised?

Finding Father Christmas By Robin Jones Gunn In FINDING FATHER CHRISTMAS, Miranda Carson's search for her father takes a turn she never expected when she finds herself in London with only a few feeble clues to who he might be. Unexpectedly welcomed into a family that doesn't recognize her, and whom she's quickly coming to love, she faces a terrible decision. Should she reveal her true identity and destroy their idyllic image of her father? Or should she carry the truth home with her to San Francisco and remain alone in this world? Whatever choice she makes during this London Christmas will forever change the future for both herself and the family she can't bear to leave. Robin Jones Gunn brilliantly combines lyrical writing and unforgettable characters to craft a story of longing and belonging that will stay with readers long after they close the pages of this book.

A Log Cabin Christmas: 9 Historical Romances during American Pioneer Christmases: Experience Christmas through the eyes of adventuresome settlers who relied on log cabins built from trees on their own land to see them through the cruel forces of winter. Discover how rough-hewed shelters become a home in which faith, hope, and love can flourish. Marvel in the blessings of Christmas celebrations without the trappings of modern commercialism where the true meaning of the day shines through. And treasure this collection of nine Christmas romances penned by some of Christian fiction's best-selling authors.

A Ruby Christmas By Jerusha Agen, Dianne E Butts, Jennifer Fromke, Marji Laine, Fay Lamb, J.A. Marx, Ruth O'Neil, Phee Paradise, Debbie Roome Description: Ruby Joy Buckner, cowgirl, has never left the Lone Star State, but at her father's request, she takes her faithful canine companion and travels the world in search of Nativity pieces. As Ruby collects the pieces, she also collects a few unexpected surprises, including an awareness of the beauty in other cultures, and quite a menagerie of new friends, thanks in part to Yippee Ti Yi Yo who charms everyone they meet. Ruby's budding awareness of life outside Texas opens her eyes to a world of whimsy, and the Nativity pieces she collects are unusual. Will her father approve her eclectic collection ... and the changes that travel brought to Ruby's life? Book Takeaway: Sometimes God helps us move forward by shaking us out of our comfort zone. Why the author wrote this book: Nine authors wrote this novella to celebrate the season of Christmas and to pass along a little bit of joy to our readers.

For the kids, check out Julie Cantrell's **God is With Me Through the Night**. In this book, furry friends reveal that even the biggest and bravest of God's creatures feel frightened sometimes. This comforting story allows parents to build stronger bonds with their children while reminding readers of all ages that fear, loneliness, and hopelessness can be alleviated when we put our trust in God. The story ends with an easy-to-remember Bible verse that teaches children about God's love. 'Fear not, for I am with you' (Isaiah 41:10).

Or Snuggle in this holiday season and offer up **A Christmas Prayer** by Amy Parker. In the tradition of A Night Night Prayer, this precious little child wanders through the house on a snowy Christmas night offering a prayer of thanks and blessing. The child finishes with thanks to God for the greatest Gift of all. Noting all the characters in the Nativity, this lovable little nighttime prayer book has interactive dialogue and soothing rhyme for a child to repeat as they look around their world at Christmastime. Between the soft Christmas glow of the illustrations and the smooth rhythm of the child's prayer, A Christmas Prayer will make every parent and child want to snuggle up by the tree and offer a prayer of thanks to God for His many Christmas blessings.

Another good children's story is **Saint Nicholas: The Real Story of the Christmas Legend** by Julie Stiegemeier (Author) and Chris Ellison (Illustrator) Many parents and teachers struggle with how to approach the Saint Nicholas/Santa Claus dilemma. Many deal with this by telling children that the legends surrounding Santa Claus are based on a real, historical figure named Nicholas, a Christian bishop known for his generosity. This picture book presents a shortened, somewhat fictionalized version of the life of Saint Nicholas, explaining that Nicholas was a servant of God and that, through him, God's love was reflected to others. The story touches on the ministry of Nicholas and his generous gift of a dowry to three young girls as a response to God's love in Jesus. And it brings application to our own lives as we, too, respond with grateful hearts to God's great gift of love to us. Combining museum-quality artwork and family friendly language, this book clearly articulates how God showered His love upon us through Christ and helps children see that our own gift-giving is a grateful response to the sacrificial gift of God's Son.

For men's fiction (and women, too) Dan Walsh has some wonderful inspirational books. The Discovery is my favorite, but The Unfinished Gift and Remembering Christmas: A Novel are great Christmas reads for all. Walsh is the bestselling author of 9 novels, published by Revell and Guideposts, including The Unfinished Gift, The Reunion and The Dance. He has won 3 ACFW Carol Awards, 2 Selah Awards, and twice his novels have been named as finalists for RT Reviews Inspirational Novel of the Year.

Guys may also enjoy, **Chasing Christmas** by Steven Hunt. Steeped in depression and trying to escape his past and problems, Teddy Whitaker hops aboard a freight train through the Ozark Mountains. Startled by a mysterious stranger in his boxcar, Teddy discovers in order to defeat the darkness and reclaim his life, he must learn three lessons before Christmas morning. If he succeeds he will become a new man. If he fails he will lose his life. Yet, deep in the thick woods of Missouri stalks a certain evil, an evil determined for Teddy to fail. Why the author wrote this book: *I knew I wanted to write a story on depression after having watched a loved one go through severe depression after the death of a family member. But I didn't want to write just any story; I needed to write one that offers help for those suffering.*

Happy Reading.... remember what God says and forget about what the fox says...Holly

WHAT IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD A CANTOR, OR NEED A BACK-UP ?

*O Worship the Lord
in the beauty of holiness
Psalm 96:9*



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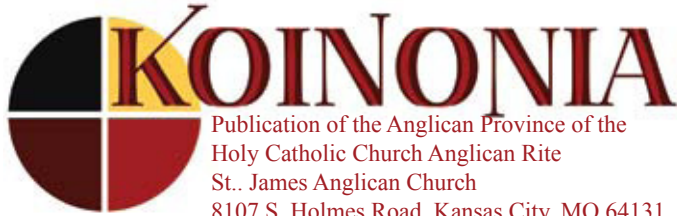
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HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN SEMINARY

GOOD FORMATION ENSURES GOOD MINISTRY!

The Holy Catholic Church Anglican Rite is working on its seminary program which will encompass online as well as on campus studies. Let us implore the Lord's blessing on this initiative that we may raise up shepherds after God's own heart (Jeremiah 3:15), who in turn will tend His flock.



Publication of the Anglican Province of the
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