

THE PHILADELPHIA ORDINARIATE POST

A NEWSLETTER OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
THE PERSONAL ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER IN THE PHILADELPHIA AREA

WWW.SJBBRIDGEPORT.ORG

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October, 2019

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum coetibus*, which provided for the establishment of the Ordinariates, was promulgated by Pope Benedict XVI on November 4, 2009. It is with gratitude and joy that we embark upon a celebration of the tenth anniversary of Pope Benedict's extraordinary and creative action. Many of us (myself included) would not be enjoying the blessings of the communion of the Catholic Church had not the offer of entering the Ordinariate moved us to reconsider what had separated us from the Catholic Church. Not just individuals, but the three Ordinariates themselves have been blessed: Our Lady of Walsingham in England and Wales, Our Lady of the Southern Cross in Australia (and outlying missions in Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and Japan), and the Chair of Saint Peter in the United States and Canada.

An anniversary celebration is in order. In addition to our expression of gratitude, it has two goals. First, it is an opportunity to make the Ordinariate better known to the wider Catholic Church, and (since it is an essential part of our mission) to Protestants. While we have no doubt received more from the Church than we have to give, nevertheless we do have something to share: our missionary spirit, the pastoral, musical and liturgical riches of the Anglican Patrimony, a concrete instance of successful ecumenism, and an example of Catholic unity without imposed uniformity. These are the riches that God has given us, and we can share them boldly and humbly.

The second goal is to deepen our sense of identity within the Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter. On the one hand, this includes our Anglican Patrimony, which now finds its completion (and sometimes purification) in the communion of the Catholic Church. The anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on the content and practice of our Patrimony. On the other hand, it is also an opportunity for us to deepen our understanding of ourselves, and our practice, as Catholics in communion with the See of Peter. Elements of this were inevitably lacking in our life outside the Catholic Church, and there is bound to be a learning curve, both in our self-understanding, and in the practices of Catholic life which might be new to us.

Anniversary Celebrations

So what events are being planned in the celebration? First, our Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul (on Logan Square in Philadelphia) on Tuesday, October 15, will be a celebration of the anniversary as well as the canonization of John Henry Newman. We hope this will attract a number of Catholics with devotion to soon-to-be Saint John Newman, and thus introduce them to the Ordinariate. Fr Perkins, our Vicar General, will no doubt speak of the character and mission of the Ordinariate in his homily. The Mass is at 7 p.m. Spread the word and bring friends.

On Sunday, November 3, all the parishes and communities of the Ordinariate will celebrate a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit and Solemn Te Deum in thanksgiving for the Ordinariate and for all God's blessings given to us through it. This will be at our usual Sunday hour of 10. I hope everyone in the congregation and in our extended family will make a special effort to be at St John's to join in that celebration.

In addition, there will be a series of pilgrimages to the Shrine and Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham during the coming year. Groups of parishes will be going together, since our facilities in Houston could not accommodate everyone at once. St John's pilgrimage is scheduled for June 28-29, 2020. Pilgrimage has not been a significant part of our devotion, at least for most of us, before the Ordinariate. The practice goes back to Patristic days: taking a journey to a holy place, often at great inconvenience if not expense, for the sake of devotion to God. It is sometimes done as a penitential act, sometimes in thanksgiving for a particular blessing, sometimes with a particular petition, sometimes as an

act of devotion to the saint or shrine being visited. I'll share details about the Houston pilgrimage later. If you have never visited the Shrine and Cathedral, this would be an ideal opportunity.

To highlight the importance of the anniversary, Bishop Lopes has received the grant of a plenary indulgence for those who make the pilgrimage to the Shrine and Cathedral between November 3, 2019 and September 27, 2020 (the Patronal Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham), and for those who participate in Mass and the singing of the Te Deum in Ordinariate parishes on November 3. The indulgence (as all indulgences) requires the interior disposition of detachment from all sin, sacramental confession within 20 days of receiving the Indulgence, receiving Holy Communion, preferably at that Mass, and prayer for the Pope's intentions. (Indulgences are another Catholic practice likely to be new to Anglicans. In granting an indulgence, the Church graciously draws on the treasury of merit – all merit is ultimately Christ's merit – to remit the temporal penalties due to sin. Since it requires that proper inner disposition, it cannot be understood as a get-out-of-purgatory-free card. Rather it is one way the Church fosters and rewards sound devotion.)

Ordinations

Matthew Hummel and Roger Converse are scheduled to be ordained deacons at St John's on Friday, November 8, 6:30 p.m. This is a milestone not only for them personally but for St John's. Roger is being ordained as a perpetual deacon, meaning that he will not go on to be ordained a priest. Perpetual deacons are generally assigned to a parish (in this case, St John's) and serve non-stipendiary while keeping their "day jobs." In addition to his liturgical role on Sundays, Roger will help with the ministry to the sick and shut-in, and continue his work on the property here. He will also share in some of the administrative tasks that I now do.

Matt will be ordained as a transitional deacon, advancing to the priesthood in 2020, if all goes according to plan. His ministry will include part-time work at St John's, while continuing his teaching at Roman Catholic High School. No doubt he will also help there with the school Masses and Confessions, as he will at St John's. At this point, we cannot afford to bring him on full-time. He will also help with various pastoral and administrative ministries here, and I especially look forward to having a priest in the parish to cover Masses and Confessions when I am away.

Congregational Meeting, etc.

During coffee hour on the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity, October 27, there will be a meeting of the congregation to review the financial situation of the parish. We do this at least twice a year, and (in keeping with Ordinariate transparency) want to share all relevant information with parishioners. On the 27th, we will go over the results of the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2019, the budget for 2019-2020, and the current state of the Building Fund. We will also take the opportunity to talk about pledging for 2020.

In this context I want to suggest that you consider providing for St John's in your estate planning. I know many people included the parish in their wills when we were at St James the Less and Good Shepherd. I suspect this changed when we were "wandering." Well, we are now settled again, and I hope that St John's is now included. For many, a bequest is a way of making a special gift to the parish which is not otherwise possible. Making (or revising) a will is also something we are inclined to put off.

The Holy Family Council 3327 of the **Knights of Columbus** includes the Catholic parishes of Bridgeport, and meets in St John's parish house. This summer they redid their meeting room (remember the dumpster in the parking lot?). That work is completed, and they want to show off their "new" digs. So you are all invited to an open house, Saturday, October 19 (Evangelization Day), 1-4 p.m.

The annual St Francis **Animal Blessing** is this Saturday, October 5, at 11 in front of the church on Ford Street. Bring your pets, praise God for His goodness in all of creation, and invoke His blessing upon our furry (and perhaps feathered and scaly) friends. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors and their pets.

As it turns out, we have only one (rather than three) new **Instituted Acolyte**, David Rawson. Steve Lukens was prevented from travelling to Houston by heavy rains which closed the airports there, and Mark Jakubik had business which kept him from going. We hope that they can make it the next time the training is offered, and are grateful to David for his willingness to serve in this capacity along with James Griffin, our other Instituted Acolyte.

The Solemnity of **All Saints**, November 1, is an Holy Day of Obligation. It falls on a Friday this year, and there will be a Sung Mass at 6:30 p.m. as well as the regular noon Mass.

The Friday abstinence is dispensed. The Requiem Mass on All Souls' Day, Saturday, November 2, will be at 9.

Calendar

Our second **Evangelization Day** is soon at hand, October 19. It starts with Mass at 9, followed by breakfast and training. Then teams go out to knock on doors to spread the word (and the Word) in Bridgeport for two hours. Everyone returns for lunch and time to share their experiences with everyone else. The parishioners who went calling in June had uniformly positive experiences, and returned enthusiastic. Talk with them. You won't want to miss this opportunity. We are again grateful to the Legion of Mary for their assistance in the work of evangelization. Please speak with Edel Lukens as soon as possible (some advance planning is needed) if you can help out.

October 5, Animal Blessing, 11

October 11, 20s-30s group, 7 p.m. in the parish house

October 11, 25, Youth Group, 7 p.m.

October 22-24, No weekday Masses (the annual Ordinariate clergy assembly in Chicago)

October 15 (Tuesday), Ordinariate form Mass at the Cathedral Basilica in Philadelphia, celebrating the anniversary of *Anglicanorum coetibus*, and the canonization of St John Henry Newman, 7 p.m. No 6 p.m. Mass at SJB

October 19, Evangelization Day (door to door calling in Bridgeport), 9-2:30

October 27, Congregational meeting on finances

November 1, All Saints Day (Holy Day of Obligation), Mass at 12 and 6:30

November 2, All Souls Day, Mass at 9

November 3, Mass & Solemn Te Deum for the 10th anniversary of *Anglicanorum coetibus*

November 8 (Friday), Ordination of Matt Hummel and Roger Converse as Deacons at SJB, 6:30 p.m.

Yours faithfully,

Fr David Ousley