

THE PHILADELPHIA ORDINARIATE POST

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

WWW.ORDINARIATEPHILADELPHIA.ORG

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September, 2016

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter – not yet five years old – has always been and remains a work in progress. Earlier this year, the Bishop along with the Governing Council adopted some clear standards of the size and stability required for a congregation to be canonically established as a parish. “Parish” is defined in canon law, and has certain rights and responsibilities, and is intended to exist perpetually. St Michael’s and Newman were both too small to be considered as parishes, and of course neither had a permanent property, which itself means “instability.” With the merger, that has changed, as has our size. It is wonderful that pretty much everyone who was active before the merger has made the move to Bridgeport. And we have added several families since the move. All of this means that Bishop Lopes would like to establish St John the Baptist as the eighth canonical parish in the Ordinariate.

This is a milestone for us. It affirms the very considerable progress we have made in the last year. We are in good shape financially; we are settled in a good property which will soon become our own; we have added new people since the merger; we are developing new relations with the neighborhood. While most Ordinariate communities grow one family at a time, we have had the advantage of being able to bring two small communities together to make one larger one. While this brought us to “critical mass” quickly, and other Ordinariate congregations may envy us for it, I think it important to note that this only worked because of the generosity and good will of everyone involved. Sacrifices were (and are) required: St John’s is different in significant ways from Newman and from St Michael’s. It is good that we took a new name and patron, since this really is a new family in the Church of God. Things are not “the way they always were.” On the whole they are much better! But at the same time, there are no doubt things from the earlier congregations which people miss. For the sake of the greater good (which is St John’s), we have had to let go of some things, and it can be a real sacrifice. It is to your credit that there is no complaining in our streets – or at least, none comes to my ears. By the grace of God, you have done what needs to be done, undertaking the work of having our own property as well as accepting the changes, and the results are wonderful. The fruit of this work is not only in the new identity which is already well established, but in the attractiveness of St John’s to others. Each Sunday seems to bring some new faces, and many come back to become familiar faces.

There is never a good time to rest on our laurels, and much(!) remains to be done; nevertheless it is worth noting how far we have come in a short time, and give thanks to God for His grace which has accomplished so much with us and in us and among us.



rious as to what this all means.

Since being established canonically is a milestone for the Ordinariate as well as for St John’s, the Bishop would like to come to mark the event with us. Canonical parishes have canonical Pastors, so I will be appointed Pastor when the parish is formally erected. There is a service for the Institution of a Pastor. Bishop Lopes is planning to be with us to officiate at that service at a Mass on Friday evening, **November 18th**. Details will be forthcoming; please mark it on your calendars now. We will also have an adult forum after Mass on September 25th where I will go over what canon law says about parishes and pastors for those of you who are cu-

Supplemental Collections

If you have attended Sunday Mass at a Latin Rite parish, you are probably familiar with “second collections” where after the first collection for parish purposes, there is a second for some particular use – retired clergy or religious, seminarians, some specific mission. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has authorized some forty collections, though not all are done in every parish, and local dioceses also have local ones. Since the Ordinariate is part of the Latin Rite in the United States, Bishop Lopes (together with the Governing Council) sees that it is appropriate for us to take part in this charitable work.

The complication is that our usual pledging system is somewhat different from the Latin Rite parishes. When we ask you to pledge for the year, it is with the understanding that this (together with the Building Fund) is the only occasion we will ask you for parish support. During the year, things may come up – either a special need (disaster relief, e.g.) or something entirely optional, like giving altar flowers or memorials for the departed. But apart from that, the pledge is it. Since this system generally works well for us (it certainly does with the generous flock of St John the Baptist!), Bishop Lopes does not want to undermine it by adding a second set of requests for money on top of it, which would be apt to undermine the current giving.

In order to satisfy both concerns – respect for the present system and participation in the national efforts, Bishop Lopes proposes this solution: during the year, all the Ordinariate communities will take up four special “second” collections. Two will be for national purposes, and two for the Ordinariate.



The first of these is coming up on September 25th, and will be for the support of the Ordinariate’s seminarians. You can see their photos on the posters in the church and parish hall. Mechanically, this is how the collection will work. You will find in the Sunday leaflet on September 18th and 25th an envelope with information about the appeal. If you wish to contribute (and I hope you will want to), the envelope can either be mailed to Houston (it is already addressed, though you’ll need your own stamp) or placed in the Sunday collection at St John’s. Checks should be made payable to the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St Peter, if you are using a check. The collection will be made at St John’s on the 25th, though we will accept contributions at other times and send them along to Houston. I hope this is clear. You can expect such a “second collection” appeal about once a quarter.

Governing Council

The Ordinariate, in addition to the Bishop, has a Governing Council of priests. The Council serves as an advisory council to the Bishop, and also has certain canonical responsibilities. Among other things, it submits names to the Holy See in the event of a vacancy in the Episcopal office, and consents to the erection or suppression of parishes. Until this summer, we were operating with an interim governing council appointed two years ago by the Ordinary. We have now had our first regular election, and the new Governing Council is in place. The Vicar General, Director of Formation and regional deans serve *ex officio*. Five priests were elected by the active priests of the Ordinariate, and the bishop has appointed three other priests, as well as representatives of the retired clergy and of the deacons (the last two with voice but not vote). I was among those elected for a five year term, as was our friend, Fr Scharbach, formerly at Good Shepherd and now at Mount Calvary in Baltimore.

On Congregational Singing in the Mass



This month we have some observations from our Director of Music, Bill Gatens, on congregational singing in the Mass (note especially his invitation at the end to join the choir, which returns later this month after the summer break):

A few weeks ago, after Sunday Mass, two people asked me if the minor propers (Introit, Gradual, Alleluia, Offertory, and Communion) are meant to be sung by all the members of the congregation. The texts of these items are printed week by week in the service leaflets. It is a reasonable question, and one that I have been asked several times before. In practice, these items are most often sung by a Schola Cantorum prepared in the chanting of plainsong. Even so, I believe that congregational participation in these items ought to be encouraged, and our customary practice at St. John the Baptist makes some degree of participation feasible.

On most occasions we use simple plainsong tones as given by Francis Burgess, who was a noted authority on liturgical chant in England early in the 20th century. If you compare the standard Roman chant books – the Liber Usualis or Graduale Romanum – you will find highly elaborate chants for these proper items, such as would not be suitable for congregational singing. Burgess, on the other hand, gives all proper items of a given category to the same plainsong tone. All Introits are set to Tone 7; all Graduals to Tone 5; and so forth. These tones are compact melodic formulas that are adaptable to verses of different lengths. Two places where congregational participation would be most feasible are the response to the Introit’s Doxology (“As it was in the beginning...”) and the repetition of the Alleluia.

It may help to recognize the structure of an Introit. It begins with an antiphon: a verse or verses that often, but not always, come from a psalm. A cantor (or cantors) will begin the antiphon, and the choir sings the second half verse. This is followed by a psalm verse, again begun by the cantor with the choir responding. The psalm verse is followed by the Doxology, and the Introit concludes with a repetition by the full choir (and congregation) of the antiphon sung at the beginning. The response to the Doxology is always the same, so it is a prime spot for congregational

participation. As the Introit tone becomes more familiar, I would encourage members of the congregation to take part in the repeat of the antiphon.



In non-penitential seasons, the Alleluia precedes the reading of the Gospel. The cantor begins with a chant that is always the same. The choir responds with a slightly extended version of that chant. After that comes a verse begun by the cantor with the choir responding. The conclusion is a repeat of the extended Alleluia from the beginning. No doubt the extended Alleluia is already so familiar from repeated hearings that most in the congrega-

tion would be capable of joining in. Please do!

Most of the settings of the Mass Ordinary (Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus & Benedictus, Agnus Dei) that we sing at St. John the Baptist are intended to be congregational. The settings by John Merbecke and Healey Willan are in the hymnal. To facilitate the singing of the settings by Schubert, Sir William Harris, and the Mass based on Bach chorales, leaflet inserts will give the music.

I firmly believe that good congregational singing is an important part of our Anglican patrimony. Let's do what we can to make it a vital part of our worship at St. John the Baptist. Also, consider prayerfully whether the Lord is calling you to be a volunteer member of our parish choir. We need to grow. Let me know of your interest, and I'll supply the details of what is involved.

September

In addition to the adult forum on September 25th (mentioned above), there will be an adult forum on the 11th: the first in an occasional series on Counsels from the Fathers on the Christian Life. There are great riches in the writings of the Fathers which can help us in our attempts to live as Christians, even though our age differs in some respects from theirs. Human nature after all does not change. This first class will draw on John Cassian, an early fifth century Latin monk who traveled widely in Egypt and Palestine, visiting the Eastern monasteries before returning to the West.

On September 18th at coffee hour, we will have a visit from some of our friends from Sacred Heart Parish, to tell us about Aid for Friends, a local program which prepares food for those in need. My hope is that some from SJB will be moved to help out with this worthy effort at Sacred Heart. Please come on the 18th and find out what is involved.

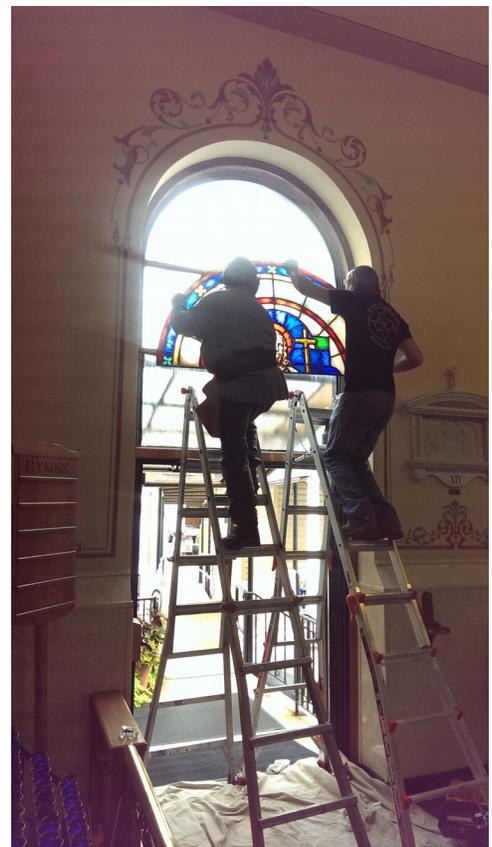
Our Neighborhood Cookout in August went very well, in spite of the extreme heat. We fed nearly 200 people from the parish and from Bridgeport. Many parishioners were here both to work and to greet our neighbors. Thanks goes to all who helped, as well as to our neighbors who came to welcome and support us. Special thanks goes to David Livezey who organized the event, procured the food and grilled for us. Also to John Puzio who did a great work in spreading the word in the community. Peter Korpel of the Knights of Columbus ably manned the second grill (in the heat). St John's folk (Lisa Livezey, Joshua Nunziato, Bell Anderson, Pat Lincoln, et al.) brought food to share. Such occasions require the efforts of many people, and it is great to see the people of St John's pitch in so generously.

If you have been here recently you know that the new stained glass window of St John the Baptist has been completed and installed over the door in church. Executed in the style of the other windows by the Joseph Beyer Studio, it is the gift of David and Therese Rawson. The Studio did a superb job, and it is nice to have a figure of our Patron so prominent in the church. Our gratitude is due to the generosity of the Rawsons as well as to Joseph Beyer.

September 29th is the Feast of Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. Since St Michael is one of our secondary patrons, we will observe the Feast with a Sung Mass at 6:30 in place of the usual 6 p.m. Mass. All are invited to stay for a pot luck supper afterward. Bring something to share if you can.

Also in September is a Walk for Life, beginning at 3:30 with a variety of speakers at Thomas Paine Plaza (1401 JFK Boulevard in center city), and ending with Mass at the Cathedral at 6:30. This is an opportunity to join with others both Catholic and non-Catholic make a local witness for Life. Details are posted on the bulletin board.

Property update: The work on the East wall of the church has been delayed, but should be completed by the end of September. This will allow the installation of a crucifix in



place of the current niche and center icon. The work on the parish offices should be done in early October. The remediation of the underground storage tanks has received the necessary permits, and should proceed this month as well.

Thanks

In addition to those already mentioned, I'd like to thank:

- Bennett Hill (belatedly) for the lovely plantings in the outdoor planter in front of the church sign.
- John, Eliza and Mike Ewing for work on the outside lights.
- James Griffin, who has taken over production of the Sunday service leaflet.
- Fr Scott Brentwood, OdeM, Chris Jordan, Raynor Sherlock, John Puzio and others for looking after things when I was away on vacation.
- Joanna Fallini and Wendy Ewing for the altar plants for the St Joseph Altar.
- Renee McCullough for the administrative work in getting my high school home-schooling Scripture class set up, and her husband Bruce for help with the technology for the on-line class.
- John, Wendy (the Organizer), & Eliza Ewing, David & Therese Rawson, Beth Ousley, Dan Elliott, Joanna Falini, Adele Minissale, Tom & Gina Rocyte, Chris Lane, Aldo Sciarrino, Matt & Anne Hummel, for helping to man the raffle booth for the Sacred Heart Parish Festival in July.
- the Bridgeport Knights of Columbus for funding our Community Cookout.
- Leslie Altena, Wendy Ewing and my wife, for regularly giving rides to people who could not otherwise make it to St John's on Sunday.



Yours faithfully,

Fr David Ousley