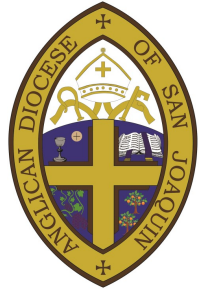


THE SAN JOAQUIN ANGLICAN



The Bishop's Corner

The Right Reverend Eric Vanter Menees

We Belong To God – this is the message of the Feast of the Presentation celebrated on February 2nd. On the 40th day (Feb. 2nd marks the 40th day after the birth of Jesus) it was the custom and the law of Moses to present every firstborn male in Israel to be consecrated to God. In this action the parents present the child to God acknowledging that, indeed the child belongs to God and is given to parents as a gift to love and cherish, raise and protect, train and instruct in the ways of God. This same theme is replicated in the baptismal service in the presentation when the parents and godparents say: *“I present N.N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.”*

As Christians we acknowledge that as creatures of God, created in His image, we are of utmost value and from the moment of conception we belong to God. It is for this reason that we recognize all life as sacred.

We belong to God – not to the state, not to an individual, not to our parents and not even to ourselves. Therefore, the actions of the State of New York to seek to legalize abortion on demand, even up until the moment of birth, are unjust and immoral.

I encourage you to read Archbishop Foley Beach's response to this development in New York in His letter “Protecting the Most Valuable” below...

A Statement from Archbishop Foley Beach on New York's Recent Legislation

Last week, politicians in the State of New York passed legislation enabling the killing of unborn babies throughout all nine months of pregnancy, right up until the moment before birth. A full-term baby can now be killed. This legislation is a disastrous development for all of us. One of the foundational responsibilities of the State is to provide physical security to the vulnerable, and

(Continued on page 2)

BISHOP'S SCHEDULE AND DIOCESAN CALENDAR

February 3—Bishop @ Saint Andrew's

February 8-10—Diocesan Vestry Retreat

February 17—Bishop @ Saint Martin's

February 18—Diocesan Office Closed



(Continued from page 1)

none are more vulnerable than babies. I am profoundly saddened by the blatant disregard for the *value of life* exhibited by the politicians who have done this and by the evident celebration exhibited in the New York City skyline. They have not only abdicated their responsibility to protect the vulnerable but have facilitated their destruction and murder. Pray for them, that God by His goodness will lead them to repentance (Romans 2:4).

Beyond the damage this “Reproductive Health Act” will have on women, men, and families, the killing of unborn babies undermines the State itself. Abortion not only ends the life of a human being, it denies the world all that she or he would have contributed to society. Future leaders, artists, teachers, doctors, and engineers are being denied the opportunity to fulfill their God-created purpose.

Abortion is the greatest moral issue of our time. The legislation and attitudes that threaten life are not going away anytime soon. Neither are we. Our Christian commitment to protect life, from conception to natural death, is literally written into the Anglican Church in North America’s Constitution and identity as a Church. This is something that all practicing Christians should be passionate about, and it was encouraging to see the next generation of youth participating in the Life Summit and March for Life a couple of weeks ago in Washington, D.C.

We are proud to partner with Anglicans for Life and support them in their mission to help equip every Anglican Church with the resources to ensure women have real options and the on-going support they need to choose life for themselves and their children. The effects of this awful law can be minimized as we raise the conscience of the culture and as churches work together with local pregnancy resource centers to inform, educate, and make available resources to women. These centers offer far more life-affirming help and support than what the abortion clinics and those who profit from the killing of the innocent ever could.

I encourage you to live out the Gospel and facilitate a culture of life in your community. There are so many ways any and every person can help: from having casual conversations with friends to supporting pregnancy resource centers; from providing free childcare for a couple who has adopted a child to political action. Most importantly, be willing to share what Jesus Christ has done in your own life. Please join me in prayer that our communities and our countries will be transformed by the love of Jesus Christ, will repent of these evils, and will protect the next generation.

You can learn more about how Anglicans for Life can help you and your church at www.AnglicansForLife.org



Transitions

Fr. Jim Sweeney has stepped aside from assisting at St. David’s in order to work on a new church plant in Pacifica.





Spiritual Retreat March 29-30, 2019 Fresno, CA

MPC Spiritual Retreat

Jesus announced His ministry to the people of God by reading out these words from the scroll of Isaiah:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

—Luke 4:18-19a

He has sent us this same Spirit to the Church today, and we call this proclaiming, healing, and freeing work *pastoral care*.

The MPC retreat will be a time of receiving such care through worship, teaching, and personal prayer ministry. By receiving from the Lord, each attendee will also be growing in their capacity to offer this care to others. The retreat will address barriers to knowing God's presence with us, equipping us to more fully collaborate with Him in personhood, family life, and vocation.

Who Should Attend?

All Christians are encouraged to attend. Those who are struggling with the wounds and compulsions that are common in our world today will find real help. Ministers and lay leaders from all denominations, and those in the healing professions such as counseling and medicine will find themselves strengthened for their service.

About Ministries of Pastoral Care

MPC is a teaching and healing ministry inspired by the writings of Leanne Payne. Our ministry team is led by Sarah Colyn, a seminary-trained psychologist with a passion for the gospel. MPC's speakers and prayer ministers have received new life through Christ's sacrifice and now we seek to live in consecration to His service.

Restoring souls through union with Christ

ministriesofpastoralcare.com | fresno@ministriesofpastoralcare.com

Retreat Schedule

Friday, March 29, 9:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 30, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The retreat will include meals together: lunch and dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday.

Retreat Location

The MPC retreat will be held at the Campus Bible Church, Palm Campus, located at 222 E. Fountain Way, Fresno, CA 93704.

Accommodations

For any attendees traveling from out of town, special rates have been arranged at the Country Inn and Suites by Radisson. To make a reservation call (559) 435-5838 and ask for the MPC Retreat 2019 Fresno rate.

Registration

To register for the retreat, please complete your registration form (form and details at ministriesofpastoralcare.com/schools) and submit your registration fee. You will receive a confirmation email once your registration has been processed. All information is confidential. MPC reserves the right to decline any registration, and our retreats sometimes fill up such that we are not able to accept every registrant.

Registration Deadline

Registrations received through March 15, 2019. Walk-in registrations and those submitted after March 15 will not be accepted.

Retreat Fee

The cost of the retreat is \$110 per person, which includes lunch and dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday. If the registration fee is prohibitive in your circumstances, you are welcome to inform our registrar of your financial need.



THE DIOCESE OF SAN JOAQUIN

ANGELICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

1300 Shaw Avenue #123

Fresno, California 93710

(559) 244-4828

December 20, 2018

Dear Rectors, Ministry Leaders, Church Planters, and Congregations:

In an effort to assist with the ministry of our congregations, the Diocesan Standing Committee's Subcommittee on Ministry Grants is accepting applications for 2019. There is no specific deadline for applying. We will accept applications immediately and they will be considered on a rolling basis, so long as funds remain available.

Your request for support must include the following information:

- A copy of the parochial report most recently filed with the ACNA,
- 2017 closing financial and year-end report,
- Current 2018 (or year-end) budget & financial statement
- A description of any anticipated changes in income & expenses for 2019.
- The request should be for a specific amount of money and should include a description of how the support money will be used in ministry,
- Current names and contact information for all key Vestry Officers and Church Staff.

Preference will be shown to congregations showing their own support (fiscal and in manpower) for the ministry the grant is requested for, whether the grant requested is specifically matching or not. If you have questions or need additional directions, please feel free to contact me.

In Christ,

Phillip +

The Rev. Fr. Phillip Berghuis
Diocesan Administrator

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Guidelines for Ministry Grants

With our changes in structures, and based on past experience, it seemed best to set forth guidelines for those applying for Ministry Grants, as well as for the subcommittee that will evaluate those applications. Also bear in mind that there is no specific time frame for grant applications, but there is a finite amount of funds available. These are the guidelines.

1. Ministry Grants shall not be made for routine maintenance projects
2. Ministry Grants shall not be relied on for normal budgetary items *Examples: utilities; rent; standard office supplies, etc.*
3. Ministry Grant requests may be for:
 - a. Funding of new ministry initiatives. *Examples: community outreach; small groups/home groups; materials for a new children's ministry – just to name a few. Creativity is encouraged!*
 - b. Expansions of existing ministry initiatives. *Examples: Increasing the reach and scope of an existing ministry serving the needy in the community; increasing the reach and scope of an existing children's ministry; etc.*
 - c. Salary assistance. *Examples: Supplementing part time clergy pay.*
 - d. Cooperative efforts between congregations, whether in the same Deanery or in a different deanery. *Examples: churches in a Deanery needing seed money to hire a youth minister to serve each of them, or requesting money to be able to continue/expand a cooperative ministry that has proven results.*
 - e. Other ministry opportunities and efforts that support the mission statement: “As the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin We Will Call and Equip Laity and Clergy to Bring People to and Disciple Them in a Saving Relationship with Jesus Christ.”
4. Ministry Grants shall not be relied on for any period of time beyond the timeframe of a particular year's grant. Each year's application process is a “blank slate” at the beginning. Re-applications are definitely permitted yearly, and are even encouraged; they will simply be evaluated the same way as every other application.
5. Those who receive a Ministry Grant will send a quarterly update to the Standing Committee, indicating how the funds have been put to use and what results have been seen up to that time.





AN EXCERPT FROM
**REFLECTIONS FROM
THE FORMER ARCHDEACON**
BY THE VEN. DONALD A. SEEKS

THE TITHE

Christians sometimes are like the young man in the famous novel *War and Peace* who prays after a night of debauchery, “I have sinned, Lord, but I have several excellent excuses”. The Christian steward who is growing in spiritual maturity must always admit there are no real excuses, excellent or otherwise, when it comes to answering to God for what we are thinking, saying, and what we have done or are about to do.

For it all matters to God, both in this life, and in the life which we will come to share with His Perfect Presence. Always there are both temporal and eternal consequences.

God holds us responsible, not so much for what we have, although that is important, but for what we could have.

In my opinion, we are judged not for what we are now, although that as well is very important, but for what we ought to be. God has a great plan for each of us and He wants to see each of us fulfill that design. Such fulfillment brings wholesomeness to life.

The primary medium of human exchange, in our society at least, has become money. How we manage it as Christian stewards, as stated above, matters a great deal simply because it matters a great deal to God.

Due to that societal importance, I believe God has established a plan so that we can take charge, rather than have money take charge of us.

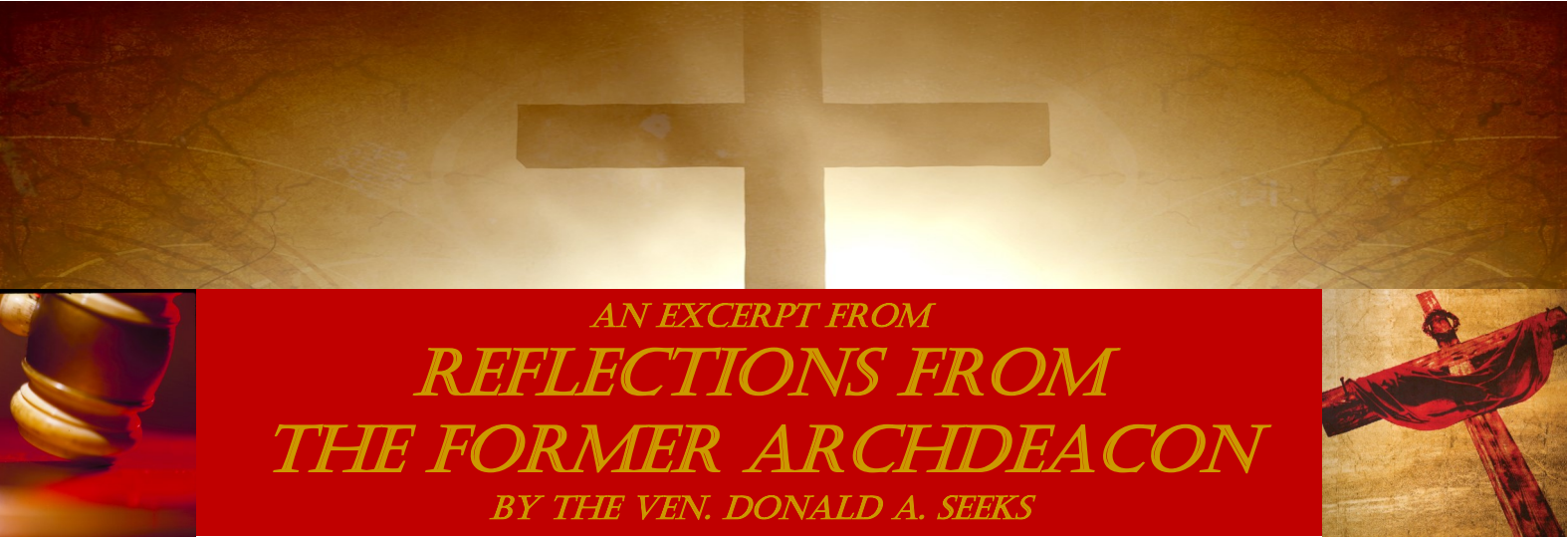
Over 70% of Jesus’ teaching involved stewardship and money. It was our Lord Who warned us that the love of money was the root of all evil. Money and wealth have a way of taking over because its accumulation and ability to purchase appeals to our basic instincts, among them being greed and a desire for power.

A person becomes a failure who travels through this life focused on earning money because it will remain behind when we leave this earth, thus he will leave empty. When Jesus spoke of it being more difficult for a rich man to pass through the eye of the needle, He was saying that there is something about the kind of material wealth that we enjoy here in America that can rob us of our spirituality. The tendency of many Americans is an overemphasis on materiality.

Money has been shown to be a universal passport to everywhere except Heaven and as a universal provider for things which will not endure for eternity. Money can be a fatal trap.

Surely the person who invented the boomerang is the same person who invented the credit card. It has been said by many that the most addictive drug in America today is money. It is compared to a drug because it is habit-forming. Its acquisition preoccupies time and attention which could be better spent in growing as a person. If pursued constantly, it like opioids or alcohol, will be the cause of death, in this case, eternal death. That is precisely how every addictive drug works.

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AN EXCERPT FROM
REFLECTIONS FROM
THE FORMER ARCHDEACON
BY THE VEN. DONALD A. SEEKS

(Continued from page 6)

To prevent this addiction, God has acted on our behalf by establishing a standard which acts to move us away from the love of money back to the love of God. If we follow His standard, money will become a tool for Christian stewards to use and to manage rather than become an end in itself.

God acts to turn money from idol to instrument, to be employed for our benefit, and most of all, for His greater glory.

Now I believe the vehicle or principle by which God puts money in its proper perspective is called the tithe.

From the very beginning of Creation, the tithe was established as the standard for our recognition of the total ownership of God and the token of our faithful stewardship in managing on His behalf. In Genesis 14 we learn that Abraham, our spiritual ancestor, presented “a tithe of everything to the priest of the Most High God”, whose name was Melchizedek, and who was a forerunner of Christ Himself. In response to a personal revelation Jacob vowed that “all thou givest me, I will give the tenth (tithe) to Thee”.




In Deuteronomy we read that Israel was given stewardship of the land, and recognition of God’s ownership was a tithe of the crop at harvest time. When King Hezekiah rediscovered the Books of the Law during reconstruction of the Temple, they reinstated the keeping of the Passover and as a part of that reform it says, “the people brought in abundantly a tithe of everything”. In Leviticus it declares that “all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or the fruit of the trees, is the Lord’s; it is holy to the Lord”.

Jesus only mentioned the tithe once, and then almost in passing. A few people have used this as an excuse for ignoring a call to achieve a Biblical tithe.

But most of Jesus’ teaching is corrective in nature: (“you have heard it said, but I say unto you...”). So whatever was taken for granted needed no elaboration. What needed correction in the matter of tithing was the sinful attitude of the scribes and Pharisees who had begun to act, as though by tithing, they automatically would be “in” with God. Jesus declared, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin but have neglected the weightier matters of the Law – justice, mercy, and faith.” “These you ought to have done **without neglecting the others**” (emphasis mine.) The Jewish leaders were tithing everything even down to their household spices, but they were lacking in love for their neighbors. And merely tithing can never become a substitute for love, compassion, and mercy. The tithe is a spiritual discipline, not a heavenly guarantee. My emphasis is on those last four words of Jesus on that occasion because He tells us the tithe is never to be neglected.

There was a time in Jewish history when the people of God had grown spiritually lax and indifferent to God and His plan for them. Like today, a majority were more concerned with personal comfort and pleasure than about their stewardship before God.

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AN EXCERPT FROM
**REFLECTIONS FROM
THE FORMER ARCHDEACON**
BY THE VEN. DONALD A. SEEKS

(Continued from page 7)

So God sent His prophet Malachi, who declared prophetically: “Return to me, and I will return to you’, says the Lord of Hosts.” And God spoke again through Malachi saying, “Will man rob God? But you will say, ‘How are we robbing You?’ In your tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house...”

This is why our Lord Jesus emphasized good stewardship. He does not want us to be accused of robbery at the time of Judgment. It is obvious to everyone, of course, that God does not *need* our time, our talent, or our money to get along. So, the warning through Malachi has direct implications for you and me.

Tithing and all other forms of self-giving as a Christian steward are not a matter of God needing financial help. They are not even about support of a local congregation, vital as that may be.

Tithing is a matter of the spirit, because anything less than a tithe is a refusal to be obedient. This means tithing is a spiritual matter and not a financial matter.

Because money represents much of what we are in a material sense, we fail to practice good stewardship if we are not tithing or working at achieving the tithe. Put positively, we are proper stewards when we tithe. It is a recognition of the sacrifice Christ has made for us. Being faithful to the tithe does require some sacrifice, so in a very small way, it emulates Christ’s sacrifice for us.

In 1959 Carol and I determined that we were only giving 3% back to God, so we decided we would work toward the tithe. It required several years because we had to rearrange our priorities and use money as a tool and not an end in itself. Once gained, we found God’s promise of abundancy to be absolutely true and we found a freedom over materialism that we never experienced before.

If mature Christian stewardship is your goal, then you will also want to establish the tithe. “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse...thereby put me to the test”, says the Lord of Hosts, “if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.” That is God’s promise and the fruit that will come forth from the tithe.

A caution: some TV preachers claim a direct relationship between giving and getting God’s blessing. Such false teaching will be to their sorrow someday. God’s blessings come when we have faith and not how much and how often we give. Fruit comes from increasing our faith; one way is practicing stewardship.

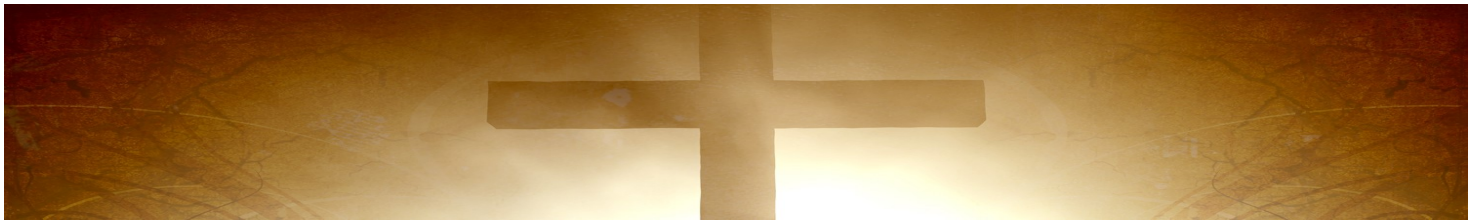


**BRING
THE FULL
TITHE
INTO THE
STOREHOUSE.
MALACHI 3:10**

Diocesan Youth Mission Trip: *Come Build Hope* July 14-19, 2019

Once again, the diocese will partner with Amor Ministries in Tijuana to build a home for a family in need. This trip is geared for youth entering the 7th grade through college and is open to adults as well. Younger children may come if accompanied by their parent. The cost will most likely be between \$200-300 per missionary. This includes lodging in a tent, food while in Mexico, along with the building materials and tools needed to build the house. The amount will be determined by the fundraisers participating congregations hold along with diocesan scholarships. All participants must have a passport and some spending money for meals while traveling. It currently takes 6-8 weeks to get a passport and the cost varies by age between \$115-145. Look for more details to come in the next couple of months. If you have any interest or questions, please contact Father Mark Hall at hallfour@gmail.com.





Bishop's Note series--

The ***Bishop's Note*** is a pastoral message published weekly by Bishop Eric Menees. To subscribe, send an email message with your email to receptionist@dioceseofsanjoaquin.net.



The San Joaquin Anglican is published monthly by The Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin, California.

Submissions will be accepted for consideration any-time; Contributions **must be received by the 20th** of the month for possible inclusion in the newsletter in the following month.

Please send these to akr93555@gmail.com and cc: melody@ctkridgecrest.org

Thank you!