



October 2018



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF THE WEST

Diocesan Digest

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From the Editor

*By the Rev. Isaac J. Rehberg, Canon for Liturgy
Rector, All Saints Anglican Church, San Antonio, TX*

Welcome to our new diocesan newsletter!

Late this summer, I received a phone call from our bishop asking that I head up a regular diocesan newsletter. The purpose of our newsletter is to keep you informed of the numerous interesting things that are happening in the diocese. In this first issue, we have a word from the bishop about our new diocesan branding; a report from All Saints Anglican Church, GTA about their summer youth Sunday; a report from one of our prospective church plants, St. Benedict Anglican Church, about their first pre-launch fellowship; and a reflection from one of our newest seminarians.

I hope these articles will give you some prayer points and some encouragement. I encourage our various member parishes to send me submissions for the newsletter; the diocese needs to hear from you! You can write to me at fatherisaac@allsaintsanglican.net with submissions or comments.

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## A Word from the Bishop

*By the Rt. Rev. Dr. Felix C. Orji, OSB  
Ordinary, Anglican Diocese of the West*

### Important Diocesan Matters

It is my pleasure to inform you that effective October 1, 2018, our official diocesan name is



“The Anglican Diocese of the West (CANA).” I now direct that all clergy and churches in the diocese effect this change in all your documents and websites. Be assured that we are still in CANA but adding (CANA) in the documents is optional. We also have a new diocesan logo that you can access on our diocesan website:

[www.dioceseofthewest.org](http://www.dioceseofthewest.org)

Finally, please pray for me and the Standing Committee of the Diocese as we make decisions regarding the administration and funding of the ministry and missions of the Diocese.

Pray to the Lord and give generously so that we can fulfill our commitments and be able to pay our church planters for about two years.

Pray that the Lord will guide Lilian and me as we make decisions that will help us reduce the stress of constant and necessary travel in the USA, Canada, and overseas, which in the end will make us more effective in episcopal ministry by enhancing more parish visits.

*“No one heals himself by wounding another.”*

## A Word of Exhortation

St. Ambrose of Milan writing to Christians in the fourth century wisely said that, “No one heals himself by wounding another.”

And if I may add to his quote, I would say that no one succeeds by making others fail or by making them look like failures! So, as you live your life at home, in church, in ministry, and in the public square of local and national politics, do not succumb to the succulent

temptation of thinking you are better than everyone else and that you can succeed by putting others down. Do not undermine or lie about someone or discount the work of other people so you can have your way or so you can feel or look better than they are in the eyes of others. It is wrong, and it eventually backfires on you.

May the Lord guide us into the fullness of His love and purpose. Amen.

## First Fellowship at St. Benedict Anglican Church, San Antonio

*By the Rev. Barry C. Kowald, Assisting Priest, All Saints Anglican Church, San Antonio*

“Go west, young man!” That is what I believe the Lord is calling me to do on the west and northwest side of San Antonio, Texas. The Alamo Ranch and surrounding communities between Bandera and Potranco Roads have experienced a surge in growth over the past three to five years, and the time is right to plant an Anglican parish within the San Antonio Archdeaconry (Anglican Diocese of the West,

CANA). However, the effort takes time, energy, and resources, combined with positioning and timing to set conditions and take the necessary steps to launch a successful church plant.

On August 11, 2018, our group held its first fellowship, where I announced the intention to plant



St. Benedict Anglican Church, San Antonio. It was a successful event with many families that have either expressed interest, agreed to pray for us, or actively committed to the missional effort. Venerable Scott Sealy, the Rector of Three Streams Anglican Church, and the Reverend Canon Isaac Rehberg, Rector of All Saints Anglican Church, each delivered opening remarks. Afterwards, I delivered my remarks and made it clear that this is Christ's Church, and He will build it. Unless the Lord builds His house, we labor in vain (Psalm 127). I then announced the upcoming Bible Study by Tim Keller, *Evangelism: Studies in the Book of Acts* that will set in motion the effort to build a core group.

On January 9, 2019, we will begin the Acts study at a host home that is within our geographic area of

emphasis. I made it clear, we want people who are called to our parish. We will not pressure anyone, but I did ask that everyone extend the invitation to unchurched people, whether they are current followers of Christ or not. My prayer is that we will reach people who need Jesus, as well as those who left the church out of disappointment or other reasons. We will invite those who are willing to join us, where we will grow together as Christ's disciples, building into sacramental community, in obedience to the Great Commission, and the advancement of Christ's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. In time, the Bible study will develop into a core group, viable for launching Sunday Holy Communion services at a location the Lord already knows. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

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College / University Students And Recent Graduates Sunday

*By Rev. Canon Dr. Barnabas C. Emenogu,
Rector, All Saints Anglican Church GTA, Ontario, Canada*

Sunday, August 19, 2018.

A special Sunday service was held for the youth of All Saints Anglican Church, GTA as they approached yet another academic year that began in the fall. The service was essentially conducted by the youth, who read the lessons and offered special numbers during the course of the service.

Much of the service was dedicated to a live symposium organized by the youth themselves with panelists and a moderator who guided the discussion of topical questions raised by members of the youth group. These questions touched on how the youth as



Christians could survive both socially and academically in a higher learning environment. Members of the congregation also offered words of advice to the youth.

Rev. Canon Peter Owadayo preached at the service. The sermon was centered on how the youth could fulfill their academic dreams by living a life of a devout Christian.

The congregation was also treated to delightful refreshments immediately after the special Sunday service.



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# English Spirituality in Practice

*or*

## My First Two Weeks at Nashotah House

*By John Mack, Seminarian*

Several years ago, I first encountered the writings of the late Martin Thornton, priest, theologian, and spiritual director. I was newly confirmed and had read some theology, but I had little understanding of the depth and width of our Anglican heritage. A Facebook friend pointed me to Thornton, and I started with his *English Spirituality*. First, the book is not just for English people. Thornton maintained that

*English* Spirituality, like Spanish Mysticism, is a distinctive school of Christian practice, not an ethnic inheritance.<sup>1</sup> In Thornton I discovered the great synthesis that is the Anglican Way. His

thesis is that Anglicans have inherited a unique pastoral tradition in the *Book of Common Prayer*. We possess a three-fold *regula*, or rule, composed of the Daily Office, the Eucharist, and personal devotion. Each of these elements has been formed by centuries of Christian practice, but in the Prayer Book they are uniquely harmonized. It's not that Roman, Presbyterian, or Lutheran Christians lack the Eucharist, instances of corporate prayer, or devotion, but only in the Anglican Prayer Book are all three elements woven together for laity and clergy alike.

Obviously, the realization of the three-fold rule is a goal few parishes can achieve. Most of our clergy are bi-vocational and doubly busy. Many of our parishes meet in rented spaces inconveniently located. These

factors make church life beyond Sunday Eucharist very difficult. I am therefore grateful and glad that my seminary education is taking place at Nashotah House.

Nashotah House was established in 1842 as a mission to the surrounding native and immigrant settlements. We have inherited from our founders a fierce missionary spirit and a profound sense of our

Church's Catholic witness. The House is famous for the attention given to the liturgical formation of seminarians. Each morning we gather in the chapel and sit until the great bell Michael tolls out

the Angelus. Then we stand and meditate. As the last strike rolls away, we begin Morning Prayer, followed by Eucharist. After the Sacrament, we eat breakfast, and then to class until the Noon Angelus. After this we study or work, until 4:45 when we gather in chapel again for Evening Prayer. As a priest of our diocese once said to me, "It's Anglican Hogwarts." We might dismiss the liturgy as being extrinsic to the heart of faith, or fear that attention to the liturgy might distract us from the real formation of the heart. Many Anglicans have done so. But to paraphrase Aristotle, it is one thing to know what is good. It is another thing to live what is good. If we do the latter, we will form the habits that allow us to love the good. In Christian terms, we are saved by grace, but the

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<sup>1</sup> Thornton, Martin. *English Spirituality: An Outline of Ascetical Theology according to the English Pastoral Tradition*. Wipf and Stock, Eugene, OR 2012. Xiv.

grace that saves also directs us to perfection. Our work, founded in Christ, is not in vain. “Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.”  
(1 Cor. 9:25, ESV)

Nashotah House is not a perfect place, but it is the rare place where Common Prayer, Sacramental life, and personal prayer thrive together. May it continue so!

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Submissions of news, reflections, or other articles of up to 500 words for the *Diocesan Digest* can be made to Canon Isaac Rehberg by email at fatherisaac@allsaintsanglican.net.