

# **THE CHRONICLE**

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*Grace and Saint Peter's Church*  
*Baltimore's Traditional Anglo-Catholic Parish*

**October 2008**

## From the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ:

September brought with it the return of Grace and St. Peter's School. We have gotten off to a good start. It is wonderful to have the children back and hard at work. Today in kindergarten Chapel one little girl asked me if Grace and St. Peter's was a Castle. I said no, it is a church. Buildings seem very big when you are small. I enjoy being with the children for religion class and chapel. One never knows the questions one will be asked. Our choir returned on the Exaltation of the Holy Cross with a Mass setting accompanied by the choirmaster's new harpsichord and Viola da Gamba and theorbo. It was spectacular. The choir is in great voice and a delight to the ear.

During the middle of September I was admitted as member of the Society of the Holy Cross, a Vincentian Society of Anglican Priests. I am pleased to have been admitted. There is an article elsewhere in the newsletter about the Society. One thing that we did at the Church of the Resurrection in New York was to have a Marian procession around the block on 74<sup>th</sup> street and Park Avenue. It was in the evening after the Mass. Everyone carried hand candles and we were accompanied by a brass band. The statue of Our Lady of Walsingham was carried and we sang the Walsingham Pilgrim Hymn. There were lots of people and it was quite thrilling. I remarked to the Bishop of Fort Worth, a classmate of mine at General Seminary, that we don't do things like this where I grew up in North Carolina. His response was that they don't do things like this in Texas either, except on Remember the Alamo Day!

The first Sunday in October is the Feast of the Dedication. The annual Parish Meeting will take place after the 10 am High Mass. Brunch will be served. There will be no charge for Brunch. We will hear reports from various people about the Church and vote for the new Vestry members. Please turn out for this important day in our life together. The nominees for the Vestry are Adam Barner, Ruth Fitzgerald, Jim Forcum, Patrick Hom, Robert Kingery, Suzanne Meier, and Jennifer Womack. The second Sunday in October is the Visitation of our new Bishop. Bishop Sutton will be with us for Mass and for a reception hosted by the parish. Please come and meet him. He wants to talk to all of us after Mass.

We have much going on during the month of October. The first event will be the blessing of pets on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at four o'clock. The blessing will take place at the Monument Street entrance. We always have all sorts of pets with us. Bring your dog, cat, or canary

and come. We even have some goldfish from time to time. Robert Zimmerman is working on a parish directory. If you have not sent your card in, please do so. If you did not get a card please call the Parish Office and tell John Heizer that you need one.

The last thing to look for in your newsletter is the form for All Souls' day on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is important to get your All Souls' Day names in and make plans to come to Mass on the day. We, like St. Monica, desire to have our loved ones remembered at the Altar. I hope that your early fall is going well.

I remain faithfully yours,

*Frederick S. Thomas*

## **October Music**

### **5 October – Feast of the Dedication**

Office of the Holy Communion in F - *Herbert Sumson (1899-1995)*

Locus Iste - *Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)*

The Eyes Of All Wait Upon Thee - *William H. Harris (1883-1973)*

### **12 October – Pentecost XXII**

Communion Service in A Minor - *Harold Darke (1888-1976)*

Ecce Sacerdos Magnus - *Edward Elgar (1957-1934)*

I Sat Down Under His Shadow - *Edward C. Bairstow (1874-1946)*

### **19 October – Pentecost XXIII**

A Simple Communion Service in F - *William H. Harris (1883-1973)*

Praise Ye The Lord - *Hugo Distler (1908-1942)*

Laudate Dominum - *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)*

### **26 October – Pentecost XXIV**

Office of the Holy Communion in E Flat - *Edward C. Bairstow (1874-1946)*

Behold, How Good And Joyful - *John Clark-Whitfeld (1770-1836)*

Teach Me, O Lord - *Thomas Attwood (1765-1838)*

## Silence in Church

When I was a child I was taught always to whisper or speak quietly in church, except when joining in acts of public worship, and only to speak at all other times when absolutely necessary. The church building was a holy place, where people came to pray and to wait upon God in silence, and to engage in chatter was to show both a lack of respect for God and a lack of consideration for other worshippers.

St Basil the Great speaks with pity in his Sermon 9 of people who hurry to church, but when they arrive pay no heed to the word of God, but "smiling and shaking hands with each other they turn the house of prayer into a place of endless gossiping". He goes on to say that such people not only fail to speak God's glory in his temple (Psalm 29:8), but are a distraction to their neighbours by turning their attention away from God to themselves.

We need to recall what is our main purpose in coming to church. We do come to enjoy fellowship with other members of the congregation, but that is incidental to the main purpose of our coming, which is to worship God. St Basil puts his finger on the point when he draws attention to the two directions of worship. We come to listen to what God has to say to us, and to offer him thanks and praise for what he has done for us. True fellowship springs unconsciously out of our common experience of worship. When, however, we focus our attention primarily on our meeting with one another, it tends to become more a meeting with like-minded individuals or friends than with fellow-worshippers, with all the dangers of exclusive groups within the wider congregation.

Of course it is good to express fellowship with other worshippers and a concern for their needs and welfare, and such concern can lead naturally into intercession. Many worshippers, however, are only too ready to be distracted. There is wisdom in the old adage: "Before the service talk to God; during the service let God talk to you; after the service talk with one another".

Most of us are so caught up with the multitudinous activities of daily life that we find we have to make some effort to "tune in" to God in church. Let us at least respect the attempt of others to do so, and not put impediments in their way. Let us see if we cannot improve the quality of our worship by making a sustained attempt to focus our attention on God while we are in his holy place.

*Tony Gelston, Emeritus Reader in Theology, University of Durham.  
From New Directions, January 1997*

## What is SSC?

SSC stands for *Societas Sanctae Crucis* - the Society of the Holy Cross. The Society was founded in London in 1855 by a small group of Anglo-Catholic priests led by Father Charles Lowder. At a time when the Catholic Revival in the Church of England was threatened by persecution and misunderstanding, these priests came together for support, mutual prayer and encouragement. Father Lowder spelled out the objects of SSC: 'To defend and strengthen the spiritual life of the clergy, to defend the faith of the Church, and to carry on and aid Mission work both at home and abroad. The members of this society, meeting together as they did in prayer and conference, were deeply impressed with the evils existing in the Church, and saw also, in the remedies adopted by St Vincent de Paul, the hope of lessening them.'

The Society has now spread throughout the world and is organized in autonomous Provinces under Provincial Masters elected by their Brethren. Priests of the Society live under a common Rule and meet together in their local SSC Chapters for prayer, Mass and some kind of study or conversation. Presiding over the Society worldwide is a Master-General who has a special responsibility to ensure an on-going fidelity among the Brethren to the spirit of the Society. The Americas Province is the province in the Western Hemisphere, with the majority of its members living in the USA and Canada.

SSC is not a devotional guild, but takes its stance upon a shared vision of 'a disciplined priestly life fashioned after a definite spiritual rule.' It is this Rule of Life which unites the Brethren in their various priestly ministries and lives. They are required to 'consider their obligation to the Society as a close spiritual bond...which takes precedence to that of any other voluntary society.' This obligation includes a commitment to attend local SSC Chapter meetings and annual Regional and Provincial Synods. The life of the Society is experienced primarily through the local Chapter, and attendance at Chapter is of obligation unless prevented by genuine pastoral duties.

The fortunes of the Society have waxed and waned since the early days of the Catholic Revival, but for its members it has always been an important source of priestly formation, discipline and fraternity. Many of the best-known and best-loved priests of our Anglo-Catholic tradition have been brethren of SSC. Priests of the Society can be recognized by the small gold lapel cross that they generally wear. On it is inscribed the motto of the Society - *in hoc signo vinces* - in this sign, conquer!

## October Mass Intentions

*October is the Month of the Holy Rosary*

1 St Regimus, BC	Eugene, our Bishop
2 Holy Guardian Angels	Guardian Angels Church, Lantana, Florida
3 St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, V	Priests in their ministry
4 St Francis, C	All Franciscans
5 FEAST OF THE DEDICATION	Our Parish Family
6 St Bruno, C	Monastics
7 MOST HOLY ROSARY BVM	Greater devotion to Our Lady
8 St Brigid, W	The All Saints Sisters
9 St Denys, BM	Our Parish School
10 St Francis Borgia, C	The elderly
11 MOTHERHOOD BVM	Our Parish Vestry
12 PENTECOST XXII	Our Parish Family
13 St Edward the Confessor	The Church of England
14 Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
15 St Teresa of Avilà, V	The Carmelites
16 St Hedwig, W	More frequent & worthy Reception
17 St Margaret Mary Alacoque, V	Closer relationship to Our Lord
18 ST LUKE, Ev M	St Luke's, Carey Street
19 PENTECOST XXIII	Our Parish Family
20 St John Cantius, C	Holiness of life
21 St Hilarion, Ab.	Courage for those in difficult circumstances
22 Votive of St Joseph	Parents
23 St Anthony Mary Claret, BC	The Servers' Guild
24 St Raphael the Archangel	The Guild of All Souls
25 SS Crispin and Crispinian, MM	Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham
26 PENTECOST XXIV	Our Parish Family
27 Vigil of SS Simon and Jude	The Christian Life
28 SS SIMON & JUDE, App MM	The Catholic Clerical Union
29 Feria	The Apostolic Faith
30 Feria	The Society of the Holy Cross (SSC)
31 Vigil of All Saints	All Saints' Church, Ashmont, Boston

### PARISH DIRECTORY

*Please return your parish directory contact information card as soon as possible.*

## The Seven Sacraments

The Church has Seven Sacraments,  
As we must all believe;  
These means of Grace we all must seek  
To know or to receive.

1. *Baptism* washes out the sin  
Which Adam did commit;
2. The sins since Baptism we have done,  
These *Penance* will remit.
3. The *Holy Eucharist* is the true  
Body and Blood divine  
Of Jesus Christ, both God and Man,  
In Forms of bread and wine.
4. In *Confirmation* we believe  
The Holy Ghost is given.
5. In *Holy Unction* we get grace  
To die in hope of Heaven.
6. In *Holy Orders* Bishops, Priests,  
And Deacons get God's grace;
7. And *Matrimony* blessed those  
Who married life embrace.

All thanks and praise to Jesus be,  
And to his Precious Blood,  
By which we have the Sacraments,  
The Means of every good.

This instructional little ditty is taken from *The Divine Service*, an Anglo-Catholic devotional manual published in 1912 by the Rev'd H. Page Dyer of Baltimore.

## **Daily Mass Schedule**

Sunday - 7:45 a.m. Matins & Low Mass    10:00 a.m. High Mass    5:00 p.m. Evensong

Monday - 6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Tuesday - 12:00 Noon Low Mass and Holy Unction

Wednesday - 6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Thursday - 6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Friday – 8:45 a.m. Sung Mass    6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Saturday - 12:00 Noon Low Mass

### **Grace and Saint Peter's Church**

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