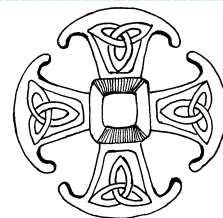




The Link



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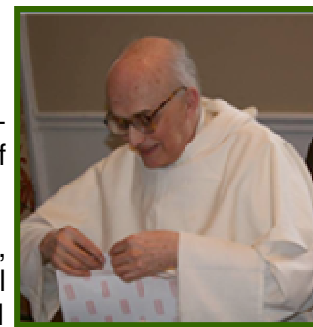
Retreat for Pastoral Provision Priests and their Wives

to be held at the Bethany Center, Lutz, FL.,

Nov. 9-13, 2009

The Pastoral Provision Office is sponsoring a retreat for all Pastoral Provision priests and their wives at the Bethany Center, Lutz, Florida, just north of Tampa, Monday-Friday, November 9-13.

Fr. Carleton P. Jones, O. P., Pastor of the Church of Saint Vincent Ferrer, New York City, will be the retreat master. Dr. John B. Lipscomb, former Episcopal Bishop of Southwest Florida, himself in the Pastoral Provision process, is overall director of the Center.



Fr. Carleton P. Jones

The Bethany Center is an up-to-date facility, fully equipped, for individuals or couples in a beautiful scenic atmosphere on the west coast of Florida, twenty miles north of the Tampa International airport. Local directions for reaching the center will be found in the brochure to be sent to all Pastoral Provision clergy and on the Center's website www.BethanyCenterFl.org

Costs for the retreat are as follows: Priests, single occupancy, 4 nights and 10 meals: \$365.00; Priest and wife, double occupancy, 4 nights and 10 meals: \$515.00. Checks should be made out to the Pastoral Provision – Archdiocese of Newark.

Registration, for which the cut-off date is October 1, should be made through the Pastoral Provision Office at Our Lady of Walsingham, 7809 Shadyvilla Lane, Houston, TX 77055. Tel: 1-713-683-9407; Fax: 1-713-683-1518; Inquiries can be made to Msgr. W. H. Stetson at whstetson@pastoralprovision.org or to Ms. Margaret Pichon at mpichon@comcast.net who will handle all registration details. A retreat program will be mailed to registrants prior to the retreat date.

The retreat offers an opportunity for spiritual renewal, the beginning or resumption of friendships and the exchange of experiences among the approximately eighty-five Pastoral Provision priests still living and working throughout the nation.

(More about Father Carleton P. Jones on page 3)

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Dedicated to the

PRINCIPLES of TRUTH,

UNITY, And

MISSION

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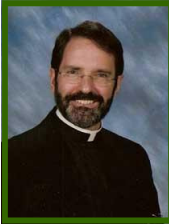
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Pope Benedict XVI, May 11, in Jerusalem, at the Notre Dame Institute: Religious belief presupposes truth. The one who believes is the one who seeks truth and lives by it. Although the medium by which we understand the discovery and communication of truth differs in part from religion to religion, we should not be deterred in our efforts to bear witness to truth's power. Together we can proclaim that God exists and can be known, that we are his creatures, and that he calls every man and woman to a way of life that respects his design for the world. Friends, if we believe we have criterion of judgment and discernment which is divine in origin and intended for all humanity, then we cannot tire of bringing that knowledge to bear on civic life. Truth should be offered to all; it serves all members of society. It sheds light on the foundation of morality and ethics, and suffuses reason with the strength to reach beyond its own limitations in order to give expression to our deepest common aspirations. Far from threatening the tolerance of differences or cultural plurality, truth makes consensus possible and keeps public debate rational, honest and accountable, and opens the gateway to peace. Fostering the will to be obedient to the truth in fact broadens our concept of reason and its scope of application, and makes possible the genuine dialogue of cultures and religions so urgently needed today.



My Spiritual Journey **Fr. Scott Hurd**, Executive Director Office of the Permanent Diaconate Archdiocese of Washington

Just seven days before, west of Fort Worth, Texas, I had celebrated my final Eucharist as an Episcopal priest. After the final blessing, I processed out to the classic hymn (written by an Anglican convert to Catholicism), "Faith of our Fathers." Now I found myself in Washington, DC, sitting in a pew, anticipating my first Sunday Mass as a Catholic, not knowing quite what to expect. But when the opening hymn began, I knew that I was in the right place. The hymn? "Faith of our Fathers!"

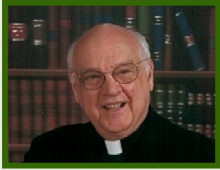
That was one of but several miracles and validations that accompanied me in my journey "across the Tiber." I recall one Sunday evening, while still an Episcopal priest, praying in my parish's little chapel before a beautiful icon of the Blessed Mother. At this time I had declared my intention to become a Catholic to Cardinal Hickey, the Archbishop of Washington, but his health troubles had understandably put my and other matters on hold. Nevertheless, I was becoming a bit anxious, and that's why I turned to Mary. As I prayed, I received what I believed to be an answer which instructed me: "Scott, you just need to become a Catholic and put the whole matter in God's hands." Filled with peace, I returned to the rectory next door and sat on the sofa. Stephanie my wife entered the room, looked at me intently and said, "Scott, I've been thinking: You just need to become a Catholic and put the whole matter in God's hands!"

That very evening I contacted Fr. Alan Hawkins of St. Mary's, Arlington- the former Episcopal parish that became Catholic *en masse*. We set a date for my reception as a Catholic, and I sent a fax to the Archdiocese of Washington to inform them of my plans. Then Stephanie and I sat down and calculated that it would cost us \$1100 to move from Texas to our mutual hometown of Alexandria, Virginia. The next morning was a Monday. The mail arrived, and I was surprised to find an envelope from the IRS. But I was even more surprised by what was inside: a check for \$1100.

Four years later, on Holy Thursday itself, Cardinal Hickey received word from Rome that my petition to be ordained had been approved. I am grateful to the man who signed the letter: Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI. But most of all I am grateful to God, who called me home and has given me the joy and privilege of serving as a priest in his One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church.

Tell us about it!

If you have any news which you think would be of interest to the Pastoral Provision clergy and laity, please send it to The Link, by email or typewritten. Color pictures only, prints or by email (high resolution). Publication cannot be guaranteed but we'll do our best. Contact details above. Thank you!



Msgr. W. H. Stetson

From the Pastoral Provision Office

I am pleased to announce that **Father Carleton Parker Jones, O. P.**, pastor of St. Vincent Ferrer Church, New York City, will be the retreat preacher for our Pastoral Provision Priests' (and their wives') Retreat from November 9-13 at the Bethany Retreat Center, Lutz, Florida.

Father Jones was born in Meriden, New Hampshire, of a Congregational religious background. He graduated from Kimball Union Academy there, where he became attracted to the worship of the Episcopal Church in which he was eventually confirmed. He later graduated from Yale College, where his attraction to the Catholic Church began but did not mature for some two decades. He enrolled in the Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, MA, was ordained an Episcopal priest and subsequently (1972) joined the Cowley Fathers, a popular name for the Society of St. John the Evangelist, a monastic society of men religious founded in England in 1865, which had branches in the United States and Canada. The society engaged in missionary and educational works.

During the 1970's and 80's, Fr. Jones was distressed, as were other Episcopal clergy, by doctrinal changes in the Episcopal Church on homosexual acts and particularly over the priestly ordination of women.

After a total of fourteen years as an Episcopal priest, a close reading of J. H. Newman's Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine, and discussions with the (retired) Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. A.M. Ramsey— then teaching at Nashotah House Seminary— Fr Jones questioned himself seriously as to whether it was possible to be a Catholic in the Anglican Communion. He concluded that it was not and was received into full communion with the Catholic Church in St. Paul's Church, Cambridge, MA on Ascension Thursday, 1982. Subsequently, he entered the Order of Preachers (Dominican Order) and was ordained a priest in 1987. He earned a doctorate in sacred theology from the Angelicum University, Rome.

Father Jones has served as pastor of three parishes in the Dominican Province of St. Joseph: St. Patrick's Church in Columbus, Ohio; St. Mary's Church, New Haven, CT; and currently, St. Vincent Ferrer Church in New York City. Father Jones has presented a full story of his spiritual journey, "A Matter of Conscience," in Anglican Embers, Vol. I. Number 10, Whitsundtide 2006, pp.267-277.

On **March 26-27**, four former Episcopal priests presented themselves for either the assessment (determination of needed supplementary formation or education) or for certification (confirmation that such preparation has been completed) before the Pastoral Provision Formation Faculty at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ. Two Certifications are expected in September. We congratulate these gentlemen and continue to support them in prayer as they take the next step in their spiritual journey toward Catholic ordination. The office will be able to publish their names when they have successfully completed the process.

In The News

Father D. Paul Sullins, a Pastoral Provision priest in the Archdiocese of Washington, DC, and a sociology professor at the Catholic University of America, led the Summer Institute of Catholic Social Thought, sponsored by the Society of Catholic Social Scientists and the Cardinal Newman Society Center for the Study of Catholic Higher Education, at the university on June 1-5. The Institute aims to help Catholic faculty and graduate students integrate Catholic social thought into their teaching and research.

About one hundred forty persons heard **Father R. Scott Hurd** (Executive Director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate, Archdiocese of Washington) tell the story of his spiritual journey to the Catholic Church at an Archdiocesan Theology-on-Tap program held in a popular Washington, DC tavern in early March. An audio file of the talk, entitled "Canterbury to Rome Via Texas," is available on the website of the Archdiocese, www.adw.org by clicking on the Theology-on-Tap button on the home page. Fr. Hurd is a Pastoral Provision priest.

New Address: Rev. C. Lee Gilbertson has a new email address: clee676@aol.com.

Beyond the Pale

Anglo-Catholics and other orthodox Anglican clergy and laity from the East Coast linked to the new Anglican Church in North America gathered in Truro Church, Fairfax, VA on May 2 to found the Society of St. Athanasius with the goal of defending and promoting orthodox Anglicanism in the new church body. Earlier, in 1977, following the celebrated Congress of St. Louis, a new church—also called the Anglican Church in North America— was founded in the wake of General Convention's (1976) approval of the priestly ordination of women. The older ACNA, however, soon divided into several mini-churches and some thirty are descended from it in one way or the other today. The constituent bodies of the new ACNA are not agreed on the issue of priestly/episcopal ordination of women.

The **Episcopal Church (TEC)** appears to be winning court cases against parishes seeking to leave the church with their property or an equitable portion thereof. The California Supreme Court recently supported TEC and the local Episcopal diocese against a San Diego parish that had left and sought to keep its property. In Virginia, however, several departing parishes succeeded, for the moment, in retaining their property but this decision is on appeal. TEC has begun suing dioceses—Fort Worth, Quincy, Pittsburgh and San Joaquin- which have succeeded and a California Court has ruled against San Joaquin. In the meantime, eleven Episcopal diocesan bishops and four others have signed a document in April declaring that the TEC is a federation of interdependent but autonomous dioceses and that the TEC leadership has no metropolitical or hierarchical power over them and cannot canonically interfere in the internal affairs of the diocese.

Just a chuckle



A preacher was completing a temperance sermon: with great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river." With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

And then finally, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

He sat down. The song leader then stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn # 365: "Shall We Gather at the River."

We will welcome for publication: Change of assignment and address, changes of home address, births or deaths in the immediate family, wedding anniversaries, marriages of children; college placements, degrees earned by or awarded to PP priests, their wives and children. Each PP priest is invited to present a spiritual journey story (maximum 400-500 words) Wives are welcome to present their comments, reflections or questions (100-200 words)

The Link

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