

## Diocese of the Western States

The Anglican Province of Christ the King  
P.O. Box 15095  
San Francisco, CA 94115



April 22, 2017  
Saturday in Easter Week

### **PASTORAL LETTER TO BE READ TO THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE DIOCESE ON APRIL THIRTIETH OR MAY SEVENTH**

To the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of the Western States

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In my Letter of Call for Synod, I said that the Synod is the legislative body of the Diocese at which we conduct the administrative and temporal affairs of the Diocese. Synod can be likened to a Parish Annual Meeting and, as such, adds a dimension of fellowship so necessary for our common goal which is to preserve, continue and hand down that Faith once delivered to the Saints which has been thrown away by so many churchmen who should have known better. Led by Bishop Morse and many saints, we have been delivered from the fleshpots of Egypt but we must continue their work or their efforts will have been in vain. In a nutshell, that is why Synod attendance is so important!

Our most important business this year will be the election of a Suffragan Bishop. Canon Peter F. Hansen has been nominated by the Council of Bishops but he must be confirmed by a majority vote of Synod. In the clerical order, every priest has one vote. In the lay order, every parish has three votes and every mission one vote. Canon 2.06 states that voting by proxy is allowed at all meetings of Synod except in the election of a Bishop. Canon Hansen must win a majority in both the clerical and lay orders in order to be elected. The election will be held at the business meeting on Friday afternoon.

There have been some changes in the schedule as well. The Synod proper will begin on Wednesday evening, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. with the Bishop's reception and our guest this year will be Archbishop Morrison (who can only stay for two days). During this reception, we will host the men's auction, the proceeds of which are used to help deserving clergy attend Synod. [I have already helped a number of priests and deacons so our efforts are important for next year – and it's not too late to let Nona know, if you can contribute a prize.] This change was made because there was too little time last year after the Clericus and Evening Prayer on Thursday to allow the Clergy families to get ready for the Clergy Dinner.

On Friday morning, there will be no service of Morning Prayer but rather the first half of the Office for the Dead and a Requiem for Mr. Roderick Gourley. I hope everyone will make a special effort to attend and honor this devoted gentleman who has supported Nona over so many Synods. The Requiem will be followed by a "hosted" breakfast before Synod business resumes.

Please also note that the workshops have been switched so that now Canon Richard McNeely's workshop ***Decoding the Canons*** will be presented on Thursday at 10:00 a.m.; and Father Matthew Weber's workshop ***Decoding the Church Calendar*** will be presented on Friday. Both of these topics were chosen because they cause a great deal of confusion – sometimes (mea culpa) even among the clergy.

Synod is important! So may I again encourage parishes and missions to help with the expenses of their clergy and delegates and, if able, please help support the Synod with a separate offering. It takes from \$4,000 to \$4,500 in addition to Synod Registration Fees to hold our annual synods. These additional monies are needed to help cover the cost of the Clergy and Wives' Dinner, the Clergy Wives' Luncheon, the Hospitality Room, the Organist, Choir and Saturday Brunch, along with accommodations for the Bishops and travel/lodging expenses for guests, etc. In the old days, this burden fell on the host parish but in the last few years we have shifted to this new model in which these extra expenses are shared by all the parishes and missions of the diocese. Please help us to continue the success of this new model.

I want to thank Nona Gourley for her devotion and hard work in continuing to make our Western States Synods well run and enjoyable. I want to thank Gillian Golden and the Anglican Church Women for their efforts and I ask you to support their auction, the proceeds of which are used primarily for our youth camp. I want to thank the members of the Standing Committee and Corporation Board of the Diocese. I want to thank Father Dillon chairman of the Standing Committee, Canon Hansen our treasurer, Canon McNeely our Chancellor, Father Brown our Secretary and all the members of various boards and committees of the Diocese who serve. I want to thank the rank and file clergy and laity who make the sacrifice to come to Synod and keep us moving forward towards the goals Archbishop Morse set for us. Lastly – and this is very important to me – I want to thank those whom I have forgotten to thank but who cheerfully continue to work in the Lord's vineyard with no expectation of profit or reward.

Yours faithfully in our Blessed Lord,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, starting with a cross symbol and followed by the name "Donald M. Ashman".

+ Donald M. Ashman  
Bishop Ordinary