

The Anglican Province of Christ the King Diocese of the Western States

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September 30, 2017
Saint Jerome, Confessor and Doctor

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

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Consecrations in Tulsa on Saint Matthew's Day were a great step forward for the stability of our Diocese and Province. Your parishes should be receiving an opportunity from the Anglican Church Women to purchase a portrait picture of our new Suffragan Bishop Peter F. Hansen and the new Bishop Suffragan of the Atlantic States, Bishop Blair W. Schultz.

More importantly, I am asking the clergy – of your charity – to remember out loud at your altars Archbishop Morrison and our new Suffragan in every Eucharist you celebrate. I don't have to remind any of us that these are challenging times and that all the Bishops need your prayers.

I know many of you want Bishop Hansen to visit your parish as soon as possible but that is NOT the ministry of a Suffragan Bishop. Bishop Hansen will remain first and foremost the Rector of his parish and, that said, will from time to time be called upon to make visitations in my name and to administer confirmations. Think of him as my Episcopal curate but a full Rector in his own parish. It is improper for you to call him and ask him to visit in any Episcopal capacity. The Church from its earliest days has been a hierarchical institution and Deacons, Priests and Bishops are men under authority. Call me regarding visitations and confirmations.

I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Father David Napier as Interim Dean of Saint Joseph of Arimathea Seminary. Father Napier is my personal representative as Provost at the Seminary. Moreover, he is planning and has already begun outreach programs so that the Seminary might be more visible and known to the Berkeley community. Please keep Father in your prayers.

Please mark November 19, the Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity, on your Kalendars. At 2:00 p.m., many of the Bay Area Clergy and Laity will gather at Saint Peter's Parish [Pro-Cathedral] in Oakland and join me as I (Deo volente) ordain Mr. Michael Ruffino to the Sacred Order of Deacons. Please keep Mike in your prayers. Let us try to have a superb turnout.

Yours faithfully in our Blessed Lord,

+ Donald M. Ashman
Bishop Ordinary