



All Saints Intelligencer

Volume 3 Number 3

Easteride 2016

‘Send her away’: *At Synod, Archbishop Beach exhorts us to welcome the world into our midst*

Bristling at her desperate insistence, the disciples of our Lord urged their Master to dispatch the Syrophenician woman. Jesus, however, not only gave her an audience; He granted the desire of her heart.

Taking St. Matthew 15:21-28 as his text, the Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach preached the Friday morning Eucharist at the 109th Synod of the Diocese of Mid-America at Church of the Holy Communion in Dallas.

“People are put down, criticized, treated as though they should jump at our every command,” he said. What they should encounter in followers of Christ is not this “disinviting attitude” but rather a “culture of kindness and grace.”

And that attitude should characterize us not only in our churches, he added, but in our neighborhoods and workplaces as well.

In the Bible story, this gentile woman’s daughter is “grievously vexed with a devil.” Jesus first makes it plain that He has come first to “the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” He must not give food meant for the children to the dogs.

The woman persists, telling Him, “yet the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master’s table.” The Lord’s disciples, much annoyed, urge Him to be rid of her because “she crieth after us.” But Jesus is moved by her great faith and accedes to her wish. “And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.”

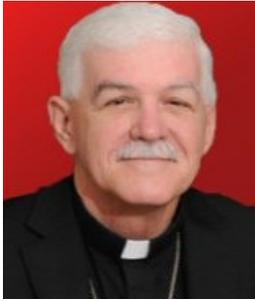


“She approached Jesus and His disciples in humility and faith,” the archbishop said, but she did not find a culture of kindness and grace among the Lord’s first followers. In their desire to deny her a blessing, they deprived themselves of the blessing of dispensing grace. And what of Christians today?

“Pride, ego, our sense of self-importance make us miss the blessing.” He urged us not to follow the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2 which “left your first love.”

“Remember when we first started walking with the Lord, the sense of joy and peace?” he asked. “Return to it. If not for the death of Christ we wouldn’t be able to sit at the table, either. Ω ”

— The Rev. Edward W. Fowler



The Pastor's Pen

Fr. Ed tips his hat to the ladies of the Altar Guild, whose tireless labors enhance our weekly worship.

GRANT, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that we may handle holy things with reverence and godly fear, and perform our work with such faithfulness and devotion that it may rise with acceptance before Thee and obtain Thy blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The altar is the focus not only of the church but of church life. Here we celebrate Holy Communion, feast and fast days, weddings and funerals, ascending to meet with God in worship, praise and thanksgiving.

In the Old Testament, God gave the Jews detailed descriptions of the interior and furnishings of the tabernacle and temple and how they were to be cared for and used. He gave the priests specific instructions as to how to fulfill their duties. Under the new covenant, the church honors and reverences God through the care and respect given to our chancel furnishings and vessels.

As the Book of Common Prayer unites Anglicans throughout the world, so do the traditions of the chancel. A visiting Anglican would recognize the seasonal colors of the linens and the use and placement of the sacramental vessels. Following liturgical traditions that go back as far as the fourth century, the altar guild carefully prepares and maintains the altar and the chancel area for worship.

Serving isn't about checking off a list of duties. It's not merely about using the right altar cloths for the season, having the brass

well polished, preparing the wine and wafers for the Eucharist or correctly arranging the sacramental vessels. While these activities are indeed important, they are means to an end. The purpose is to prepare a holy place where we come to meet with our Lord.

For that is what the author of Hebrews tells us we do when we worship:

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel” (12:22-24).

So as we approach Easter, the highest holy day of the church year, let us remember the ladies of the Altar Guild whose labors year-round contribute so greatly to the reverence with which we enter week after week into the divine presence.

Well done, ladies, and many thanks! Ω

— The Rev. Edward W. Fowler

Good News for All the Saints



Archbishop Foley Beach flanked by Bishops Ray R. Sutton (l) and Royal U. Grote, Jr.

The skinny from Synod: the Gospel resounding across the nations

The good news at Synod 2016 was that the REC and our partners are proclaiming the Good News from Indonesia to Croatia and the region to Cuba, where 32

parishes and missions totaling 1,250 worshippers have been planted since 2003. Of those, 90 percent are new believers. The island nation even has a seminary.

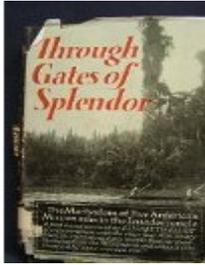


Church of the Holy Communion, Dallas

Read all about it!

All Saints Intelligencer is published four times per annum by All Saints Anglican Church, Durango, Colorado. Our vicar is the Rev. Edward W. Fowler. Our senior warden is Jim McLaughlin; junior warden, Russ Andrews; secretary, Linda McLaughlin; treasurer, Penny Constantine. More information:

allsaintsdurango.org



All Things Considered

Book review: The blood of five young missionaries soaked the ground and the gospel message took root in fertile soil.

“Through Gates of Splendor,” by Elisabeth Elliott. Carol Stream Ill.: Tyndale Momentum, 1981, 274 pp.

This true story of five young missionaries – Jim Elliot, Pete Fleming, Nate Saint, Roger Youderian and Ed McCully – martyred in Ecuador January 8, 1956, is both heartbreaking and triumphant.

Heartbreaking because these gifted young men in their twenties, eager to share the gospel with the stone-age, savage Auca Indians isolated deep in the Ecuadoran jungle, were killed by the ones they hoped to save.

Triumphant because God’s plan and purpose were greater than the tragedy they endured. The story of these young men, their passion to win souls for Christ and their deaths reverberated throughout the world at that time and continues to do so today. It’s a story of complete devotion and obedience to God and a willingness to give their all to Him.

Incorporating excerpts from their diaries and journals, Elisabeth Elliot shares the men’s faith and commitment, no matter the cost. The five missionaries, their wives and children moved into the jungle to understand the culture and learn the various Indian languages. They began by flying over the area in Nate Saint’s Piper Cub and dropping gifts of ribbons, cooking pots and ma-

chetes and shouting Auca words of friendship.

On Jan. 3, 1956, the five men flew to Auca territory to set up a camp to make contact with the Aucas. Before the left, they prayed and sang one of their favorite hymns:

*“We rest on Thee, our Shield and Defender,
Thine is the battle, Thine shall be the praise
When passing through the gates of pearly
splendor
Victors, we rest with Thee through endless
days.”*

Just a few days after making camp they were all dead. Elisabeth Elliot and Saint’s sister, Rachel, remained in Ecuador learning the Auca language and Saint’s son later joined them. Eventually, they were able to move into an Auca village. Whole villages in the area came to Christ, including the Aucas who had killed the missionaries. Auca means “savage,” a name that they no longer call themselves because they have been transformed.

Elliot writes “God is the God of human history, and He is at work continuously, mysteriously, accomplishing His eternal purposes in us, through us, for us, and in spite of us. . . for the work is God’s and the call is God’s and everything is summoned by Him and to His purposes, the whole scene, the whole mess, the whole package – our bravery and our cowardice, our love and our selfishness, our strengths and our weaknesses. Ω

– Marjorie Fowler