



THE SANCTUS

A PUBLICATION OF ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH



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TRACT CORNER

THE HOLY TRINITY

(with acknowledgement and thanks to C.S. Lewis)

People often tell us priests: "The ordinary Christian in the pew doesn't want theology; give him plain practical religion!" But I think such advice is mistaken. Theology means *the science of God*, and I believe that anyone who wants to think about God at all would like to have the clearest and most accurate ideas about Him that are available. Right?

I think I know why some people are put off by theology. Suppose you have had a real experience of the presence of God, and then you turn from that experience to the Creeds. You might easily get the idea that you have turned from something real to something less real. In the same way, a person who has stood on the west coast of an island and looked out over the Pacific, and then goes and looks at a map of the Pacific, will feel that he has turned from something real to something less real - from the crash of breakers on the beach and the salt spray, to a bit of colored paper. But the point is this. The map is only colored paper, but there are two very important facts about it.

First, it is based on what hundreds and thousands of people have found out by sailing the Pacific. It has behind it masses of real experience and the map fits all those experiences together, whereas yours was only an isolated glimpse.

Second, if you want to go anywhere, the map is essential. As long as you are content to walk along the beach, your own glimpses of the ocean are more fun than trying to make sense of a map. But if you want to go to Japan, or want someone else to take you there, the map is going to be more useful than your walks on the beach.

Now theology is like the map. Dogmas about God, they are not God, they are only a kind of map. But that map is based on the experience of thousands of people who really were in touch with God - so much so that any

experiences you and I have had are very elementary and confused.

That is why theology *is* practical religion. In the old days, it was possible to get on with a very few simple ideas about God; but not now. Consequently, if we don't pay attention to theology (the map), that will not mean that we have no ideas about God. It will mean that we have a lot of *wrong* ideas, bad, muddled and out-of-date ones. And frankly, to believe in the popular religion of most people is a backward step, like believing that the earth is flat! When you come right down to it, isn't the man-in-the-street's idea of Christianity simply this: that Jesus Christ was a great moral teacher and that only if we took His advice we might have a better social order and stop all this fighting and bickering? Now that is true. But it is very much less than the *whole* truth, it has no practical importance at all.

If Christianity is only one more piece of good advice, then Christianity is of no importance. There has been no lack of good advice for the last 4,000 years (what about Plato, Aristotle, Confucius, Buddha?). A bit more makes no difference! But as soon as you look at any real Christian writings, such as the New Testament or the Prayer Book, you will find that they are talking about something quite different from this popular religion. They say that Christ is the Son of God, that those who give Him their confidence can also become sons of God, and they say that His death saves us from our sins. It is no good complaining that these statements are difficult. Christianity claims to be telling us about another world, about something behind the everyday world we can touch and hear and smell and see. If the claim is true, what it tells us will be bound to be difficult, at least as difficult as physics, and for the same reason.

Now, one of the points in Christianity which causes the greatest shock is the statement that by attaching ourselves to Christ we can become sons of God. But aren't we sons of God already? Isn't the Fatherhood of God one of the main Christian ideas?

And that, by the way, is probably the biggest difference between the Christian idea of God and that of all other religions. In Christianity, God is not a static thing but a dynamic, pulsating activity, a Life, almost a kind of drama, almost a kind of dance. The Father begets the Son and bestows on Him all the Father has and is, and the Son gives Himself back to the Father in a torrent of love, who is the Holy Spirit. The union between the Father and Son is such a live, concrete thing that this union is also a Person, the Third Person of the Trinity who is God.

I know that this is almost inconceivable, but think of it like this. You know that when people get together in a family, or club, or union, they talk about the *spirit* of that family, or club, or union, because when the individual members are together, they really do develop particular ways of talking or behaving which they would not have if they were apart. It is as if a sort of communal personality came into existence. Of course it isn't a real person; it is only rather like a person. But that is one of the differences between God and us. What grows out of the joint life of the Father and the Son *is* a real Person, the Spirit, the third of the Three Persons who are God.

And now, what does it all matter? It matters more than anything else in the world! Each one of us has got to enter the dance, or drama, or pattern of this Three-Personal life. There is no other way to the joy for which we were made. If you want to get wet you must get into the water. If you want joy, peace, eternal life you must get into the thing that has them. They are not prizes which God could, if He chose, just hand out to anyone. They are a great fountain of energy and beauty springing up at the very centre of Reality. If you are close to it, the spray will wet you; if you are not, you will remain dry. Once a person is united to God how could he not live forever? Once a person is separated from God, what can he do but wither and die?

But how is he to be united to God? How is it possible for us to be taken into the Three-Personal life? We must come to share the Life of Christ, a life which was begotten, not made, which always has existed and always will exist. Christ is the Son of God. *If* we share in this kind of life we *also* shall be sons of God. We shall love the Father as He does, and the Holy Spirit will arise in us!

We must do what Christ told us to do. We must be baptized, and confirmed, and then we must take our part in the Holy Eucharist. We must eat the Holy Bread that gives life, and drink from the Chalice that gives everlasting salvation. That is the way for us to "evermore dwell in Him, and He in us." That is what makes us living members of His Body and heirs of God's everlasting Kingdom. We can be taken into the Very Life of God here and now, and be kept in that life, until we see God the Blessed Trinity unveiled and face to face in Heaven.

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN MISSION, CRYSTAL LAKE

For those of you who may be unaware, the Province now has a mission in Crystal Lake. This is the parish to which our beloved Father Schultz has been assigned and unto which he has been shepherding over the summer months.

St. Paul's was formed around eight months ago and at the recent Synod was formally inducted into our Diocese of the Eastern States. To look at them is like looking in a mirror: at a point in time All Saints was just forming and working hard to become permanent, at a point in time we were transient and looking for a place to call our own.

Fully realizing how good God has been to us, we here at All Saints want to do all that we can to help St. Paul's be successful. As a matter of fact, our Vestry has recently pledged \$500 to help them with advertising. We also realize that a successful St. Paul's will mean that there will be another haven for fellow Christians who have been out in the trenches for far too long. It will be a place of refuge and sanctuary for those who may have given up hope and thought that all was lost – NOT SO!

Please keep St. Paul's Anglican Mission in your daily prayers. Evangelization through mission-building is one of Christ's calls to us His disciples (Matthew 28:19).

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY SCHOOL

It is a wonderful thing to have children at church each and every Sunday. And no doubt that is the way God would have it – He says unto us, "suffer the little children to come unto Me." As we share with God the joy of having His children in church, so we also seek to rise to the responsibility which that brings as well. Christian education – teaching the young ones to know God and love Him with all their "hearts, minds, and souls" – is something we at All Saints consider paramount to our parish life.

Sunday School will officially begin on Sunday, September 10. We are grateful to those who have come forward to help teach our young ones the fundamentals of the Faith. However, more teachers and volunteers are needed. The church school's success relies upon *everyone's* cooperation. As we seek to raise "our" children with Christian morals and educate them on vital matters of the Faith, it will take nothing less than the whole of our church community. Please pray about this and speak with Father Hines if you would like to help in this very important area of our parish's life.

BISHOP GRAFTON NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE OF GRACE 2006

On Thursday through Saturday, September 28 – 30, the Province will host its biennial pilgrimage to the shrine of Blessed Charles Grafton in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. This is a special time for pilgrims from across the Province to come together for prayer and fellowship.

Fond du Lac is only about 2 ½ hours from Bolingbrook and it is hoped that many from our parish will make the event. People are more than welcome to come up on Saturday morning only and participate in the Solemn High Mass at the cathedral with a brunch following. (A special form for Saturday-only pilgrims is in the narthex.)

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

At its meeting on August 20, the Vestry elected Carol O'Sullivan to be the next Parish Treasurer. As you know, Bob Wilson was accepted as postulant for the Diaconate at the Synod of the Diocese in June, and he needs to step down as Treasurer and concentrate solely on this calling. Bob has been our Treasurer for ten years, since the parish was founded in 1996, and has done an outstanding job. Bob and Carol will work together in the months ahead, so Carol will be able to assume the responsibilities on her own by the time of the Annual Meeting this January. We are grateful to Carol for her willingness to take on this most important assignment, and thanks to Bob, all our financial affairs are in "perfect" order.

Our first Parish Picnic was a great success, and we hope that we will have this event every summer from now on. Thanks to the ACM Picnic Committee: Phil Ross, Ron Waitek, Donnie Marini, Dan Brush and Bob Wilson, and to Mary Odonkor and Sue Ross for the food they added to the menu.

Plans are complete to formally mark the Tenth Anniversary of the parish on Sunday, November 5, which coincides with our annual celebration of All Saints Day. A history of the parish will be published, and the newspaper and photograph albums that Will and Marie Spencer have maintained since the parish was established will be on display. Photographs of all parish groups will be taken in September; all concerned will receive the schedule, and copies of these photos will be given to everyone involved. A Solemn High Mass will be celebrated by Father Hines on that Sunday, followed by the traditional All Saints Day Salad Luncheon, sponsored by the ACW. We hope that we will be able to secure good coverage of our anniversary and the accomplishments of All Saints in the newspapers that serve our area.

We now must have our parking lot seal-coated, which also means re-striping, as it has been a full year since this project was completed. At its August meeting, the Vestry authorized up to \$1,600 for this necessary work, and the Junior Warden, Donnie Marini, is taking care of selecting and scheduling the contractor.

You will want to note the additional information in this issue of the newsletter on the Pilgrimage to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, at the end of September. This is a very rewarding and enjoyable experience, particularly the Solemn High Mass and brunch on Saturday, and an opportunity to be with clergy and laity from throughout the Province. Please talk to Father Hines if you have any questions in making plans to participate in the Pilgrimage.

The lawn areas have been fertilized again, extensive spraying has been done to eliminate weeds in the garden areas and mulch will be applied in the fall. Landscaping behind the south wall of the Nave will be done this month. In March, our property will be treated with a commercial pre-emergent to eliminate the weeds which always come with a newly seeded lawn. The planting of additional ornamentals and ground covers will be completed in the spring. By the summer of 2007, this project should be completed.

Our own Father Blair Schultz is now back at St. Joseph of Arimathea Seminary in Berkeley, California, after spending the summer taking care of St. Paul's Anglican Mission in Crystal Lake. We will miss him, and we hope he will keep us updated with his emails to the parish. His mailing and email addresses are in the Parish Directory.

Under Father Hines' leadership, Sunday School for 2006-2007 will officially begin on Sunday, September 10, and with the support of all the parents, the program this year will be successful and significant for all the young people. We are grateful to those who are serving as teachers and for all the time and effort they will be giving to this program.

Due to the Labor Day holiday, Morning Prayer will not be held on September 2, but will resume on Saturday, October 7. The ACW will hold its quarterly luncheon meeting on Saturday, September 9. The ACM will hold its meeting after Mass on Sunday, September 10.

There's a great deal to do as All Saints moves into its second decade. With the major projects behind us, we now need to turn our attention – individually and collectively – to membership growth to ensure the future of the parish and our faith.

Bill Jepson
Senior Warden

REQUEST FOR PICTURES

Do you have pictures of All Saints events that have taken place over the past ten years? Your help is needed. For our 10th Anniversary Celebration in November we will be putting together a pictorial history of All Saints – the people, the events and the buildings. We are looking for pictures of baptisms, confirmations, weddings and the church social activities (such as Christmas Parties, Super Bowl Parties, etc.) to include in the display.

Pictures should be submitted to us by **October 15**. All pictures submitted will be given consideration for the display, but all pictures submitted may not be included due to space constraints. Please include with your pictures the date (month, day and year) and identification of those in the pictures. When the display is dismantled we will add all the pictures submitted to the church photo albums, so you may want to submit copies of your photos. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Will and Marie Spencer

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

Welcome to fall! As our summer days wind down, our fall activities begin again. Please put our ACW meeting and salad luncheon, September 9 at 11:00 AM, on your calendar. We will have a bite of lunch and a general business meeting followed by knitting/tying time for our Angel Comfort Wraps. Please join in on the fun and fellowship! All women and girls are invited. Bring a friend if you like.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions for ACW, please address any officer of our ACW. See you in September!

Sue Ross
ACW President

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

In October we will collect money for the annual Thanksgiving Basket outreach program. We will also be asking for volunteers to help with the shopping for the baskets. Please be generous with your time and treasure as All Saints Anglican Church continues to support this important program. More details will be given in the October newsletter.

Will and Marie Spencer
Thanksgiving Basket Chairmen

ALL SAINTS CHURCH YOUTH

August was an exceptional month for our youth. We had the privilege of staying at a lake home in Michigan for two whole days of fellowship and fun. We owe Bob and Marcia Wilson a great debt of gratitude for their exceptional hospitality. The food and accommodations could not have been more perfect for our purposes.

Father Hines and Father Schultz, Dan and Fabi Brush, Yewande, Taiwo and Kenny Adebawale, Jeb Nash and Marcia's grandson, Josh Leonard, were in attendance with an occasional visit from "Gram" (Marcia's mom) and even a nice Amish neighbor who brought us delicious melons. We worshipped each day with morning and evening prayer and both Fathers taught lessons on the Bible readings of the day.

Everyone went tubing thanks to the expertise of boat pilot Josh, and a couple of people (including Fabi) even tried knee boarding. Jeb, Josh and Kenny chipped golf balls into the lake and retrieved them again with snorkels and masks. Taiwo and Yewande became expert paddle-boaters as did Dan and Fabi with the canoe. The Fathers especially enjoyed the food and caught up on their reading. Marcia and Bob were troopers at keeping the logistics of the camp going with meals, bonfires, marshmallow roasts for s'mores, etc. Gram taught the girls how to make beautiful trinket boxes.

Overall, it was a time we will all treasure and store with our fondest memories for years to come. Our September fun time will be a trip to Great America. We will discuss particulars at our next meeting on Tuesday, August 29.

Dan and Fabi Brush
Youth Leaders

Dates to Remember

Saturday, September 9,
Anglican Church Women Luncheon, 11:00 AM
Sunday, September 10,
Sunday School classes officially begin
Anglican Church Men Meeting
Saturday, September 16,
All Saints Church Youth outing to Great America
Sunday, September 17,
Blessing of the Children
Vestry Meeting
F I S H
Tuesday, September 26,
All Saints Church Youth Meeting, 7:00 PM
Thursday through Saturday, September 28-30,
Pilgrimage in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

All Saints Anglican Church
(Traditional Episcopal)
Using the
1928 Book of Common Prayer

131 East Boughton Road
Bolingbrook, IL 60440
630-783-8280

WEBSITES

www.allsaintsanglicanparish.org
www.anglicanpck.org

Holy Eucharist and Church School
Sundays at 9:30 AM
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
At 10 AM and Wednesdays at 7 PM
The Rev. John A. Hines, Rector

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH: A parish in the Anglican Province of Christ the King. A nationwide body of traditional Anglican churches dedicated to the Anglo-Catholic Faith and traditional Episcopal liturgy. For more information visit : www.anglicanpck.org or www.allsaintsanglicanparish.org. Tell people about us – there are many fellow Christians out there who are hurting and are feeling both hopeless and lost.

Newsletter Editorial Staff

Father Hines

Marcia Wilson

Technical Assistant

Bob Wilson

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions or wish to contribute in any way, please contact Father Hines or Marcia Wilson.