

CHURCHWORK



**THE 182ND ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE DIOCESE OF LOUISIANA**





CHURCHWORK

The Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

IN THIS ISSUE

On the Cover

[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]
The Rev. Canon Shannon Manning, Marsha Wade, Cove Geary, the Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr., and the Rev. Canon John Kellogg during the 182nd Annual Convention.

Reflections

- 3 Christmas Message from Bishop Thompson

182nd Annual Convention

- 4 Bishop's Address to the 182nd Annual Convention
7 Actions Taken by the 182nd Annual Convention
7 Photographs of the 182nd Annual Convention

Out and About in the Diocese

- 11 Clergy Transitions
11 Photographs From Around the Diocese
26 Bishop's Journal
32 Calendar

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Our Vision

The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana is one church, faithful to our Lord Jesus, united in mission, reaching out through service and proclamation to all for whom Christ died. We live in joyous expectation of God's transforming power, compassion, and mercy in our lives.

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Subscriptions

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Submissions

Churchwork provides news and information about the diocese and wider church; and is a medium of theological reflection. Please submit articles in Microsoft Word; photographs should have a resolution of 300. Letters to the editor will not be printed. Submissions should be sent by email to Karen Mackey at kmackey@edola.org. We reserve the right to edit all material, and cannot guarantee that every submission will be published.



*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoners,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman (1899-1991) *The Work of Christmas*

I discovered this poem several years ago and it speaks to me today as if I'm reading it for the first time. There are times of celebration and gifting but let us never forget the true meaning of this season we enter. It is Love. Love came down and was born again for us. Love came down and is gifted for the whole world. Dwell in the Light my friends and make music in the heart, for soon it will be time to go to work.

Brave Journey,

The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr.
Bishop of Louisiana

Bishop Thompson's Address to the 182nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Episcopal Church of Louisiana



The Diocese of Louisiana 182nd Convention
"Finding a Place in a Displaced World"
Christ Episcopal School
November 1, 2019

A person checks into a hotel for the first time in his life and goes up to his room. Five minutes later he calls the desk and says, "You've given me a room with no exit. How do I leave?"

The desk clerk says, "Sir, that's impossible. Have you looked for the door?"

The person says, "Well, there's one door that leads to the bathroom. There's a second door that goes into the closet. And there's another door I haven't tried, but it has a 'DO NOT DISTURB' sign on it."

How can we welcome people if we don't know where the door is?

A little over a year ago I was sitting in the alumni building at Episcopal High when my eyes settled on these words: *Finding a Place in a Displaced World*. The work going on around me moved on but my attention stopped on these words. What did they mean? Why were they in our binder for this retreat? I'm not sure what made me say this but I mumbled under my breath, this is our theme for our next convention. Our theme for last year was already chosen, so I would have to wait a year before we could use this phrase: "Finding a Place in a Displaced World."

Finding our place in this world is not easy. The challenges sometimes feel unsurmountable. As parents, we worry about our children fitting in the right crowd. Will they have friends with which to hang out? Will they be invited to the birthday parties and participate in school sports or plays or other activities that give them a sense of purpose and belonging? It's not too much different for adults either. We wonder if what we do for a living really matters and does it contribute to the needs of the community? Can we provide the basic necessities for ourselves and our family? These and other questions swirl around our mind, sometimes leaving us with more questions and worries than direction. How do we find our way in this displaced landscape? These are some of the questions with which I have wrestled over my life as an adult, a spouse and as a parent. How do I make sense out of my doubts, fears, joys, and accomplishments?

Many of you have heard my story so I won't repeat it, but let me say one thing. The place my soul always returns when I'm troubled or restless is the church. The church is where I sensed the presence of God at an early age and it continues to be the place for me to rest when I'm weary. One of the most powerful times has been the Real Presence service at the Cathedral on Sunday evening. Listening to John Craft's son play the cello in the dimly lit nave is beyond words. In the candlelit space my mind is free to settle into receiving God's love in a way that leading worship sometimes does not. It feeds my soul.

If the church can be a place of recharging for me then it can certainly be a place for others too. The question is, how do we learn the art of giving the invitation in such a way that is inviting and not threatening? Cannon Kellogg and I began talking about this a year ago and Mary Parmer's name quickly surfaced as someone who could lead us into a conversation as to how we can be a hospitable, inviting, caring community that is open to all. I am thrilled that Mary Parmer is with us this weekend and I hope you will take good notes to take back to your congregation. The world needs us to welcome all of God's children home, where the door is wide open.

Today is All Saints Day in the life of the Church. As our opening liturgy pointed out, we are surrounded

by a great cloud of saints who have tilled the ground for the people of God. People such as Moses who led our ancestors across the waters into the promised land, or Mary the God-Bearer who said, 'yes', or Frances Gaudet who braved the white world to bring justice and education to young black boys incarcerated. While it is true that the saints we remember today have long gone on to their resting place, they were once alive and willing to risk their lives for the calling God put in front of them. There is something about remembering the saints of old. I think that is why my eyes water when we respond, 'STAND HERE BESIDE US'. I want to feel their presence, power, faith, and courage, and that maybe some of it will rub off on me. May we have the audacity to speak boldly the words of our Savior Jesus, to love our enemy, do good to those who hate us, to bless those who curse us, and pray for those who abuse us. If we choose to turn our eyes from this command, what are we doing here?

What is our place as people of God in this displaced world? Let me give you some of the examples that we as a diocese are doing. This past year we began the initiative of stewardship of the environment. This committee headed by Deacon Joey Clavijo has quickly moved to understand some of the many issues facing our community and the larger landscape. Between land that is shrinking, oyster beds that are disappearing and water that continues to swamp our streets we must find ways to address these issues of economic development and religious responsibility of caring for God's gift to us. Conversations built upon trusting relationships must be first priority. Some believe the stewardship of the environment is a political agenda. If you believe this, I simply ask that you drive south and talk with the folks who used to live on dry land that is now underwater or better yet, read the beginning of Genesis where God created and then gave us the command to take good care of it. Deacon Clavijo will have more to say in his report.

Another area I want to address that comes under the heading of helping people in a displaced world is the work of our Commission on Racial Reconciliation. This past year this commission underwent a major change. For the past several years the committee had become lethargic. We met, but not much transpired from the meetings to the parish. This year, with the help of Dr. Catherine Meeks, the director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Reconciliation in Atlanta, Georgia, we have reformed the commission. Their mission is simple.

They are charged with going into congregations and leading the clergy and vestries through a conversation on what it means to be reconciled to one another.

This change, of course, came to me while perusing a list of books. One, in particular, caught my eye. *WHITE FRAGILITY, Why it's so Hard for White People to Talk about Racism*, by Robin Diangelo. The title suggested to me what I already knew. It is hard for me to talk about racism as my role as a white male. I didn't have the tools. I knew this to be true but didn't know where to go with my knowing until I read this statement by Dr. Diangelo: "The idea of race as a biological construct makes it easy to believe that many of the divisions we see in society are natural. But race, like gender, is socially constructed. The differences we see with our eyes—differences such as hair texture and eye color—are superficial and emerged as adaptations to geography. Under the skin, there is no true biological race." From the founding fathers through today, we have held onto teachings that run deep in our social system and in order to understand these notions we must feel safe in expressing them and then demystifying what we know to be false. The work of reconciliation especially racial is very difficult work but one our Lord Jesus calls us to. St. Paul is right, in Jesus, there is no Jew or Greek, male or female, black person or white person. I'm proud of the work that Mother Liz Embler-Beazley has done leading this change in the commission. You will hear more from her later in the convention.

Another initiative that I want to bring to your attention is the Grace Church Congregational Development Fund. This is a fund from the selling of the church property on Canal Street in New Orleans. We set aside a portion to help with congregations who are on the cusp of hiring a full-time rector. Through the work of Canon Manning and Chris Speed, the Diocesan Administrator, we have identified several churches who might fit the prototype for which we are looking. If these churches have shown steady growth over the last three or so years then we talk with them about the initiative. What this means is that the diocese will pay a third of the salary for the first year and then less next year then less the year following. During this time there will be goals and objectives the church will have to meet in order to stay in the program. By year four it is our goal to have the parish paying the full package for their rector. This

year we began with St. Michael's, Mandeville. Father Robert Beazley will tell you more about this journey.

Another initiative that began several years ago has to do with how we financially support our seminarians. Because of John and Virginia Noland's generosity, the diocese is able to give \$8,000 per student per year to our residential seminarians. For those who are attending the Iona school for ministry in Mississippi, we pay 100% of their tuition. We are not where we want to be, but we are getting close.

Another initiative that goes to help our clergy is the Cantess Fund. Every year the diocese distributes \$2,000.00 from the Cantess Fund. This money goes to the priest next in line for the longest tenure in the diocese. He or she is to use it for a pilgrimage that will energize his/her ministry. This year's recipient was Fr. Richard Easterling.

You will notice an increase in the budget for the prison work at Angola. The work is extremely important and I am pleased with the work Mother Peggy Scott has undertaken in what is often described as a very trying atmosphere. We desperately need priests to administer the sacraments and laity to speak with the inmates. Please make this a priority in your prayer life.

Another outreach program the diocese supports is the Gaudet Fund. Ms. Frances Gaudet's work was mostly with children at risk, going into prisons and retrieving young African American children who were often housed in adult institutions. The conditions were deplorable and unsuitable for children. Because of Ms. Gaudet's ministry, the Gaudet Fund was able to dispense over \$182,000 in scholarships and community projects this past year.

The diocese supports many other ministries and we are grateful that we can fund them even when it is a small amount.

These ministries and the ministries you provide through your outreach are the work we share. We exist because God was gracious to us by sending his Son to live among us, to show us how to live in God with one another. We are called to live in a world that is displaced, that is angry and unresolved. But that is okay. What you and I bring into the picture is not the world but a loving, life-giving God that can heal and bring new life. This is the hard work you and I are called to do. So let us not seize the day to put others down or feel helpless. Let us lift one

another up, to do to others as you would have them do to you.

In his book, *Looking Around for God*, James Autry tells the story of his son at a track meet. His son Ronald was a freshman at Roosevelt High School in Des Moines, Iowa. Ronald is autistic. He didn't walk much until age three and even as a freshman in high school he often fell while walking. Most of the time Ronald walked around with a large bump on his forehead because his motor skills were not developed enough to allow his arms to rise quickly enough to keep his head from striking the ground in a fall. Autry said he desperately wanted to protect his son from embarrassment but his wife, who had a better understanding than he, instructed him to butt out and let Ronald endure the fall. He will learn what he needs to learn, she said.

One day Ronald came home and said he wanted to try out for the track team. This was quite a surprise to his parents, partially because he was very slow and often fell, but the coach put him on the team and told Ronald that he would run the 400 meter or 200 meter race. Again, Autry was more concerned that Ronald would embarrass himself and it would be devastating. But his wife kept reminding him to support the decision.

Autry said he went to the first meet where Ronald was to run the 400. It was a cool day, which made Autry nervous because Ronald would be wearing his sweats over his track uniform. This was a problem because Ronald would have to take his shoes off to get his sweat pants off and he had a bad habit of putting his shoes on the wrong feet. He also tied his shoes the way he learned as a boy, loose, which meant they might come off while running. Autry was so nervous. He didn't want Ronald to be embarrassed or get heckled.

Sure enough as Autry predicted, when Ronald took off his sweat pants and put his shoes back on, he put them on the wrong feet but then he saw one of Ronald's teammates bend over and help him reverse the pair.

Ronald went to the starting block, the gun fired and off they went. He quickly fell to the back of the pack, but he kept running. When all the runners crossed the line Ronald was only halfway around the track.

Autry kept the camcorder on Ronald. As he came around the last corner his teammates in the infield began to yell, "Go, Ronald! Go, Ronald!"

As Ronald got closer to the finish line Autry noticed out of the corner of his eye other people began to yell, "Go, Ronald!" And as he passed the stands, coming down the home stretch everyone was yelling, "Go, Ronald!" When Ronald finally crossed the finish line the crowd was on its feet chanting. It was as if they were cheering on some Olympic star. Everyone was cheering Ronald. Members of the other teams were high-fiving Ronald and patting him on his back saying, "Great race."

Autry writes: "I realized then that Ronald's run was not about me or my worries of embarrassment; it was about him and those other young people and parents, and somehow also about how Ronald had given them the chance to reveal the divine within themselves."

Later, he said, "I asked Ronald", 'What were you thinking as you ran?' He said, 'You can do it, Ronald, you can do it.'"

My friends, don't get discouraged. Stay the course. Practice your prayers, your kindness and your loving. This is all we can do. Keep practicing. Together we can tell the story of hopefulness and welcome. Together we can help others to see the divine in themselves. Keep practicing.

Actions Taken by the 182nd Annual Convention

Elected to Offices

Secretary of the Diocese

Marsha Wade (St. James, Baton Rouge)

Treasurer of the Diocese

Alan Brackett (Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans)

Standing Committee, Clerical

The Rev. Morgan MacIntire (Christ Church, Covington)

Standing Committee, Lay

Jennifer Johnson (Trinity Church, Baton Rouge)

Executive Board, Clerical

The Rev. Chris Golding (St. Luke's, Baton Rouge)

Executive Board, Lay

Nancy Hubbard (St. James, Baton Rouge)

Tom Oliver (St. Paul's, New Orleans)

Disciplinary Board, Clerical

The Rev. Stephen Crawford (St. Mary's, Franklin)

Disciplinary Board, Lay

Dave Foster (St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge)

Ed Wallace (St. Martin's, Metairie)

Sewanee Board of Trustees

Christina Vial Comer (St. Andrew's, Paradis)

General Convention Deputy, Clerical

The Rev. Fred Devall (St. Martin's, Metairie)

The Very Rev. Richard Easterling (St. George's, New Orleans)

The Very Rev. A.J. Heine (St. Augustine's, Metairie)

The Rev. Canon Shannon Manning (The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana)

General Convention Alternate Deputy, Clerical

The Rev. Liz Embley-Beazley (St. Paul's, New Orleans)

The Rev. Tommy Dillon (St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge)

The Rev. Gina Brewster-Jenkins (St. Paul's, New Orleans)

The Rev. Deacon Joey Clavijo (St. George's, New Orleans)

General Convention Deputy, Lay

Bailey Alexander (St. John's, Thibodaux)

Carolyn Harris (St. Luke's, New Orleans)

Dorothea Suthon (St. Augustine's, Metairie)

David Warrington (St. James, Baton Rouge)

General Convention Alternate Deputy, Lay

John Musser (Trinity Church, New Orleans)

John Sykes (St. James, Baton Rouge)

Resolutions

One resolution was submitted from the floor of Convention and received a two-thirds majority of the members to be heard. Details of the resolution can be found below.

Resolution R1

Purpose: Care of immigrants detained in LA prisons

Referred to: Resolution Committee

Action: Passed

182nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana



182nd Annual Convention

[Photographs by Karen Mackey and the Rev. Shannon Manning, Diocese of Louisiana]

First row: (left) Convention Hall in the Christ Episcopal School gym just before the start of the 182nd Annual Convention. (middle) Opening Eucharist. (right) Keynote Speaker Mary Palmer, Director of Invite Welcome Connect.

Second row: (left) John Morvant, headmaster of Christ Episcopal School, welcomes the delegates to the school campus. (middle) Deacon Marigold Browne was welcomed as a new clergy to the Diocese of Louisiana in 2019. (right) Canon Shannon Manning with the deans of the Diocese of Louisiana honor Bishop Thompson on the 10th year of his consecration as Bishop of Louisiana.

Third row: Convention delegates during the discussion period after the keynote address.

Fourth row: Christwood hosted an excellent reception on the Friday evening of Convention.

Bishop Thompson's 10th Anniversary as Bishop of Louisiana

Delivered to the 182nd Annual Convention by the Rev. Canon Shannon Manning, Canon to the Ordinary



The 182nd Annual Convention took a moment to honor Bishop Thompson on his 10th year as Bishop of Louisiana. The Rev. Canon Shannon Manning delivered a speech to the Convention and a video was played with photographs from his ten years of ministry to the Diocese of Louisiana.

"Telling a story is like reaching into a granary full of wheat and drawing out a handful. There is always more to tell than can be told." [Wendell Berry]

American Novelist Wendell Berry is right, there is no way to completely tell a story. No way to completely capture a moment, a ministry, a call in these few words. There are always other stories to tell, other lessons to be learned, other handfuls of grain to be drawn from the granary. There is the grain that slips through our fingers to be drawn out for our use on a different day—the grain that remains in our hands to be shared and fashioned into something life-giving—and even the grain that is caught by the wind and is scattered to places we cannot know or see. Yet, in the wonderful economy of God, none is lost. All of it finds its place.

Bishop Thompson, I am gathered together with Canon Kellogg, your Deans and this community to celebrate the 10th anniversary of your ministry among us as bishop. And yes, I have worked alongside you long enough to know that I need to make these remarks short and sweet. But, in this moment, as we look at these pictures, we gain a brief glimpse into this handful of wheat in our hands. And, what I, and so many others, have come to respect and admire about you is that, through the lens of the deep, abiding, daily attention to your faith, you see the boundless potential of this deep store. In ways that are visible, and in far many more ways that can only be felt, you have held and supported the vision of this particular corner of

God's kingdom. It is evident in the faces of your clergy who support and encourage each other and faithfully lead their congregations. It is evident in the churches that are thriving under your leadership. It is evident in the incredible group of lay people who are finding their way through the ordination process and see their place as leaders in the Body of Christ. It is also evident in the initiatives that find life and breath in our pews, down our boulevards and streets, and along our coastal waters. What is also true is that in these grains of wheat are also found the hard decisions and the heartbreaks, the struggles and the challenges that we face as the church. As bishop, it is your role to hold all of these pieces together.

At your ordination, you vowed to encourage and support all baptized people in their gifts and ministries, nourish them from the riches of God's grace, pray for them without ceasing, and celebrate with them the sacraments of our redemption. You have stepped fully into these vows and have fulfilled them faithfully. You have held the tension of this great task that was laid on your shoulders. You have carried this load. When leaven is added to the wheat, something entirely new emerges to sustain and feed us. Wendell Berry said that we are perfected by one another's love, compassion and forgiveness, indeed we are perfected by grace. The grace is in the leaven and you have been that for us. As was stated in your ordination, you have nourished us with God's grace.

And, through it all, you have modeled for us the very best of what it means to be a marine, a husband, father, friend and grandfather. You are Bubba to those 2 (soon to be 3!) babies and we know that you relish every second with them, and they, you. Rebecca, we thank you too for loving this community and our bishop so beautifully— for your hospitality, engaging spirit, boundless support and for your undying love of all things Louisiana... especially when it comes to Mardi Gras and wigs.

So, I stand here alongside the people of this diocese and we offer our thanks that you said yes ten years ago. We all look forward to reaching deeply into the granary and continuing to write the pages in this story that are yet to come.

2019 Community Mission Appeal Awards \$8,000 in Grant Funds

by the Rev. John Pitzer, CMA Committee Co-Chair

Let Love Open the Door" was the theme this year for the Community Mission Appeal. The CMA is a grant program meant to assist specific ministries in the diocese that are in need of financial assistance. The funds are raised from churches throughout the diocese, and ministries are encouraged to apply for a grant from the CMA. Once the applications have been submitted, the CMA committee gathers to determine what ministries will be awarded financial help, and the amount to be given to each. This year's committee consisted of Donna Hurley from St. Mark's Harvey, Les Mut from St. Margaret's Baton Rouge and myself. As in past years, every ministry that made an application this year received a grant. The amount given totaled \$8,000.

The 2019 recipients of the Community Mission Appeal are as follows:

St. Augustine's, Metairie

Crossing Borders to Strengthen Faith

This is a mission partnership between St. Augustine's, Metairie and the Holy Spirit Episcopal Church and Bilingual School in Tela, Honduras to provide scholarship assistance to two students from Honduras to attend 12th grade at St. Martin's Episcopal School.

Amount awarded: \$500

St. Anna's, New Orleans

Anna's Place NOLA

Anna's Place NOLA provides holistic, arts-integrated after-school programs to at-risk youth in New Orleans, by offering academic enrichment, social-emotional programs and art experiences.

Amount awarded: \$500

St. Michael's, Mandeville

Christian Formation in the 21st Century

Funding will provide an upgrade to the technological infrastructure to increase the Christian Formation offered to the community.

Amount awarded: \$1,200

St. George's, New Orleans

Dragon Cafe Feeding Ministry

A program that serves 70 to 100 breakfast meals every Sunday. This includes our homeless brothers and sisters, the working poor, and persons suffering from mental illness and substance abuse.

Amount awarded: \$1,300

St. Luke's, Baton Rouge

Blessing Bags for the Homeless

In the Blessing Bags ministry, parishioners fill and distribute Ziploc bags containing life-sustaining essentials such as water, hygiene products, first aid supplies, and food to the street homeless population in and around Baton Rouge.

Amount awarded: \$1,500.

St. Matthew's, Houma

Bread or Stones

The goal of this ministry is to promote the growth and wellbeing of children attending the Legion Park Elementary School by providing nutritious meals during the summer months, who might otherwise be food insecure.

Amount awarded: \$1,500.

St. Mark's, Harvey

St. Mark's Food Pantry

St Mark's parishioners assemble "care bags" to distribute to their homeless neighbors. The bags are made up of non-perishable food, water, toiletries, and socks. St. Mark's also opens its doors the last Saturday of each month to distribute dry goods to dozens of its neighbors. In addition, St. Mark's is in the process of installing an outdoor food pantry to provide assistance to those who need it.

Amount awarded: \$1,500

The Clericus (October–December 2019)



[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]
The Rev. Sharon Alexander's last Sunday as rector of Trinity Church, Baton Rouge.

Transitions in the Diocese

Deacon Cindy Obier retired as archdeacon of the Diocese of Louisiana.

Transitions Out of the Diocese

The Rev. Sharon Alexander was called to serve as canon to the ordinary of the Diocese of West Tennessee. Her last Sunday as rector of Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, was November 17.

New Clergy in the Diocese

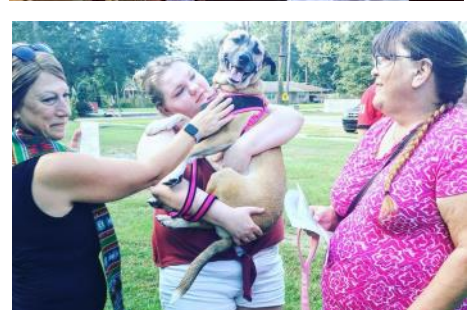
The Rev. R. Stan Runnels was called as the interim rector of Trinity, Baton Rouge, effective December 2.



Pumpkin Patches in the Diocese of Louisiana

[Photographs from various Facebook pages] It was another great year for pumpkin patches in the Diocese of Louisiana. Several churches throughout the diocese hold this annual fundraiser to raise money for outreach ministry. (*top left*) St. Augustine's, Metairie; (*top middle*) St. Martin's, Metairie; (*right*) St. Mark's, Harvey; (*bottom left*) St. Paul's, New Orleans; (*bottom middle*) St. Andrew's, New Orleans.

Out and About in the Diocese (October-December 2019)



St. Francis Pet Blessings Throughout the Diocese of Louisiana

[Photographs from various Facebook pages]

First row: (left) Church of the Annunciation, New Orleans; (middle) Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans; (right) St. James Episcopal School, Baton Rouge

Second row: (left) St. Patrick's, Zachary; (middle) St. Anna's, New Orleans; (right) St. Francis, Denham Springs

Third row: (left) St. Martin's, Metairie; (middle) Trinity Church, Baton Rouge; (right) Trinity Church, New Orleans

Fourth row: (left) St. Mark's, Harvey; (middle) St. Michael's Preschool, Mandeville; (right) Christ Church, Slidell



Habitat for Humanity Faith Build (left)

[Photograph from the St. Paul's, New Orleans, Facebook Page] St. Paul's participated in the Habitat for Humanity Unity Build with other faith communities from around New Orleans.



Bowling With the Bishop (right)

[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] Bishop Thompson had a blast bowling with the youth of the Diocese of Louisiana on October 4 at Rock 'n Bowl.



Night Out Against Crime (left)

[Photograph from the Mount Olivet, New Orleans, Facebook Page] On October 15, Mount Olivet, New Orleans hosted a Night Out Against Crime event. They served tacos and ice cream. There was a fire truck for the kids to climb on.



Lunch With C.S. Lewis (right)

[Photograph from the Christ Church Cathedral Facebook Page] St. Alban's Chapel, Baton Rouge, kicked off the 13th Annual Lunch With C.S. Lewis, a weekly and free lunch open to all LSU students served by St. Alban's parishioners. The lunch draws on average 200 students per week many who are international students. The chaplain gives a talk on C.S. Lewis' "Mere Christianity." The lunch is supported by individuals and churches across the diocese.



Bob Ross Night at Chapel of the Holy Spirit (left)

[Photograph from the Chapel of the Holy Spirit Facebook Page] On October 17, the Canterbury Club at Chapel of the Holy Spirit held a paint along with Bob Ross. Father Watson Lamb got into the spirit of the night.



Blessing of Professionals in the Healing Arts (right)

[Photograph Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] On the feast day of St. Luke, October 18, St. Luke's, New Orleans, held an Evensong to honor all those in the medical community involved in the healing arts. The congregation was invited to come forward for a special prayer and blessing. Those involved in the healing arts were given a prayer card to carry with them.



Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Sesame Street(left)

[Photograph courtesy of the Rev. Bill Miller] On October 20, Christ Church, Covington, paid tribute to Sesame Street, the longest running children's television show in U.S. history. The service featured music from the show. Father Bill Miller and a young parishioner wore Cookie Monster headbands for the occasion.



St. Luke's International Food Fest (right)

[Photograph Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] On October 20, St. Luke's, New Orleans, held their annual International Food Festival. The festival featured cuisine from the Caribbean Islands, France, China, Louisiana, and Honduras.



The Light of Christ Shines in the Dark (left)

[Photograph by Blake Burnes, Christ Church, Covington] On Sunday, October 27, Christ Church, Covington, lost electricity during Tropical Storm Olga, but that did not stop the light of Christ from shining bright.



Georgetober Fest (right)

[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] On October 27, St. George's, New Orleans, held their annual Reformation Sunday and Georgetober Fest. The service focused on the English Reformation and used the 1549 Book of Common Prayer. The service was followed by a reception with German food, beverages, and music.



Halloween Fun Around the Diocese

[Photographs from various Facebook Pages]

(left) St. Francis, Denham Springs held a trunk-or-treat night in their parking lot

(middle) St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, held their annual Fall Fest with trunk-or-treating with music and games.

(right) St. Patrick's, Zachary, held a Halloween Extravaganza for the youth of the parish.



Churches Helping Sister Churches (left)

[Photograph from the St. Paul's, New Orleans, Facebook Page] In early November, St. Paul's, New Orleans, collected food to donate to the St. Anna's, New Orleans, food pantry.



St. Luke's Tea (right)

[Photograph from the St. Luke's, New Orleans, Facebook Page] On November 9, St. Luke's, New Orleans held their annual Elegant Afternoon Tea. The afternoon included music, a devotional, tea, and other goodies.



Celebrating the Marine Corp Birthday (left)

[Photograph from the Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish Facebook Page] Every year on November 10, Grace Church, St. Francisville, celebrates the founding of the Marine Corps and lays a wreath at the grave of General Robert H. Barrow, the 27th Commandant of the Marine Corps.



Baton Rouge Deanery Invite Welcome Connect Workshop (right)

[Photograph by the Rev. Tommy Dillon, St. Margaret's] On November 16, the Baton Rouge Deanery held an Invite Welcome Connect Workshop led by Mary MacGregor. Invite Welcome Connect is a ministry of relational evangelism and congregational empowerment allowing churches to become places of genuine connection for inviting the faith journeys and stories of everyone, enabling deeper journeys of Christian discipleship and enabling the Spirit of Christ to be at the heart of each church's hospitable mission of spreading the Good News.



Planting Trees in the Swamp (left)

[Photograph by Eleanor Berault, All Saints', River Ridge] On November 16, parishioners and youth of All Saints', River Ridge, planted 850 trees on the Maurepas Land Bridge.



Blessing the New Playground at St. John's (right)

[Photograph from the St. John's, Thibodaux, Facebook Page] On November 17, the Rev. Stephen Shortess blessed the new playground installed at St. John's, Thibodaux.



Blessing of the St. Margaret Icon (left)

[Photograph by Jenn Ocken, St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge] On November 17, St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, celebrated their feast day with the unveiling and blessing of a new icon of St. Margaret.



Blessing of the Gifts to the Samaritan Center (right)

[Photograph from the St. Michael's, Mandeville, Facebook Page] The students of St. Michael's Preschool held a Thanksgiving food drive for the Samaritan Center. On November 20, the students helped the Rev. Robert Beazley bless the donations.



St. Luke's Thanksgiving Food Drive (left)

[Photograph from the St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page] St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, held a Thanksgiving food drive. The food was given to Southeast Ministry Association



First Responders Luncheon (right)

[Photograph credit] On November 22, Church of the Holy Communion, Plaquemine, held its annual Rev. Jim Shortess Memorial First Responders Luncheon to honor the men and women of the community to who give so much. The luncheon is held in the memory of the Rev. Jim Shortess who was rector of Holy Communion from 2003 to 2007.



Chapel of the Holy Comforter Visited the Whitney Plantation (left)

[Photograph from the Chapel of the Holy Comforter, New Orleans, Facebook Page] On November 23, parishioners visited the Whitney Plantation.



Grateful Bakers and Thanksgiving Outreach (right)

[Photograph from the Trinity, New Orleans, Facebook Page] On November 23, the youth of Trinity, New Orleans, prepared 200 sandwiches for Trinity Loaves and Fishes, baked 500 loaves of bread for mission partners for Thanksgiving, and assembled 10,000 meals for international aid through Rise Against Hunger.



Thanksgiving Around the Diocese

[Photographs from various Facebook Pages]

First row: (left) New Orleans Uptown Deanery clergy participated in the annual Uptown Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Touro Synagogue. (right) St. Philip's, New Orleans, held a Thanksgiving feast for parishioners

Second row: (left) St. John's, Thibodaux, held a Thanksgiving dinner for international students at Nichol's University. (right) The New Orleans Uptown Deanery held their first annual joint Thanksgiving Day service.

Third row: (left) All Saints, Ponchatoula, held a Thanksgiving food drive. (right) St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, held their annual Thanksgiving service followed by assembling meals for the hungry in Baton Rouge.



St. Mark's Food Pantry (left)

[Photograph from the St. Mark's, Harvey, Facebook Page] On December 1, parishioners boxed food to be donated to the hungry through the St. Mark's Food Pantry.



HIV/AIDS Prayer Breakfast (right)

[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] On December 5, clergy from all faiths gathered at St. George's, New Orleans, during HIV/AIDS Awareness Week to renew their commitment and encourage faith communities to become leaders in compassion and education for those affected by HIV/AIDS. Seminarian Ben Nobles of Trinity Church, New Orleans, delivered the homily.



Celebrating the Rev. Denny Allman (left)

[Photograph from the St. Margaret's, Facebook Page] On December 4, St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Rev. Denny Allman's priestly ordination and to give thanks for his ministry in their community.



St. Nicholas Visits Christ Church Cathedral (right)

[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] On December 5, St. Nicholas visited Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans. He spoke to the children about the history of St. Nicholas and gave them a moment to share with him what was on their wish list for Christmas.



The Peace Light (left)

[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] A flame traveled from the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem to New Orleans through volunteers working with Peace Light. Every year, Boy Scouts from Austria travel to Bethlehem to gather the flame. It then makes its way throughout the world. On December 4, visitors to Christ Church Cathedral had the opportunity to bring the light home with them.



St. Patrick's in the Zachary Christmas Parade (right)

[Photograph from the St. Patrick's, Zachary, Facebook Page] On December 5, St. Patrick's participated and won top honors for their float in the Zachary Christmas Parade. Their float was entitled "Every Time a Bell Rings." Parishioners rung a bell throughout the entire route to help angels get their wings.



St. Nicholas Visits St. Augustine's (left)

[Photograph from the St. Augustine's, Metairie, Facebook Page] On December 6, St. Nicholas visited St. Augustine's, Metairie. The day started with crafts. During the service, the children were treated to a special sermon and gifts left to them in their shoes during the service.



St. Nicholas Visits St. James (right)

[Photograph from the St. James, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page] On December 6, St. Nicholas also visited St. James, Baton Rouge. The children left their shoes outside the church and after the service found St. Nicholas had left them a gift in them.



Honoring the Very Rev. Paul Bailey (left)

[Photograph from the Grace Memorial Facebook Page] On November 13, Grace Memorial, Hammond, held a celebration to honor the Very Rev. Paul Bailey's 20 years of ministry to the church. A reception was held in a parishioner's home. He was presented with a drawing of him standing in front of the red doors of Grace Memorial.



St. James Christmas Dinner (right)

[Photograph from the St. James, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page] On December 8, St. James held their annual Christmas Feast. The event provides meals and gift bags to their homeless neighbors.



4th Annual Sights, Sounds, and Smells of Christmas (left)

[Photograph from the St. John's, Thibodaux, Facebook Page] St. John's held their annual Sight, Sound, and Smells of Christmas on December 13. The event featured over seventy nativity sets from around the world.



Breakfast With Santa (right)

[Photograph from the St. Matthew's, Bogalusa, Facebook Page] On December 14, St. Matthew's, Bogalusa, hosted the Youth Service Bureau's Breakfast With Santa. The event brought holiday joy to the children served by the YSB's CASA and TASC programs. The event included a hot breakfast, crafts, storytelling, and a photo with Santa.



St. Augustine's Christmas Tea (left)

[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] The ECW of St. Augustine's, Metairie, held their annual Christmas Tea on December 14. Each table was decorated in a unique holiday theme. The event included hot tea, sandwiches, and cookies.



Blessing of the Columbarium (right)

[Photograph courtesy of the Rev. Canon Shannon Manning] On December 15, the Rev. Canon Shannon Manning and the Rev. Peggy Scott blessed the new columbarium of St. Paul's Holy Trinity, New Roads.



Coins for Christ (left)

[Photograph from the St. Patrick's, Zachary, Facebook Page] The youth of St. Patrick's are proud to show off their donations to the Coins for Christ contest. St. Patrick's has teamed up with St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, in a contest against St. Augustine's and St. Martin's, Metairie. Through the month of February, the children of those churches will hold a coin drive for the United Thank Offering. The loser of the contest has to buy the winner an ice cream social.



Rorate Mass (right)

[Photograph from the St. George's, New Orleans, Facebook Page] A beautiful scene at St. George's during their annual Rorate Mass held on December 18. The Rorate Mass is a special Eucharist illumined only by candlelight in contemplation of the faith and courage of St. Mary, who bears the Light of the world.

Christmas Eve in the Diocese of Louisiana





Christmas in the Diocese of Louisiana

[Photographs from various Facebook pages]

Page 24

First row (left) Church of the Annunciation, New Orleans; (middle) St. John's, Thibodaux; (right) Christ Church, Covington

Second row: (left) Trinity Church, Morgan City; (middle) Christ Church, Slidell; (right) St. Paul's, New Orleans

Third row (left) Grace Memorial, Hammond; (middle) Trinity Church, Baton Rouge; (right) Church of the Holy Communion, Plaquemine

Fourth row (left) St. Augustine's, Metairie; (middle) St. Andrew's, Paradis; (right) Mount Olivet, New Orleans

Fifth row (left) St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge; (middle) St. Francis, Denham Springs; (right) St. Augustine's, Baton Rouge

Page 25

First row: (left) St. Anna's, New Orleans; (middle) St. Mark's, Harvey; (right) St. Martin's, Metairie

Second row: (left) Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans; (middle) St. James, Baton Rouge; (right) St. Philip's, New Orleans

Third row: (left) St. Michael's, Mandeville; (middle) St. Andrew's, New Orleans; (right) St. Patrick's, Zachary

Bishop's Journal: September 15—December 9, 2019

September 15: My visitation is with St. John's, Thibodaux. I have one confirmation and Rebecca and I attend a very nice reception.

September 16: I get up very early to catch a 6:00 a.m. flight to Minneapolis for the Fall House of Bishops meeting. In the afternoon I attend a session for Bishops who coach new Bishops. In the evening I see the Minnesota Twins beat Chicago White Sox.

September 17: HOB-The Presiding Bishop preaches and Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson celebrates. We have our usual check-in with our table mates and then in the afternoon, we meet with our spouses to talk about the upcoming Lambeth Conference scheduled for 2020. The night ends with our opening dinner and reception.

September 18: Bishop Phoebe Roaf is our preacher for the day and Bishop Rafael Morales is the celebrant. The Rev. Adam Hamilton is the speaker for the day. He is the pastor of the largest United Methodist Church in America. This evening my class gets together for dinner. I always look forward to catching up with everyone.

September 19: Bishop Carlyle Hughes is the preacher for today and Bishop Ed Konieczny is the celebrant. The HOB Theology Committee presents its paper on White Privilege. The discussion is interesting, to say the least. Somehow the paper is not translated into all the languages we use for the HOB meetings. This prompts more discussion on what it means to be privileged.



*[Photograph from the St. John's, Thibodaux Facebook Page]
Bishop Thompson's visitation to St. John's, Thibodaux, on September 15.*

September 20: Bishop Brian Prior is today's preacher and the Presiding Bishop celebrates. We have more discussions from the preceding day then we meet the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church. Our very own Lindsey Ardrey is one of the committee members. The committee speaks about what the church means to them and then we meet with table groups to interview the bishops. In the afternoon we meet in table groups to discuss the questions the committee asked of us and then we close the afternoon with a business meeting which is taking too much time. The day ends with a nice reception and dinner.

September 21: I'm up early for my flight back to New Orleans. The week was busy but productive.

September 22: My visitation is with St. Matthews in Houma. When I arrived I quickly realize that I'm not on the same page as their service leaflet. It works out and eleven people are confirmed and received into the Episcopal church. The meeting following is unbelievable.

September 23: I take my day off and go for an extra-long walk to burn off the meal from yesterday at St. Matthews.

September 24: We have our weekly staff meeting without Canon Manning and Cassandra. They are away at meetings this week. I have a few appointments but catch up on items I missed from last week.

September 25: I'm at the office early. My first appointment is with Deacon Jay Albert. Jay is very involved with HIV ministries as well as homeless and recovery ministries. Later I have lunch with Andrew Olinde and Ron LaBorde regarding insurance. The day ends with an interfaith meeting with Richard Saxer and others.

September 26: Rebecca and I drive to Jackson, MS for a couple of nights.

September 27: I spend most of the morning working on my sermon for Sunday and making phone calls. It's a very productive day.

September 28: Rebecca and I drive to Covington to attend a friend's birthday party and then on to Baton Rouge to spend the night.

September 29: My visitation is with St. Alban's, Baton Rouge, and as usual it is a great day. Fr. Drew Rollins has just completed a very successful capital campaign and the energy of the community is high. After the

service, there is a nice meal and almost everyone stays to chat with one another.

September 30: I take my day off.

October 1: I have a conference call with the University of the South. It lasts longer than I think it will. Later in the morning, I meet with a seminarian and then spend time returning phone calls. Fr. Lebaron Taylor comes in for his annual consultation. The past couple of months have been tough for Fr. Taylor with his son's death. Following Fr. Taylor's visit I spend time on the phone with Archdeacon Cindy Obier. The day ends with a meeting with Melissa Carnall regarding her discernment process.

October 2: It's my birthday! I drive to Baton Rouge to meet with Trish Toburen regarding her discernment followed by a meeting with Mother Peggy Scott. Mother Scott is very busy with her parishes and ministries in Angola. I spend time on the phone before I return to New Orleans.

October 3: I arrive early to sign papers with a notary then greet Kristen Wheeler to talk about discernment possibilities. This meeting is followed by another one with Mother Gina Jenkins for her annual consultation. Mother Jenkins is the school chaplain at St. Paul's School. In the afternoon I spend time with Tanja Wadsworth talking about the Solomon Conference Center. She continues to do fine work.

October 4: I spend time working on my sermon and then getting ready for my annual Bowling with the Bishop. This is always a fun event with the youth of the diocese. Tonight I am challenged by two teenage boys who ask, "If we beat you bowling can we be bishop for a day?" The challenge was on. I won't embarrass anyone by telling scores, but let's just say I'm still the bishop.

October 5: I have no meetings today.

October 6: My visitation is with Christ Church Covington, where I preach and celebrate two services and confirm and receive many individuals into the Episcopal Church. I also teach Sunday School which I very much enjoy.

October 7: I take my day off.

October 8: I'm up early to fly to Sewanee, TN. I have dinner in the evening with our seminarian Allison Reid. It is nice to hear how things are going.

October 9: In the morning I have a good bit of reading to do before our meetings begin tomorrow. At noon I worship with the seminarians and then have lunch with them. In the afternoon the gathering of the owning



[Photograph from the St. Alban's, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page] Bishop Thompson's visitation to St. Alban's, Baton Rouge on September 29.

bishops along with some school of theology faculty is always a highlight. In the evening the kickoff dinner for Trustees is very nice. The Trustees are back for our once a year meeting for two days.

October 10: The Trustees meet all day long and then we have a very nice banquet to honor the 50th anniversary of women students.

October 11: The Trustees meet in the morning and by noon our time has ended. In the afternoon the Regents begin our meeting and this goes until the early evening followed by a dinner at the Vice Chancellor's home.

October 12: The Regents continue to meet and we finally wrap up things around 5:30. Being an introvert I have a hamburger delivered to my room where I eat in silence. I have been around large crowds since Tuesday and need to listen to the silence of the night.

October 13: I wake up and go for a long walk then worship at All Saints. The music is absolutely lovely.

October 14: I have another full day of meetings regarding the search committee for Sewanee's new chaplain. This is very productive. The shortlist has some outstanding candidates.

October 15: I'm up early to drive to Nashville and fly back to New Orleans. My time on the mountain is good and productive but I'm ready to get back to Rebecca.

October 16: Today is a very busy day. It begins with Fr. Stephen Craft for his annual consultation followed by Fr. Jeff Millican's annual consultation. In the afternoon I meet with Fr. Seamus Doyle for his annual

consultation and then with a seminarian who almost crossed the line. Sometimes we forget that being a clergy person we live in a glass house. Our actions are always judged by others.

October 17: I have a long and painful conversation with one of my clergymen. Being Bishop is more than Sunday visitations. The staff has planned lunch to celebrate my birthday. I always enjoy being around them. In the afternoon I meet with another person in discernment. We have more this year in the process than I ever remember. I end the day with a Board meeting at St. Martin's School.

October 18: I spend the day working from home on my sermon.

October 19: I have no meetings today.

October 20: My visitation is with St. Luke's, New Orleans where I meet with the vestry before the service. As always the service lifts me up, especially the drums. I even get to kick up my heels.

October 21: I take my day off.

October 22: Today is the first day I've seen Canon Manning or Cassandra in quite some time. We have our staff meeting to catch up and then we meet with representatives from Church Insurance during lunch. I also have a conference call with Bishop Phoebe Roaf. The day closes with a diocesan-wide meeting with the men from Church Insurance.

October 23: Canon Manning and I drive to Baton Rouge to meet with representatives of St. Luke's parish to talk about their assessment. For the fourth year in a row,



[Photograph from the St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page] Bishop Thompson's visitation to St. Luke's, Baton Rouge on November 17.

they asked for a reduction and the Executive Board denied their request. Following this meeting, I drive to Trinity Church to meet with Mother Sharon Alexander. She is leaving for a position in the Diocese of Western Tennessee. Canon Manning and I meet with the Sr. Warden of Trinity to discuss the search process. We arrive back to New Orleans in the midst of rush hour.

October 24: I drive over to the North Shore to participate in the Service of Remembrance at Christwood Retirement Community. It was a very moving service.

October 25: I spend the day working on my sermon.

October 26: No scheduled meetings today.

October 27: I preach and celebrate at All Saints', River Ridge. During the peace, we acknowledge 10 years of Fr. Jay Angerer's ministry at All Saints. Following in the parish hall is a lovely reception.

October 28: I have a few things I needed to take care of for the convention coming up like work on my address.

October 29: The staff meets briefly to talk about last-minute convention details and then Canon's John and Shannon meet with me at my house to go over many items. After they leave, I get back to work on the address.

October 30: Stuffing day. As tradition goes, we order food to be delivered and then we stuff packets for Convention. So far so good!

October 31: The staff sleeps in and then everyone meets at the site of Convention at 2:00 to begin setting up. At the end of the day we gather at a nice restaurant for the pre-convention meal.

November 1: The day has finally arrived for Convention but the unexpected has occurred. Canon Manning and I have gotten food poisoning from our meal last night. Luckily my wife is a nurse and she is running back and forth from room to room armed with ginger ale and crackers. By noon I think I can make it only to find out in the middle of the Eucharist prayer that maybe I can't. After some cold washcloths and cold ginger ale, I am able to finish the day...almost. I'm unable to attend the incredible feast Christwood hosts for the Convention. I go to my room and sleep until the next morning.

November 2: The day begins slowly, but I'm determined to finish the Convention and I do. In the middle is a surprising tribute to my 10 years of ministry as the Bishop of Louisiana. I am deeply touched by the words and standing ovation. I realize

how blessed I am to be the Bishop of this wonderful diocese.

November 3: I spend the day in the house still feeling a little green under the gills.

November 4: I try to go for a walk but only get a mile down the road when I realize I bit off more than I can chew. Back home where I confess to the nurse.

November 5: The staff has much to talk about today. There are things that frustrated us and some that give us a pat on the back. This is always the case after Convention. What goes right, what goes wrong, what do we need to change, tweet or forget? All good conversations.

November 6: I have lunch with Fr. Bryan Owen then on to St. James' Place for a board meeting. The drive back to New Orleans is especially laborious. The cars backed up for the new airport are amazing. I dread when I have to fly out in a couple of weeks.

November 7: The day begins with a meeting with Fr. Robert and Mother Liz Beazley regarding the Racial Reconciliation Commission. We talk about the new program of training for all clergy and vestries. It is important to have conversations around racism and white privilege. For lunch today I enjoy the company of Bishop Neil Alexander, the Dean of the School of Theology. Bishop Alexander is in New Orleans for a gathering at Trinity Church. Today ends with the reception for him at Trinity.

November 8: I'm up early for a walk with Rebecca and then work on my sermon before I drive to the Solomon Center for our Executive Board retreat. All but three are present for the opening gathering.

November 9: The Executive Board retreat continues and I'm looking forward to getting to know the new members this year. They are a great group of folks.

November 10: My visitation is with St. Anna's today. The church is full and so is the action in the service with confirmation, receptions and reaffirmation. I preach and celebrate then retire to a nice luncheon afterward. The day started so beautifully only to crash down when the Saints lose. How do you lose to a team that is 1-7?

November 11: I take my day off and run errands mixed in with a little office work.

November 12: Today our staff meets and then I meet with the two canons. Afterward, Fr. Andy Thayer and I have lunch for his annual consultation then I am off to Baton Rouge for an evening meeting with Fr. Dan Krutz. Fr. Krutz and I enjoy a very nice evening



[Photograph from the St. Anna's, New Orleans,, Facebook Page] Bishop Thompson's visitation to St. Anna's, New Orleans on November 10.

catching up and talking about the events of the day in the life of the country.

November 13: My day begins with Fr. John Miller's annual consultation. For over an hour and a half, we laugh and discuss the life of his parish and our children.

November 14: My day begins with an appointment from a minister of another tradition who wishes to become an Episcopalian. It is a wonderful meeting with a frank conversation around moving from one tradition to another. Following I participate in a Reference Panel to discuss issues regarding one of the clergy in the Diocese. In the afternoon I meet with Fr. John Pitzer for his annual consultation. The workday ends with a meeting with one of our clergy. Later that evening, Rebecca and I host a dinner for some friends at Mr. John's Steak House. The dinner is a relaxing way to end a tense day.

November 15: I spend the day working on my sermon.

November 16: I drive to Baton Rouge to meet with a priest and his wife. In the evening I meet with the rector and wardens of St. Luke's Church where my visitation is tomorrow.

November 17: My visit with St. Luke's Church begins with teaching Sunday School and answering questions the confirmands pose upon me. There are some pretty serious questions. Later I preach, celebrate and confirm, receive and reaffirm several people. It is a nice visit. Later I drive to the new New Orleans airport to fly to Nashville. Wow! The airport is impressive and the long term parking is closer to the terminal than the

short term. I arrive at the hotel late Sunday night. I'm bushed.

November 18: I'm meeting with other members of the search committee to interview potential candidates for Chaplain of the University of the South.

November 19: Still interviewing!

November 20: Still interviewing!

November 21: I fly home and arrive around 2:00 pm. I have a phone call with my spiritual director.

November 22: I spend time working on my sermon and then an eye appointment in the afternoon.

November 23: I have no meetings today. I drive to Baton Rouge to spend the night.

November 24: My visitation is with St. Patrick's Zachary where I preach, celebrate and confirm one new person into the Episcopal Church. After a nice reception, I drive to Jackson for the Thanksgiving holiday. When I arrive, the baby shower for our daughter is still going on and I am able to visit with her friends from college.

November 25: Vacation

November 26: Vacation

November 27: Vacation

November 28: Vacation

November 29: Vacation



*[Photograph from the St. Patrick's, Zachary, Facebook Page]
Bishop Thompson's visitation to St. Patrick's, Zachary, on November 24.*

November 30: Vacation. Rebecca and I attend the funeral for George Newton. George and Ann were, at one time, members of Grace, St. Francisville but had moved to Jackson, MS. I am glad we are able to attend and spend time with Ann.

December 1: We drive back to New Orleans.

December 2: I take my day off in the morning but have a conference call in the afternoon.

December 3: We start the day with staff meeting and then Chris and I have to do a little work with our investments. Later in the morning Tanja Wadsworth the director of SECC comes in for her evaluation. She is doing a fine job. In the afternoon I meet with Mtr. Jane-Alison and Fr. John Kellogg regarding the youth of the Diocese. Jane-Alison is doing a fine job and not only are the numbers continuing to grow under her leadership, but the substance of her teaching is showing. At the end of the day, I meet with a parishioner to discuss his leadership.

December 4: In the morning, Rebecca and I fly to St. Petersburg, FL for a Province IV Bishops meeting.

December 5: Prov. IV Bishops meeting.

December 6: Prov. IV Bishops meeting and then fly home late that evening.

December 7: No meetings today.

December 8: My visitation is with All Saints, Ponchatoula. I preach, celebrate and receive two new parishioners into the Episcopal Church. Afterwards we have wonderful gumbo and I talk a bit about the works of the Diocese. I drive home listening to that dreadful game between the Saints and 49ers. The day ends well, however. I participate in Lessons and Carols at the Cathedral. Jarrett Follette is a master with his choir. Beautiful music! This is followed by a nice reception at the Dean and Karla DuPlantier's home.

December 9: In the morning I have a 3-hour conference call with the Regents Board of the University of the South. Later in the afternoon, I buy my first Christmas present for Rebecca!



Ten Years & Ten Photographs

Thank you, Bishop Thompson, for your ten years of leadership to the Diocese of Louisiana. Here are ten photographs, one from each year since your consecration as Bishop of Louisiana, that sum up your ministry. We appreciate your ability to guide this diocese with a bit of laughter and fun; your love for the parishioners and clergy of the diocese and the unique parts of the culture of Louisiana; your ability to stand up for justice for all God's children; and seeing how the love for your family spills into your love for your calling as Bishop of Louisiana.

Calendar of Upcoming Diocesan Events

January 6-8

College of Presbyters

Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, 54296 Highway 445, Loranger

More information and registration: https://seccla.org/secc_events/

January 12 at 5 p.m.

Frances Joseph-Gaudet Commemoration Evensong

St. Luke's, 1222 N. Dorgenois St, New Orleans

January 17-19

Women's Addiction Recovery Retreat

Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, 54296 Highway 445, Loranger

More information and registration: https://seccla.org/secc_events/

February 1

Stewardship Summit

St. Augustine's, 3412 Haring Rd, Metairie

Keynote speaker: Kristine Miller, Horizons Stewardship

More information and registration: www.edola.org/events/event/stewardship-workshop-2020/

February 7-9

Senior High Youth Rally

Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, 54296 Highway 445, Loranger

More information and registration: https://seccla.org/secc_events/

February 28-March 1

Lenten Silent Retreat

Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, 54296 Highway 445, Loranger

More information and registration: https://seccla.org/secc_events/

April 6 at 11 a.m.

Chrism Mass

Christ Church Cathedral, 2919 St. Charles Ave, New Orleans

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