

FROM BISHOP CREIGHTON



Here is a New Year's gift that I hope many of you will use. It's a prayer composed and set forth for use in the Diocese by the first Bishop, Henry Yates Satterlee, in 1899.

Almighty God, who feedest thy flock and callest thine own by name; mercifully keep this whole Diocese, and lead each parish in the way, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind.

Hallow and bless to us thy sacraments and services of thy Church. Inspire our clergy to

show forth thy truth by their preaching and living and daily to minister according to thy will.

Bless the rulers of this land. Send forth laborers into thy harvest, and hasten the coming of thy kingdom in all the world. Make thy cathedral in this Diocese a house of prayer for all people, and in each neighborhood make the parish church a spiritual home. Keep our communicants in singleness of heart from unbelief and worldliness, giving them grace, both in their homes and callings, faithfully to confess thy Holy Name.

May all children be taught of thee. Draw to the cross those who are impenitent and hardened in sin. And, we beseech thee, heal the sick, comfort the sorrowing, relieve the distressed.

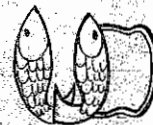
In all our work for thee may thy Holy Spirit direct and rule our hearts. Move thy people to give as thou hast given to them. Fill the workers with the spirit of power, of love, and of a sound mind; and while we plant and water, do thou give the continual increase, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ETCETERA

Jack Harris 'on the mend'

The Rev. John Harris, Bishop Creighton's assistant for Clergy Development, is recuperating at home following heart surgery at the Washington Hospital Center.

Montgomery County Hunger Filmed



The Community Ministry of Montgomery County, of which St. Francis, Potomac, is a member, is completing work on a film about hunger in Montgomery County. "I think the slides and tapes together present an informative and gripping picture of the hunger needs in the county," says the Rev. Lon Dring, CMMC director. Call 762-9407 for additional information.

Hurray for Virginia Neighbors

"One third of the 166 churches in the Diocese of Virginia have reported involvements with resettlement of Vietnamese refugees," according to *The Virginia Churchman*. The paper also reported that 16 other parishes have families sponsoring refugees and four congregations are participating with other denominations or agencies.

Unity Workshop Scheduled

"Christian Unity and Religious Freedom in our Pluralistic Society" will be the theme of the National Workshop on Christian Unity in Memphis, TN, Feb. 25-27. Archbishop Jean Jadot, apostolic delegate in the United States, will preach at the opening service, to be held at Calvary Episcopal Church.

AP to publish Commentary

Associated Parishes, a Washington-based network of clergy and laity concerned with liturgical renewal, has announced plans for a series of publications dealing with the liturgical rites in the Draft Proposed Book of Common Prayer. The first, "A Commentary on the Holy Eucharist, Rite II," will be published in February. It is written by an AP committee chaired by the Rev. H. Boone Porter, Jr.

Help is Appreciated

Twenty additional children are included in the Georgetown Children's House program thanks to volunteers, space and budget provided by Christ Church, Georgetown. In a recent letter to the parish outreach committee, Mrs. Joan McDaniel, director of the Children's House, wrote that "without these resources these 20 children could not be enrolled in the Children's House program at all, and would probably join the 'latch-key' children who go home to empty apartments after school, and sit in front of television for the rest of the day, if they are 'good' children; or roam the streets and get into trouble if they are not so docile."

Chaplain Smith Elected

The Rev. Wofford Smith, University of Maryland chaplain, has been elected secretary-treasurer of the Episcopal Society for Ministry in Higher Education. One of ESMHE's major functions is making budget recommendations to Executive Council and General Convention concerning the church's campus mission.

I do then, in all charity and brotherly love, as the Court did, admonish you, William A. Wendt, for disobeying the godly admonition of your Bishop, recording this as an official act of my Episcopate in the records of this Diocese; and I forbid you to permit any person whose Ordination is not in conformity with the canons of the Church to exercise his or her ministry in your parish.

William F. Creighton
Bishop of Washington

The Sentencing Document

In Washington Cathedral's St. Joseph's Chapel on Jan. 10, Bishop Creighton read the following letter to the Rev. William Wendt.

January 10, 1976

Dear Brother:

The Ecclesiastical Court in its judgment dated June 5, 1975, found you guilty of the charges set forth in the presentment. The Appeals Court, as of December 9, 1975, has upheld the judgment and the recommendation of the Ecclesiastical Court. I accept the findings of the Court as I trust you do. You have had every opportunity to defend yourself over a period of many months. The Court's decision has not been lightly made, nor do I accept their recommendations lightly.

The first recommendation of the Court is that I admonish you for having disobeyed my godly admonition. This I do.

The second recommendation is that I forbid you to permit any person whose ordination is not in conformity with the canons of the Church to exercise his or her ministry in your parish. This I also do. In a Church whose government is Episcopal it is my responsibility, not yours, to determine what clergy, by canonical acceptance or by license, may officiate in the parishes of this Diocese. I cannot abrogate to you the responsibility for which I am accountable, nor can I permit you to usurp it. On the Court's recommendation I repeat that you are forbidden.

You know, because I have given it public expression, my distaste for this sort of disciplinary action. I prefer not to deal with disputes that occur within the life of the Church in legalistic ways, believing that within our fellowship they should be resolved by consultation and through pastoral relationship. In this preference, at the time of the original offense for which you were tried, the Standing Committee supported me. You, however, have chosen repeatedly to act without consulting me and in disregard of our pastoral relationship. You have continued, even in the course of your appeal, to act outside the normal relationships that exist in the life of the Church and in defiance of them. The leadership of this Diocese has affirmed the Ordination of Women but it has also considered the orderly process of the Church's life to be of such importance that it is not to be disregarded. You have left us no choice but to take the action we are taking today. I cannot tolerate, nor can this Diocese tolerate, any further misconduct in this regard on your part.

We are responsible members, you as a parish priest and I as your Bishop, of a ministry that is spirit filled, that does respect the individual conscience of all of its members, and in which we all seek to perceive the will of God. There are occasions when, in the exercise of Christian freedom, we find ourselves in disagreement with Bishops or Canons or Courts. In the open life of our Diocese we are free to disagree

and to disagree publicly and to argue and persuade. You have chosen, not only to disagree with, but to disregard and to defy the free and orderly processes of the Church's life. You have placed yourself outside the normal pastoral relationships and the normal structural relationships that exist in our Communion. You have made impossible the relationship that our Church assumes should exist between a bishop and a priest, a relationship upon which the ministry of an Episcopal Church is predicated.

Your ministry in the past has often been innovative and experimental. This I have permitted and encouraged, but you have in these recent years failed to understand that innovation and experiment must occur within the limits that we, as Episcopalians, have freely accepted. I can readily accept innovation within the Church and for the sake of the Church, but not in defiance of the Church. This is an important distinction which I believe you have failed to perceive. If you do choose to act beyond the limitations of a structured Church, which we are, you must be willing to accept the consequences, which to us who love the Church can be very grave.

It is required of you, therefore, that you decide whether you, as an individual, can live within the Episcopal Church as one of its priests accepting its doctrine, discipline and worship, as you once promised to do, or whether as an individual you cannot. This is also a matter of conscience and it also requires of you a serious effort to perceive the will of God, the will of God not only for you as a person with conviction but for you as a priest of a Church which is made up of a diversity of human persons who also are conscientious and who have freely accepted an Episcopal form of government.

I hope for your sake that you will not make efforts to rationalize this judgment as unimportant or inconsequential or as something to be taken lightly. I do not see it as unimportant but rather as one of the most difficult tasks assigned to me in the course of my ministry. I pray for the sake of the Church which has been seriously injured by the long course of your trial and conviction that such an occasion will never occur again.

At this point I would interpolate these remarks in the admonition I have just read.

Despite what your attorney has said, both in our conversation last week and in your conduct today, you have given me reason to believe that you do accept this admonition and that you will respect the Court's judgment. I trust that you do conscientiously wish to continue as a priest of this Church and in communion with me, and because of the skill and devotion you have to bring to its ministry I can rejoice in this. I am willing to trust that no such occasion as this will occur again in the future.