

News from the Diocese of the West with the Southwest, Northwest, Hawaii and American Territories of the Pacific



charismatic evangelicals sacramental together

Current News

- Diocesan: Retreat/Guest Room, Clergy Retreat
- Local Churches: Baptisms, Sanctity of Life, Confirmations
- Word: The Visited Planet

Retreat/Guest Room • Fr. Aaron Appleby • St. John's, Yucca Valley, CA

The first private guest room of the Diocese of the West is now available at St. John's Mission in the Hi-Desert of Yucca Valley, California. Shushan of the Valley Retreat Center is our business name and is a ministry of St. John's CEC Mission. Our first room, called GENESIS, is available for either a single individual or for a married couple, who are looking for a one-on-one, personalized time away. Genesis is comfortably furnished with a

king-size bed and firm mattress, a writing desk with chair, a lounging chair, a meal table with 3 chairs, a dresser and hooks for storing clothing, a TV and VCR and has Wi-Fi for those who need to bring along their laptops.

Communal meals are available with Fr. Aaron & Lily Appleby, or if you are fasting or wish more solitude, a microwave oven and coffee/tea maker (with coffee and tea) are also available in the room. (At

this time we are also open to and are requesting the donation of a mini refrigerator).

At no time is there a fee for your stay. However, donations are gladly accepted.

OF PARTICULAR NOTICE: Because Shushan of the Valley Retreat Center is not a PUBLIC hotel, motel or bed-and-breakfast, the use of St. John's private Guest Facility is always and only by INVITATION. By this we mean that should anyone

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Retreat/Guest Room	1
Baptisms	1
Letter from the Editor	2
Clergy Retreat	2
Ministries List	2
Sanctity of Life	3
Confirmations	3
The Visited Planet	4

Baptisms • Fr. Vincent McMorro-Purcell • Christ Church, Palm Springs, CA

Christ Church CEC in Palm Springs welcomed two new babes in Christ this summer. Tanner Jones and Joelene Major were both baptized by Fr. Vincent McMorro-Purcell (Vicar) in Geri Dicks' (Church Secretary) pool during a regular Sunday Mass. Surrounded by their family and friends and their new church family, under a baking desert sun, they made their public profession of faith, followed by a grand celebration afterwards. "We are delighted to welcome Tanner and Joelene into our family of faith and are very excited by how God is moving in our midst," said Fr. Vincent. Christ Church is experiencing steady growth and tremendous bonding among congregants since they started meeting as a house church at the end of Spring 2008. ■



Letter from the Editor • Joann Maciejewski



Your editor with Luke and Nadia Maciejewski at my office in downtown LA.

Merry New Year! Here's hoping you have all had a wonderful holiday season.

We are looking forward to some snapshots of Advent and Christmas services from our churches—please send those in and we will publish them in the February issue!

January's Current contains news on a retreat/guest room

at St. John's and mentions a poustinia. Our dear Copy Editor Stacy Finley found out that "a poustinia (Russian) is a small sparsely furnished cabin or room where one goes to pray and fast alone in the presence of God. The word poustinia has its origin in the Russian word for desert." It's a nice description for a retreat at St. John's.

Fr. Vincent McMorrow-Purcell writes about two baptisms at Christ Church, and we have a nice update from St. Paul's, and a report on confirmations at St. Michael's. And Fr. Mark Miller closes us with a great message. Blessings to all,
Joann ■

Spring Clergy Retreat

**CLERGY RETREAT:
MARCH 26-28, 2009**

The Diocesan Clergy Retreat for the Diocese of the West will be March 26th, 27th, and 28th, 2009.

Please save this date! ■

Ministries from the West, Southwest, Northwest, Hawaii, and American Pacific

Church/Ministry	Location	Rector	Telephone / Website
Cathedral Church of Saint Michael	San Clemente, CA	Bp. Douglas Kessler	949/366-9480 / saintmichaelsanclemente.wordpress.com
All Saints	Santa Clarita, CA	Fr. Rich Maciejewski	661/916-1991 / allsaints-cec.org
Christ Church	Palm Springs, CA	Fr. Vincent McMorrow-Purcell	760/318-9631
Christ the Victor	Puyallup, WA	Fr. Michael Seiler	626/354-LIFE / christthevictor.com
Church of the Advent	Oceanside, CA	Canon Gary Heniser	760/431-8485 / adventcec.com
Church of the Resurrection	Hemet, CA	Fr. Mark Miller	951/487-2992 / http://mysite.verizon.net/res7fgz9/resurrectioncec/
Church of the Risen Lord	Honolulu, HI	Fr. Bill Xenos	808/671-5222 / cec-hawaii.org
Fr. David Conroy	Madras, OR	Fr. David Conroy	
Holy Cross Community Church	Cornelius, OR	Fr. Jim Wright	503/336-1804 / holycrosscommunitychurch.com
Holy Trinity Church	Meridian, ID	Canon Mark Finley	208/288-2146 / holytrinitycec.com
St. Francis	Victorville, CA	Fr. Robert Reed	415/457-6556 / Stfrancis-cec.org
St. James	Williams, AZ	Fr. Bruce LaPier	928/635-6754
St. John's	Yucca Valley, CA	Fr. Aaron Appleby	760/369-0074
St. Paul's	Henderson, NV	Fr. David Hoff	702/260-0126 / stpaulcec.org
St. Peter's	Palos Verdes, CA	Fr. Wayne Coombs	310/833-8899

Retreat/Guest Room • continued

(Continued from page 1)

wish to make use of our facility, we ask that you please contact us and tell us why you would like to come to St. John's (for silent or directed retreat, counseling, healing, a desert get-away, a place to rest, a Poustinia, etc), when and for how long you'd like to stay, and after prayerful consideration,

we will respond by extending you an invitation, should we discern we are able to accommodate your needs, or politely let you know if we are unable to be of service. AGAIN: No one will be allowed to stay without a specific invitation from Father Aaron or Lily Appleby. While we do not foresee any problems with the clergy or laity of the C.E.C., the

times we live in make this process or policy a necessity, so we appreciate your understanding.

Because we currently have only one room, this is the perfect time for an individual or married couple to come to the Hi-Desert and receive one-on-one counseling, healing or spiritual direction. Father Aaron and Lily Appleby will be happy

to minister, pray and discern with you what God may be wanting to speak into your lives.

For further information please contact Father Aaron or Lily Appleby by phone at (760) 369-0074 or by mail at Saint John's Mission Shushan Of The Valley Retreat Center, 5690 Indio Avenue, Yucca Valley, CA 92284 ■

Celebrating Life • Tisa Caruso • St. Paul's, Henderson, NV

January 17th, 2009, is National Sanctity of Life day, thanks to President George W. Bush. St. Paul's in Henderson, NV, has a tradition of celebrating and defending Life, whether it be the late Fr. George Gerard's founding vision of sharing the message of eternal life, or the current actions of the current Pastor, Fr. David Hoff. Fr. David actively supports the two crisis pregnancy centers in town, spreading the word of Life to mother's on the verge of getting an abortion. The church as a whole participates in fund

raising campaigns, and seeks first the kingdom of God for all.

One important member, Elton Blair, is celebrating a new chance at life. He is St. Paul's latest miracle, after our own Bill Ruth beat cancer. Elton suffered damage to his lungs from Agent Orange. Unflinching faith kept the congregation praying for a lung transplant. Good friend Paul Heebner and reliable Fr. David teamed up to get him and his wonderful wife, Merle, to the airport to catch a red-eye to UCLA.. Subsequently, they drove to California with Elton's van. The transplant was

a success, and Elton has fought to give his best through a tough physical therapy regimen. We missed Elton and Merle for Christmas this year, but look forward to enjoying their rejuvenated life following our Lord very soon. May we all join together in daily prayer for Elton's full recovery. And may we, as the body of Christ, respect the sanctity of all human life. ■



Confirmations at the Cathedral • St. Michael's, San Clemente, CA



Christ the King Sunday is always an exciting time at Saint Michael's as we proclaim, "Blessed be His Kingdom now and forever." As the last service of the year unfolds it becomes obvious that we're not looking back, but forward to another year under the reign of His Majesty. One such example of this is the Sacrament of Confirmation, which is imparted as part of our Feast Day celebration.

As the year comes to an end so does the Catechism of the Catechumens. Catechumens are mentioned in Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians (Strong's G2727). The teaching of Catechism progressed from the development of doctrine and the need to test converts as we see Saint Paul doing in Acts 19. Upon meeting some folks calling themselves "disciples", Paul gave them a test and discovered they had only received the baptism of John for the repentance of sins but had not yet heard of, or received, the Holy Spirit. Before laying hands on them Paul taught them.

In Church history the fact that baptisms were held only at certain times of the year, implies that a time of teaching

the Catechumens was not unusual. The Catholic Encyclopedia notes: "As the acceptance of Christianity involved belief in a body of doctrine and the observance of the Divine law ("teach, make disciples, scholars of them"; "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you", Matthew 28:20 [see Great Commission]), it is clear that some sort of preliminary instruction must have been given to the converts."

At Saint Michael's we incorporate Catechism classes into the weeks preceding Christ The King Sunday. At the time of Confirmation, Bishop Kessler questions each of the candidates just as Saint Paul did, before he lays hands on them and imparts the Sacrament. Once confirmed, his Grace gives them a firm reminder from the words of the King. "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" John 16:33. ■



Those confirmed are pictured as follows from left to right: Andrew Johnson, Charity Harris, Michael Clemmer, Jenny Perrott, and Katie Ryan.



charismatic **evangelical** sacramental
together

St. Michael's Pro-Cathedral
107 West Marquita
San Clemente, CA 92672

The Current
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The Charismatic Episcopal Church exists to make visible the Kingdom of God to the nations of the world; to bring the rich sacramental and liturgical life of the early church to searching evangelicals and charismatics; to carry the power of Pentecost to our brothers and sisters in the historic churches; and finally, to provide a home for all Christians seeking a liturgical-sacramental, evangelical, charismatic church and a foundation for their lives and gifts of ministry.

For more information on the Charismatic Episcopal Church, please see our website, www.iccec.org.

The Visited Planet • Fr. Mark Miller • Resurrection, Hemet, CA

A shroud of mystery envelops one of the most intoxicating doctrines of Christianity, the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. That the Creator of the universe would embark on a plan to redeem a sinful, ungrateful, stubborn and sometimes cruel race of people is incomprehensible.

What could motivate a God to want to engage us, much less redeem us? No wonder King David looked upon the Majesty of creation and the stars to exclaim, "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and stars, which You have ordained; what is man that you are mindful of Him, and the son of man, that You visit Him?" (Psalm 8:3-4).

Theologian J.B. Phillips states that he could not say for certain as to whether or not there was life on other planets. He further implies that he does know that the planet earth is unique in that it was a planet visited by God in the person of Jesus

Christ.

What does that say about Our Creator? Christianity teaches that our Creator is personal, not a detached explosion or an impersonal force. Our Creator is aware of our condition and desires to fill the gap himself that satisfies His justice and demonstrates His love.

The first step towards the cross for Christ was a humble servant's yes to his Father to leave the cloak of eternal glory and become a babe in swaddling clothes through a virgin mother for the Reconciliation of His creation.

Christ continues the Condescension, this plan of His presence and involvement in the Church militant on earth (the visited planet) through the Spirit, the word, the sacraments, and the mission.

No matter what happens on this planet be it illness, relational estrangement, need of forgiveness, or financial crisis

Christ is waiting to bring His presence and "peace on Earth" to all who call upon Him. He has the same willingness, same passion and same desire to enter into our lives right where we live today.

He still makes house and planet calls. His mission has not changed. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever (Hebrews 13:8). The timeless One enters space and time for us and interrupts human history on our behalf.

Through faith, He infuses His presence in us, whose lives are but a tiny vapor, and imparts indestructible Eternal life.

Let's take some time to give Him glory for His visitation then and now. Gloria In Excelsis Deo!!

In His ever incarnate love,
Fr. Mark ■

