



Around Our Diocese

Issue #91

The Diocese of Northern Indiana

May, 2008

*A Passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ
A Willingness to do Whatever it Takes*

*A Heart for the Lost
A Commitment to One Another*

A Letter from the Bishop

On my computer at home I've installed a program called Weather Bug. Essentially it's an online connection to the National Weather Service – with current conditions (temperature and humidity, for example), forecasts, and a range of options for monitoring weather at your own location and around the country. Most fascinating to me is the cyberspatial wind gauge. The program provides a continuous read-out of wind direction and speed, with surprising and sometimes dizzying shifts. At one instant the wind is blowing at 10 miles per hour from the northeast; the next it's moved to the south at 25; and before you've digested the change, the wind has changed once again, 5 miles per hour from the west. Wind is unpredictable. It seems to have a mind of its own. (I realize that I'm ascribing a human trait to a force of nature.) You can't pin it down, manipulate it, or make it stop or start. People have to adapt themselves to the wind, and not the other way around!

*When the day of Pentecost had come,
they were all together in one place.
And suddenly a sound came from
heaven like the rush of a mighty
wind, and it filled all the house
where they were sitting. And there
appeared to them tongues as of fire,
distributed and resting on each one
of them. And they were all filled
with the Holy Spirit and began to
speak in other tongues, as the Spirit
gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4).*

This passage from the book of Acts – traditionally read on the Feast of Pentecost – makes a powerful connection between Spirit and wind. Jesus rose from the dead on Easter and, the gospels tell us, spent several weeks with the disciples. He taught them, encouraged them, and prepared them to bring the good news to the whole world (see, for instance, Luke 24:44-49). He ascended to the

Father forty days after the resurrection (Acts 1:3, 9), and his parting words offered a promise: “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The disciples spent the next ten days in prayer (Acts 1:14), and God responded on the Day of Pentecost with the sound of a mighty, rushing wind. The sermon that followed the Spirit's descent (Acts 2:14-36) led to 3,000 conversions in a single day (Acts 2:41)!

While many biblical images of the Holy Spirit – the dove (Matthew 3:16), the “still small voice” (1 Kings 19:12), or the burbling brook (John 7:37-38), to name three – point to the Spirit's gentler nature, the hurricane-force wind on the day of Pentecost reminds us of the other side of the equation. When we open ourselves to the Spirit's work, we'd better buckle our spiritual seatbelts. The ride may be rough. We're not in control. The Lord may take us in directions we could never have predicted, put people in our paths we wouldn't have chosen, open doors for service well beyond our perceived abilities. The most dangerous prayer you will ever pray is: “Come, Holy Spirit!” Don't pray that prayer unless you're ready for the wind!

The Feast of Pentecost is usually grouped with Christmas and Easter as one of the three great festivals of the Christian year. Yet, in lengthening days of spring, we often miss its power. I encourage you, this Pentecost, to dare to pray that most dangerous prayer, and to open yourselves in new ways to the Spirit's work. Jesus is as eager to pour out his Spirit on us as on the first disciples 2,000 years ago – and the results can be just as startling, to ourselves and to the world around us.

Yours in Christ,
+Ed

Ascension Day – May 1st

Each year, Lutherans and Episcopalians in the St. Joseph County area join together for worship on Ascension Day. This year, Holy Trinity in South Bend has the privilege of serving as the host. The service begins at 7:00 PM (EDT). Please come to celebrate not only this important feast, but also to participate in this ecumenical event.

Organ Recital

Trinity, Fort Wayne is hosting “PJs & Pipes: Midnight Organ Recital” on Friday, May 2nd at 11:00 PM (EDT). The recital will feature the talents on Wayne Peterson, organist, Lenelle Morse, violinist, and C. Alin Cass, vocalist. Tea will be served. Pajamas are optional.

Summer Camp

Each year the youth of our diocese have wonderful experiences forming relationships with each other and deepening their relationship with Christ at our summer camp. This year’s theme, “Adam and Eve’s Excellent Adventure” is designed to teach campers about the excellent adventure of salvation, using Jesus as the guide to the original pair of goofs who made the biggest blunder in biblical history! Camp will be held from June 15th to June 21st.

Registrations are due by May 15th. To register, please visit www.ednin.org.

New Ministry - Welcome

Please extend a warm welcome to Craig and Claudia Uffman as they join St. Anne’s, Warsaw. Craig recently graduated with a Masters of Divinity from Duke University. He will begin his ministry on June 15th and serve the parish as the “Assistant to the Rector”.

Roman Catholic and Anglican Conversation

Please mark your calendars now for Wednesday, May 28th at 6:00 PM (EDT). Roman Catholics and Anglicans are invited to engage in an evening of worship and conversation. Both Bishop Little and Bishop D’Arcy of the Diocese of Fort-Wayne South Bend will be present as well as other prominent Anglican and Roman Catholic speakers. One such speaker is Mary Reath, a laywoman, author of “Rome and Canterbury”, and Chair of the American Friends of the Anglican Centre in Rome. The event has its root in the ecumenical service hosted by the Cathedral during the Week of Christian Unity this past January. It is hoped that this conversation will continue to kindle the special relationship between our dioceses and serve as an invitation to witness in

Christian unity. Please stay tuned for more details in the weeks ahead, including the location of this event.

Bishop/Diocesan Calendar for May 2008

May 1, 2008

7:00 PM (EDT) Ascension Day – joint service with Lutherans at Holy Trinity, South Bend

May 2, 2008

11:00 PM (EDT) Organ recital at Trinity, Fort Wayne

May 2-4, 2008

Clergy Spouse Retreat at Wawasee Center

May 4, 2008

Visitation to St. Paul’s, Mishawaka

May 5, 2008

Bishop attends Board Meeting at Howe Military School

May 8, 2008

Bishop attends Samaritan Center Awards Luncheon

May 11, 2008

Visitation to St. Andrew’s, Kokomo

May 13, 2008

12:00 PM (EDT) Interims’ Meeting

May 14-15, 2008

Bishop attends Board Meeting at Seabury-Western

May 16, 2008

11:00 AM (EST) Memorial Eucharist for the Rev. William Hibbert at the Cathedral

May 16, 2008

6:00 PM (CDT) Celebration of a New Ministry for the Rev. Anthony Clavier at St. Paul’s, LaPorte

May 17, 2008

10:00 AM (EDT) Commission on Ministry

May 17, 2008

11:00 am (EDT) Social Outreach Committee

May 18, 2008

Visitation to Trinity, Fort Wayne

May 19-21

Spring Clergy Conference at Lindenwood

May 24, 2008

Bishop attends Commencement at Howe Military School

May 25, 2008

Visitation to St. Thomas’, Plymouth

May 26, 2008

Office Closed – Memorial Day

May 27, 2008

12:00 PM (EDT) Standing Committee

May 28, 2008

12:05 PM (EDT) Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral

May 28, 2008

6:00 PM (EDT) Roman Catholic/Anglican Conversation

May 30-31, 2008

Congregational Development Training at Lindenwood

Around Our Diocese is published monthly. Send stories and/or articles by the 10th of each month to: Jon Adamson, 117 N. Lafayette Blvd., South Bend, IN 46601 or fax 574-287-7914 or e-mail to: info@ednin.org The editor reserves the right to edit all articles.