



# Around Our Diocese

Issue #93

The Diocese of Northern Indiana

July, 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

I learned two words as our diocesan summer camp last week. Neither, I suspect, appear in the Oxford English Dictionary; but both are spiritually rich. The overall theme of camp was “Adam and Eve’s Excellent Adventure,” and during the course of seven days campers met a variety of biblical characters: Abraham, Sarah, Naomi, Ruth, Peter, Paul, Mary Magdalene, and John the Baptist, among others. Over the course of those days, two words recurred and impinged themselves into my consciousness.

The first word is “doofus”. An online dictionary supplies two sets of meanings: a person with poor judgment and taste; or someone who’s dumb and clueless. The word jumped out at me during a discussion about St. Peter with fifth and sixth graders. One of the young people, referring to Peter’s story prior to the resurrection, said: “Peter was a doofus.” That captures it exactly. During the three years of Jesus’ active ministry, Peter regularly got it wrong. When Peter, James, and John saw Jesus glowing on the Mount of Transfiguration, it was Peter who spoke up first (and inappropriately): “Master, it is well that we are here; let us make three booths, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah” (Mark 9:5). Later, when Jesus warns the disciples that everyone will leave after he’s arrested, Peter proclaims: “Even though they all fall away, I will not” (Mark 14:29). Just hours later, Peter denied Jesus three times. Over and over, Peter gets it wrong. He’s a doofus, opening his mouth and inserting his foot.

The topic at camp that day was: “God calls imperfect people”; in other words, doofuses. In fact, it’s those very imperfect people whom God uses most powerfully. Peter went on to become the leader of the Christian movement. He preached the first evangelistic sermon on the day of Pentecost, baptized the first Gentile convert, and ultimately died a martyr’s death in Rome. Peter the Doofus became Peter the Rock. What an encouragement to us! Jesus calls people like you and me – ordinary, garden-variety Christians, with strengths and weaknesses, fears and joys – as ambassadors of his Kingdom (2 Cor. 5:20).

The second word is “bodacious”. Another online resource defines it as remarkable, audacious,

courageous, or spirited. Over the course of my days at camp, I heard “bodacious” used with reference to God, Jesus, camp, and even the bishop (perhaps the greatest compliment I’ve ever received). It’s an expansive word, one that includes praise, awe, and respect. “Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching Jesus Christ . . . to the only wise God be glory for evermore through Jesus Christ!” (Romans 8:25, 27) – *that’s* what it means to call God bodacious. Over and over, day after day, campers encountered Jesus: in the beauty of nature, in one another, in worship, in moments of silence.

Our diocesan summer camp is profoundly Christ-centered, a ministry that changes the lives of campers, staff, and counselors alike. We introduce young people to the Lord Jesus Christ, in the context of a loving Christian community, and everyone – young and old – emerges with a deeper faith. I certainly did!

Tim and Kim Gray have been directing our diocesan summer camp since 2004. They are a joy to behold – filled with energy and enthusiasm, incredibly well organized, creative, flexible, positive, beloved by young people and staff. I can hardly find adjectives adequate to describe Tim and Kim and their joyful ministry to the children of our diocese. It’s *fun* to work with them! This year, for example, they played Adam and Eve during the daily skits, and they did so with humor and grace. Tim and Kim will be stepping out of their directors’ role for this coming year; they’re awaiting the birth of their third child (a summer camp in their own living room!), and are taking this special time to nurture their growing family. I’m deeply grateful for all they’ve done, for the lives they’ve touched and the leadership they’ve exercised, and look forward to working with them in the future. Meanwhile, Tamisyn Grantz has graciously agreed to serve as director for next year’s camp (mark your calendars – tentative dates are June 14-20, 2009). Thank you, Kim and Tim, for your loving ministry; and thank you, Tamisyn, for offering your gifts and talents at next year’s camp!

Yours in Christ,

**+Ed**

## Five Ordinations

We are excited to announce that there will be five ordinations to the priesthood taking place in June and July.

The Rev. Deacon Sean Maloney will be ordained on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM (EDT) at the Cathedral in South Bend. His first assignment as a priest will be at St. Bartholomew's in Corpus Christi, Texas.

The Rev. Deacon Michael Fulk will be ordained on Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM (EDT) at St. Alban's in Fort Wayne. He will continue to serve the congregation of Holy Family, Angola now as its Priest-in-Charge.

The Rev. Deacon Julie Johnson (née Handschumacher) will be ordained on Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at St. John's in Battle Creek, Tennessee. Her first assignment will be at this parish.

The Rev. Deacons Aaron and Rachael Evans will be ordained on Wednesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at St. James' in Alexandria, Louisiana. Rachael will be serving this parish and Aaron will be doing supply work in the diocese of Western Louisiana.

Please pray for these five persons in their new ministries.

## Staffing - Camp New Happenings

Camp New Happenings, a camp for children of prisoners, is in the process of recruiting staff, especially counselors. Applicants (male and female) must be college students with a desire to work with these campers. Currently, students attending Notre Dame have applied and been accepted. The salary is \$250.00 for the week. Staff will be in the category of "independent contractors" with no deduction from salary. Applications are on the camp link on the diocesan website. We are particularly in need of applicants who speak Spanish in addition to a certified lifeguard.

Camp dates are August 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, however staff will arrive by 9:30 AM on Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> for orientation and abuse training. Camp New Happenings will be held at Sharing Meadows in Rolling Prairie, IN.

Again refer to the "camp link" on the diocesan website. Questions may be directed to Charlotte Strowhorn at (219) 944-0620.

## Lambeth Conference

Please remember to pray for our Bishop and the Church during the Lambeth Conference, July 14<sup>th</sup> to August 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Doing Whatever It Takes

Two young parishioners at St. John of the Cross, Bristol recently asked to assist the parish's Altar Guild in its work. Their volunteer spirit is a good example of "a willingness to do whatever it takes!"



## Conference for Diocesan Leaders in 2009

Clergy and lay leaders in the diocese are invited to attend a Diocesan Leadership Conference on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at St. Anne's in Warsaw. The topics to be covered will be of interest to clergy, wardens, treasurers, and vestry members. Please mark your calendars now to attend this event. More information will be sent out in a mailer later this year.

## Bishop/Diocesan Calendar for July 2008

July 2, 2008

Ordination of the Rev. Deacons Aaron & Rachael Evans to the Priesthood, St. James, Alexandria, Louisiana

July 8, 2008

12:00 PM (EDT) Interims' Meeting

July 14-August 4, 2008

Bishop attends Lambeth Conference

July 20, 2008

4:00 PM (EDT) Slide-show presentation on English Cathedrals at Cathedral of St. James, South Bend.

*Around Our Diocese is published monthly. Send stories and/or articles by the 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@ednin.org) The editor reserves the right to edit all articles.*