



# Around Our Diocese

Issue #112

The Diocese of Northern Indiana

February 2010

*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

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Ash Wednesday liturgy invites us “to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word (BCP, p. 265). The final phrase took on special meaning for me the day before I wrote this letter.

One of our diocesan seminarians, Dustin Fecht, attends Duke Divinity School, and I’ve just spent a couple of days visiting him and meeting with faculty. Among other things, I sat in on a class entitled: “The Psalms: Praise and Protest, Prayer and Poetry”. The Rev. Dr. Jo Bailey Wells – dean of the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies at Duke, and an Old Testament scholar – gave the class an exercise. Each of us, in turn read a short phrase from one of the psalms. Mine was from Ps. 34: “I will glory in the Lord; let the humble hear and rejoice. Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord; let us exalt his Name together” (vv. 2-3). As I read those words aloud, it occurred to me that Christians have been “exalt[ing] his Name together” using the psalms for two thousands years, and Jews for centuries before that. Benedictine monks pray the entire Psalter every week. Our Book of Common Prayer appoints both a monthly and a seven-week cycle for praying the psalms. Many hymns are, in essence, re-phrased psalms. “A mighty fortress is our God,” for example, paraphrases Ps. 46. You can’t participate in Christian worship without encountering the psalms in one form or another.

Remember that Jesus himself prayed the psalms. The cry of desolation on the Cross – “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” – is a quotation from Ps. 22:1. The psalms were so planted in our Lord’s heart that in his darkest moment he instinctively prayed them.

This leads me to a word of encouragement as we prepare for our Lenten journey. Perhaps, this Lent,

you might read and meditate on God’s holy Word by praying the psalms. Many of you already do so, of course. If you read the Daily Office from the Prayer Book, the Psalter is already part of your spiritual vocabulary. If not, consider adding the psalms to your daily diet. The 30-day cycle begins on p. 585 of the Prayer Book; or you can use the shorter, seven-week cycle that can be found in the lectionary beginning on p. 951.

The psalms aren’t simply great literature (which they are). They are prayers, containing the full range of human emotion: praise, thanksgiving, fear, anger, guilt, joy. The same Psalter that praises God with the words, “Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous; it is good for the just to sing praises” (Ps. 33:1), also asks God piercing and painful questions: “O God, why have you utterly cast us off? Why is your wrath so hot against the sheep of your pasture?” (Ps. 74:1). The psalms point to our guilt: “Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight” (Ps. 51:4); they also remind us of God’s limitless love and forgiveness: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away” (Ps. 32:1). “As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us” (Ps. 103:12). God knows us and loves us better than we can know and love ourselves: “Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. . . . For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb” (Ps. 139:1, 12).

When we pray the psalms – when they get into our bones, so to speak, by slow and prayerful reading – they help us to pray as Jesus prayed. Indeed, in praying the psalms, Jesus prays in us. May your Lenten journey be filled with the presence of Jesus, as you prepare to walk the way of the Cross and welcome the Risen Lord.

Yours in Christ,

**+Ed**

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for Bishop Little

The Cathedral of St. James cordially invites you to attend a Eucharist and reception to honor Bishop Little on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of his consecration. The Eucharist will begin at 7:00 PM (EST) on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> with the reception to follow. RSVP by contacting the Cathedral office at [stjames@michiana.org](mailto:stjames@michiana.org) or (574) 232-4837. Please do come and share in this joyous event!

### Camp New Happenings Sunday

Bishop Little has designated Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> as Camp New Happenings Sunday in the diocese. This worthy camp, which serves the children of prisoners is entering its third year of ministry. Envelopes for donations will be provided to the parishes to distribute on that day. If you would like to learn how else you can join in this ministry, please contact Charlotte Strowhorn at [charlotte1033@sbcglobal.net](mailto:charlotte1033@sbcglobal.net) or (219) 944-0620.

### Episco-Prom

High school students are invited to a dance on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at St. Anne's, Warsaw at 8:00 PM (EST). To download the permission form and learn more about the event, please visit [www.ednin.org](http://www.ednin.org).

### Ordinations

The Rev. Deacon Michael Cover and the Rev. Deacon Craig Uffman, both serving currently as transitional deacons in our diocese, will be ordained to the priesthood this month. Please keep these men in your prayers in the days leading up to their ordinations.

### Pancake Supper

Several parishes in our diocese carry on the tradition of hosting Pancake Suppers on Shrove Tuesday. The word "shrove" is the past tense of the word "shrive"—to obtain absolution from sin through confession, a fitting activity for the season of Lent which begins the next day on Ash Wednesday.

The parish of St. John of the Cross, Bristol is offering an open invitation to its Pancake Supper on February 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 PM (EST). So, if your parish doesn't have such an event or if you simply want to enjoy fellowship with your brothers and sisters in the diocese, please come.

## Bishop & Diocesan Calendar for February 2010

### February 3, 2010

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

### February 5-6, 2010

Church Development Institute

### February 7, 2010

Visitation to the Cathedral of St. James

### February 9, 2010

10:00 AM (EST) Fresh Start

### February 10-12, 2010

Bishop traveling for the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations

### February 12, 2010

8:00 PM (EST) Episco-Prom at St. Anne's, Warsaw

### February 13, 2010

10:00 AM (EST) Diocesan Council

### February 13, 2010

Ordination of the Rev. Deacon Michael Cover to the Priesthood at St. Anne's, DeSoto, TX

### February 14, 2010

Visitation to St. Augustine's, Gary

### February 15, 2010

Howe Military School Board of Trustees

### February 17, 2010

7:00 PM (EST) Ash Wednesday at the Cathedral

### February 20, 2010

10:00 AM (EST) Social Outreach Committee

### February 21, 2010

Visitation to St. Michael & All Angels, South Bend

### February 21, 2010

2:30 PM (EST) St. Margaret's House Winter Walk

### February 26, 2010

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

### February 26-28, 2010

Colloquy Weekend of the Northern Indiana School of Theology

### February 28, 2010

Visitation to Trinity, Logansport

### February 28, 2010

7:00 PM (EST) Ordination of the Rev. Deacon Craig Uffman to the Priesthood at St. Anne's, Warsaw

*Around Our Diocese is published monthly. Please send stories, articles, and images by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to:*

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*The editor reserves the right to edit all articles. Please visit [www.ednin.org](http://www.ednin.org) for regular updates and more news from around our diocese.*