



# Around Our Diocese

Issue #114

The Diocese of Northern Indiana

April 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,

It was ten years ago this month – March 18, 2000 – that 18 bishops laid their hands on me and ordained me a bishop in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. What I remember most from the moment of ordination was the sheer weight of their hands. I hadn't prepared myself for the enormous pressure that would descend upon my head, and as they prayed the ordination prayer ("Therefore, Father, make Edward a bishop in your Church. Pour out upon him the power of your princely Spirit, whom you bestowed upon your beloved Son Jesus Christ, with whom he endowed the apostles, and by whom your Church is built up in every place, to the glory and unceasing praise of your Name"), my primary concern was not collapsing under the weight. We managed to avoid, but only barely, the spectacle of the new bishop melting into the floor, like the Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*, with only an alb left behind.

In the intervening decade, I've found that the weight of office (now I'm speaking figuratively rather than literally) to be less burdensome than I had imagined – for two reasons. The first is God's grace. "To serve [Jesus] is perfect freedom" (BCP, p. 99). Answering Christ's call to follow him in the Diocese of Northern Indiana has brought joy beyond words. I will always be profoundly grateful for the ways that I meet Jesus here: as we celebrate the Eucharist together, ponder the challenge of evangelism and growth, and seek to discern what mission looks like in the northern third of the state of Indiana. The second is *you*. Every Sunday I have the opportunity to look into the faces of brothers and sisters and, in them, see the face of Jesus himself. The New Testament phrase "body of Christ" is no mere metaphor. It is a living reality. Jesus and the church are bound together, inextricably. Jesus binds himself to you. We meet Jesus in one another. One of the gifts I experience as

a bishop is the privilege of encountering that biblical truth over and over and over – in you.

My profound gratitude extends in a special way to those who planned and executed the wonderful tenth anniversary celebration on March 5: Bishop Frank Gray, my predecessor and beloved friend and colleague; Fr. Brian Grantz, who preached a sermon of amazing depth and humor; Charlotte Strowhorn, who chaired the transition committee that planned my consecration ten years ago, and coordinated the wonderful reception in the transfigured cathedral undercroft a decade later; Tracy Rose of St. James' Cathedral who, in the words of my staff, did much of the "heavy lifting" in the planning; and, of course, my staff – Canon SuzeAnne Silla, Sharon Katona, and Jon Adamson, three people without whom my ministry would indeed melt into the floor. The event on March 5 was a blessing to Sylvia as well as to me, and gave us both the opportunity to express our gratitude – to God and to you – for the Diocese of Northern Indiana. My deepest thanks go to all of you, the planners and the attendees; to the countless people who sent congratulatory cards and e-mails; and to a diocese that is home and family, the community where Sylvia and I walk the adventure of discipleship.

As Fr. Brian noted in his sermon, the tenth anniversary celebration represented neither the beginning nor the end of my episcopal ministry in Northern Indiana, but rather a milestone, an important marker in our journey together. (Those present will remember that he said it much more colorfully than I dare attempt to summarize.) That's true indeed. Even now, after ten years, we are only beginning to discover what it means to have a passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, a heart for the lost, a willingness to do whatever it takes, and a commitment to one another. Jesus continues to open his heart to us, and to surprise us in countless ways. "What we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when [Jesus] is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is" (1 John 3:2).

St. John is talking here about seeing Jesus in heaven; but he's pointing as well to our transformation now, as we come to see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly, day by day (paraphrasing St. Richard of Chichester).

Meanwhile, we prepare to journey with Jesus to Jerusalem (this letter is written on the fifth Sunday in Lent, a week before Palm Sunday). I praise God that I take this journey with you. May our celebration of our Lord's Passion and Resurrection, the events that rescued us from sin and death and created a new humanity in Christ, draw us into the heart of Jesus, and into the mission he has in store for us.

Yours in Christ,

**+Ed**

### Summer Camps

Materials are now available on the diocesan website, [www.ednin.org](http://www.ednin.org), for both summer camps. This year's camp for children in grades 3 to 9 is entitled "Water World" and the camp for youth in grades 10 to 12 is entitled "The Good Samaritan".

### A Workshop: Congregations Feeding Indiana

The Indiana Partners for Christian Unity & Mission are holding a workshop entitled "Congregations Feeding Indiana: People, Pantries, and Participation" on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM (EDT) at the Shpshewana Town Center. The cost is \$25. A variety of topics will be covered including community gardens and new models for feeding programs. For more information, please visit [www.ipcum.org](http://www.ipcum.org).

### Sylvia's Reflections on Ten Years

My dear friends!!! The party on March 5 was just amazing! You folks are WONDERFUL! I was so struck by contrasts that evening... ten years ago everything and everyone was totally new to me. I had just arrived a couple days prior to Ed's Consecration, having just sold the house, seen our stuff packed and loaded onto the moving van, said good-bye to my job, neighbors, parishioners, and boarded a plane for South Bend... We hadn't even looked at houses here... Then friends from the churches where Ed had served began to arrive, along with our families and other friends from several decades arrived for the big day at the Basilica... Folks from this diocese, including Ed's staff, were new to me... It was all a whirl.... I didn't KNOW you as I do now!!! For the past 10 years our relationships have grown and developed, as they will continue to do... even Northern Indiana has

grown on me: this Californian can hardly imagine a life without frigid winters, lovely white snow, spring plants poking up their little leaves through the warming ground, fireflies, colorful falling leaves in Autumn....

So at the wonderful party to mark this 10 year anniversary, I was especially struck by how different my life is now. You are no longer friendly strangers to me but wonderful friends, and together we are Christ's family to one another! Yes, of course I have my own family with whom I've shared my entire life; but that has expanded to include you as well. The warmth and depth of knowing you and sharing our lives with one another is a very special and touching part of my life now. I feel so BLESSED! Beyond the wonderful party and thoughtful gifts, I especially thank you for opening up your hearts and making room for both Ed and me!!!

Yours in Christ,

**Sylvia**

### Bishop & Diocesan Calendar for April 2010

April 2 – 5, 2010

Office Closed

April 4, 2010 – Easter Day

Visitation to Trinity, Michigan City

April 7, 2010

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

April 11, 2010

Visitation to Christ the King, Santa Barbara, CA  
(Delegated Episcopal Oversight)

April 13, 2010

12:00 PM (EDT) Ministry Models Committee

April 17, 2010

Bishop serves at the Consecration of the Bishop of Connecticut

April 20, 2010

10:30 PM (EDT) Fresh Start at St. Francis, Chesterton

April 23, 2010

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

April 24, 2010

10:00 AM (EDT) Diocesan Council

April 25, 2010

Visitation to Gethsemane, Marion

April 27, 2010

12:00 PM (EDT) Standing Committee

*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.*