



Around Our Diocese

Issue #119

The Diocese of Northern Indiana

September 2011

*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,

This month I asked the Rev. Daniel Layden, rector of St. Alban's, Fort Wayne, to share about his experience in Haiti as a part of the relief effort following the devastating earthquake earlier this year.

While I am on the subject of mission, I am pleased to announce that Camp New Happenings, our camp for the children of prisoners, was named a Jubilee Ministry by the Episcopal Church, the second such ministry in our diocese.

Yours in Christ,

+Ed

My Trip to Haiti

On Sunday May 16th 2010, I learned a lesson I will never forget. There I stood in the ruins of Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral on the Sunday after the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord. I walked with a few others from our mission team through the rubble. We found what appeared to be the sacristy. On the ground we saw the diocesan shield for the Diocese of Haiti. Then something amazing happened. Coming from behind the rubble of the building we could hear music and a priest boldly proclaiming the gospel. We heard a great multitude praising God. My soul has seldom been touched so deeply. Their faith reminded me of a saying from a wise priest, "The Church is what you have left after the building is gone." I always thought this to be true, but I never thought I would experience such profound faith.

Shortly after the devastating earthquake in Haiti on January 12th 2010, the executive pastor of the Associated Churches of Fort Wayne called me up and asked me to help lead a mission team to Haiti. My hand shook as Roger Reece talked, but something deep within me decided to say yes. I was glad I did.

It was clear to me that God was guiding this journey from the beginning. I was fortunate to be the coordinator and chaplain of a group of twenty-two people, mostly medically trained, from all different churches in the Fort Wayne area. We went to Haiti from May 11th through the 20th. The focus of the mission trip was medical relief. In six days of clinics we saw and treated over 700 people. Most of these people had never or rarely seen a doctor. Many were dealing with complications from the earthquake as a result of living in a disaster area for the last four months. It was amazing to watch trained people set up clinic in tough situations and help so many. Further, it was incredible to be a part of such a diverse group of Christians who all had servant hearts. I certainly reflected deeply on when Jesus prayed that we be one as He and the Father are one. Through the Associated Churches of Fort Wayne we hope to continue to develop this mission ministry. In fact the Associated Churches of Fort Wayne is in process of developing a sister relationship with a group of churches in Haiti called "Mission Sociale Des Eglises Haitiennes" or "Misseh" for short. Like the Associated Churches of Fort Wayne, "Misseh" connects many different Christian denominations and networks through collaborative ministries.

The most amazing aspect of this mission trip experience was encountering the Haitian people. The Episcopal Diocese of Haiti is one of the largest in the Episcopal Church, and it is easy to see why. They have an unshakeable faith and courage that is a tremendous witness of God's love to all. Their road ahead is not easy. The story of this earthquake has fallen from the front pages. However, our support of our brothers and sisters in Haiti should never falter. I pray it does not.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dan Layden

P.S. Images of the trip can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucP8NdrdcUg>

Cursillo News

After careful deliberation, Bishop Little and the Secretariat have determined it would be best to give Cursillo a two year rest. We have been struggling so hard to keep the movement afloat and have had great difficulty doing so. We are not giving up on Cursillo – we want to try to re-group so we can make NICCO the best ever. At the end of two years we will re-convene and determine if it is viable to start again. We also feel it would be in our best interest to invite experienced Cursillistas from other dioceses to help us to get a new perspective on the best way to proceed.

It is with a heavy heart that Julie and I give you this news. I think I can speak for both of us when I say that Cursillo has changed our lives for the better and I think it is still a valuable tool for aiding your walk with Christ.

Yours In Christ,
Julie Chandler, Lay Director
Mary Corey, Out-going Lay Director

Elkhart County Book Study

St. John of the Cross, Bristol has invited the other Elkhart County parishes to join them in a book study beginning on Thursday, September 9th at 6:30 PM EDT. The Rev. Corinne Hodges will lead the study on Philip Yancey's "What's So Amazing About Grace?" Please contact the parish directly for more details.

Canoe & Kayak Trip

St. Michael & All Angels, South Bend will host a canon and kayak trip on Sunday, September 19th. The group will meet at the parish for lunch at 11:00 AM EDT and depart for Dowagiac at 11:45. There will be canoes, one-person and two-person kayaks available. The cost is \$15 per person (children under 12 free if accompanied by two adults in a canoe).

Walking for Peace – September 11th

Most of us will always remember where we were on September 11, 2001 when we heard the news of the attack on the World Trade Center. For most Americans, we have lived in a time when our nation was at war in one form or another. Will we ever have peace?

Trinity, Fort Wayne will sponsor a labyrinth walk on Saturday, September 11th at 6:00 PM EDT to remember the victims of 9/11 and to discover a path for peace in our lives as individuals. Please contact Nancy McCammon-Hansen at nmccammonhansen@frontier.com for more details.

Episcopal Relief & Development: Flooding in Pakistan

In response to the devastating floods in Pakistan, Episcopal Relief & Development is in touch with the Diocese of Peshawar of the Church of Pakistan. Funds have been made available by that diocese for assistance to 1,340 families in affected areas where the church has a presence and can deliver assistance. Please keep the people of Pakistan in your prayers and encourage others to do likewise. There is no plan to do additional fundraising specific to this disaster, but contributions are always welcome to the General Disaster Fund.

Bishop & Diocesan Calendar for September 2010

September 3
12:05 PM (EDT) Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral

September 5
Visitation to Good Shepherd, East Chicago

September 6
Office closed

September 9
6:30 pm (EDT) Elkhart Parishes Book Study

September 10-12
Postulants & Candidates Retreat

September 11
Labyrinth Walk at Trinity, Fort Wayne

September 15-22
House of Bishops

September 19
St. Michael's, South Bend Canoe & Kayak Trip

September 24
12:05 PM (EDT) Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral

September 25
10:00 am (EDT) Diocesan Council

September 26
Visitation to St. Alban's, Fort Wayne

September 28, 2010
12:00 PM (EDT) Standing Committee

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

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The editor reserves the right to edit all articles. Please visit www.ednin.org for regular updates and more news from around our diocese.