Minutes of the 104th Convention

of

The Diocese of Northern Indiana

The 104th annual convention of the Diocese of Northern Indiana began on Friday evening, October 25th, 2002 , in the Cathedral Church of St James, South Bend , with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at which the Right Rev'd Edward Stuart Little II, Seventh Bishop of the Diocese was the celebrant.

The highlight of the service was the seating as an honorary canon the Rev'd Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C., president-emeritus of the University of Notre Dame. Canon Hesburgh is a long-time friend of the Diocese of Northern Indiana and responsible for this Diocese having the privilege of consecrating its last three bishops in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the Notre Dame campus.

In Canon Hesburgh's heart-felt sermon he said that his day begins and ends with a simple three-word prayer, "Come, Holy Spirit." These three simple words have sustained and informed his world-wide ministry for the past 60 years.

The cathedral organ is inoperable at present. Nevertheless, the service was alive with music. The Rev'd Henry Randolph, rector of St David's, Elkhart , wrote a hymn commemorating Canon Hesburgh's institution. In a surprise postlude the orchestra broke into the Notre Dame Victory March, which brought a smile to Canon Hesburgh's face and delighted the departing worshippers.

The Bishop called the meeting to order on Saturday, October 26th, at 9:03 am with an opening prayer. The Rev'd Canon Rex Perry was welcomed by Bishop Little as the Convention Chaplain. Canon Perry, a long-time friend of Canon Seger, attended the Clear Vision conference which was a life-changing experience for him.

Canon Perry led the Convention in prayer and then began his meditation based in Luke 4:16-21. He began by reminding the convention that there is nothing worse than a sour Christian. They have a few in Louisiana bogged down in swamps. Canon Perry said it is hard to tell difference between an alligator and a vestry member after a 2-hour meeting, but at least the alligator is satisfied after eating someone's hide.

Ultimately, said Canon Perry, only Jesus can change world; our job is to become bridge builders. It is

the only thing that works and God knows we have tried everything else in the Episcopal Church. Only Jesus satisfies deep-seated needs, placed in our souls by God (or as Augustine of Hippo said: our souls are restless until they rest in God).

Perry said our sole function at this convention is to feed souls to be bridge builders. Bishop Jenkins, Bishop of Louisiana (and Rally Day keynoter), told a young priest that the Diocese of Louisiana was an issue-oriented Diocese. We are passionate about one issue, and the one issue is Jesus Christ.

Canon Perry told us that Northern Indiana should be proud that we have same number one issue. People distracted by the cares of the world are impressed by presence of God wherever He is found, even Northern Indiana and Louisiana . That is how God is: he is found where faithfulness and perseverance are found.

He concluded: Your work today is a divine endeavor. You are here to enable Northern Indiana to enter a deeper commitment to mission. Northern Indiana must claim the grace coming to us today through Holy Spirit. Even this hotel is holy ground today. You are not here to represent your constituency back home: you are here to represent Jesus Christ. Every vote, every voice, is to stand for Jesus Christ. Your task today, as Jesus Christ proclaimed in the synagogue, with the Holy Spirit upon us, is to proclaim this year as the acceptable year of Lord. Then you must listen carefully to see if the Lord is saying to you, "Today this Scripture was actually fulfilled in your hearing".

Bishop Little then called on Deacon Gloria Taylor, head of Credentials Committee, to report. Of 52 eligible clergy, 47 were present; of 98 eligible lay persons, 96 were present. A quorum was declared to be present.

Bishop Little called on diocesan youth worker, Jason Beschinski to introduce the pages for this meeting of the Convention. Bishop Little thanked him and the pages for their presence and help.

Bishop Little referred convention to the minutes of 103rd meeting and called for their approval. This was received.

The Bishop then referred to the rules for parliamentary procedure and called for their approval, which was done.

The Bishop then moved to appoint The Rev'd Canon John Schramm as appointed secretary of convention and Ms Sharon Katona as treasurer.

Bishop Little announced the new appointments to Diocesan Council:

The Rev'd Bennett G. Jones II and Mr Henry Nyenhuis, Calumet Deanery.

The Rev'd Tina Velthuisen and Ms Sharon Fiorella-Teves, South Bend Deanery.

The Rev'd Margaret Harker and Fred Heasley, Fort Wayne Deanery.

Bishop Little then introduced the persons at the high table: The Rev'd Carolyn G. Jones, who will serve as secretary *pro tem*, in the absence of John Schramm, who is studying Spanish in Guatemala; Mr Joseph Weaver from Gethsemane, Marion, who will serve as the Parliamentarian for this meeting; The Rev'd Canon David L. Seger, the Canon to the Ordinary; and Ms. Sharon Katona, Treasurer of the Diocese. At the side platform were Ms. Penny Bergeson, Assistant to the Bishop; Canon Rex Perry, Convention Chaplain and Jason Beschinski, Youth Minister of the Diocese.

Bishop Little then introduced the people in process toward ordination, at the postulant/candidate level. The Bishop noted that the Diocese has four students at Seabury-Western Seminary, including: Rebecca Crist, St. Andrew's, Valparaiso; David Heady, St. Christopher's, Crown Point (who was not present); Jane Schmoetzer, St. Paul's, Munster; and Jeff Wilhelm, St. John of the Cross, Bristol.

Two other people are in the local prep track: George Douglass, Chaplain at St. Mark's Howe, a candidate for the deaconate, who will be ordained in December; and Margie Shaw, a postulant for the diaconate from St. Thomas', Plymouth.

Bishop Little then introduced clergy who were either new to diocese or have changed status since the last meeting of the convention: The Rev'd Spencer Thiel, Priest-in-Charge of St. Christopher's, Crown Point, who is from the Diocese of Chicago; The Rev'd Lloyd Johnson, St. Albans, Fort Wayne, who transferred from the Diocese of Springfield; The Rev'd Betty Frolick, Trinity, Fort Wayne, from the Diocese of Michigan; The Rev'd Ted Neidlinger, ordained a priest in Feb 2002, and assisting at St. Andrew's, Kokomo; The Rev'd James Jones, Priest-in-Charge, St Paul's, Laporte, who came from the Diocese of Albany; The Rev'd Carolyn G. Jones and The Rev'd Bennett G. Jones II, Carolyn having become canonically resident in the Diocese and Ben having become the Rector of St. Paul's, Munster; and The Rev'd Richard Miller, ordained a priest in April 2002.

Bishop Little informed the convention that several clergy were entitled to seat and voice, but no vote:

The Rev'd Samuel Nsengiyumva, Holy Family, Angola ; The Rev'd Judith Culpepper, St Paul 's, Gas City ; The Rev'd James Jones, St Paul 's, LaPorte; The Rev'd Betty Frolick, Trinity, Fort Wayne ; and The Rev'd Spencer Thiel, St Christopher's, Crown Point .

The Bishop called for elections. The nominees were reviewed by position.

For Standing Committee, in the clerical order: The Rev'd Brian Grantz, St. Anne's, Warsaw; The Rev'd Rebecca F. Nickel, Trinity, Fort Wayne.

Bishop Little explained that the Rules required that the call for nominations from the floor be made three consecutive times for each position. The Rev'd Richard A. Kallenberg then presented a motion to

suspend the rules requiring that the call for nominations be repeated three times. After a brief discussion, the motion was adopted with opposition.

The nominee for Standing Committee, in the lay order: Jon Badur, St Michael's, South Bend . The Bishop called for nominations from the floor; there being no other nominations, the Bishop declared Mr. Bader elected.

Nominees for Provincial Synod: in the clerical order: The Rev'd David K. Ottsen, St. Paul 's, Mishawaka . The Bishop explained that the diocese would need an alternate; consequently, if there were another nomination, everyone would win. If there were no additional nominations, the Bishop would appoint the alternate. Having called for additional nomination, there were none and David Ottsen was declared elected.

The Bishop indicated that the clerical nominee for Ecclesiastical Trial Court was The Rev'd Henry G. Randolph, Jr., St. David's, Elkhart . After calling for additional nominations, there being none, the Bishop declared Randolph elected.

Consequently, the only election was would be in the clerical order for Standing Committee. Ballots were marked and collected by the tellers.

The Bishop reviewed the election process and announced he will appoint a committee to study it, with a mind to simplify, to streamline the process. Bishop Little noted that elections involving General Convention delegates have been long and involved.

Bishop Little stated that last year convention changed the canons regarding election of chapter and foundation members. Now those bodies select people to serve on their boards and bring those names to convention for ratification. The nominees for the Foundation were: The Rev'd Lloyd Johnson, St. Alban's and Ms Deborah Ottsen, Mishawaka, for 3 year terms; and The Rev'd Jack Meyer, St Christopher's, Crown Point, and Ms Charlotte Strowhorn, St. Augustine's, Gary, for unexpired 2 year terms.

Nominees for the Cathedral Chapter were: The Rev'd Eugene E. Kohlbecker, Trinity Michigan City, and Fred Heasley, Christ the King, Huntington.

Bishop Little then asked for a motion to ratify these nominations. This was forthcoming.

Bishop Little now gave his convention address, calling for a short recess afterwards. The meeting reconvened shortly thereafter.

Bishop called on Ms Arlyne Black as head of the Companion Diocese Committee, Compañeros en Cristo. Ms. Black reported the committee had been busy during past year. The current project is to build a church in the village of La Montañita , in the Santa Barbara province. [St. Paul 's Church,

Munster is selling nuts at convention, the proceeds of which will benefit the Diocese of Honduras] Then she introduced The Rev'd Eduardo Monzon, diocesan canon from Honduras , who will be in the diocese for 3 weeks.

Eduardo Monzon greeted the convention and noted that in other dioceses, people come to convention to fight; consequently, it is so good to be someplace where everyone has their focus on Jesus Christ.

He stated that the church in Honduras wants to grow. He is part of the South American Missionary Society, and he is in the US to encourage people to join in their ministry.

Church growth should be a natural thing but the tendency is to forget about it. The resulting problem is we get used to everything as it is: the same people coming to church; the family we have; the people who do not come to church. We need to change our mindset from parochial to missionary. The church has to grow: growth is natural, a blessing, a challenge. We must first make up our minds to grow, then we can change the congregation's mind. Leaders have to believe they can grow; they must change their mentality from protecting to enabling**.** Leaders must enable their congregations: every activity of the congregation should be open so people can invite others. *Everything* is missionary activity of church. Canon Monzon told story of St. Patrick's in Honduras , which is seeing the blessing of growth; if lives are changed, people will share with others.

Growth contains three elements. First: invite. Second: to want people to feel at home Third: to train members. They must know who they are, that there is a difference in believing in Jesus Christ.

Leaders should remember the theology of the funnel. The church is like a funnel: start dropping everything in funnel—dreams, ideas, money. Out the other side, you get the priest, carrying on her back everything of everyone else. Instead, turn the funnel around. The priest is at top of neck, trained by God to train others; then the wide bottom of funnel is the people of the church.

After thanking Canon Monzon for his remarks, Bishop Little recounted first meeting him in 1980 and renewing that acquaintance in Honduras in 2001.

Bishop Little said the teller reported that they had results of the election and that The Rev'd Brian Grantz was elected to The Standing Committee.

Regarding resolutions, Bishop Little indicated that there were no pre-filed resolutions to come before convention. Resolutions from the floor could be considered if a copy were given to the Secretary of Convention and the said resolution received an affirmative vote from 67% of convention for consideration.

No such resolutions were brought forward.

A point of personal privilege was called by The Very Rev'd Frederick Mann who reported "Notre

Dame, 7; Florida State University , 0. This was greeted resoundedly with applause.

Bishop Little reported that it is tradition to include ecumenical representatives at previous conventions. ECUSA is blessed by its participation in Call to Common Mission and the Bishop asked The Rev'd Tina Velthuisen to introduce this year's ecumenical representative.

Tina Velthuizen reminded convention that ecumenical work was related to one issue: presenting Jesus Christ. One way not to present Christ is to be in conflict with other Christians. She then introduced The Rev'd Rudy Mueller, originally from the South Bend area, and now on the staff of Bishop Stuck in Indianapolis.

Rudy Mueller indicated that ELCA in Indiana and Kentucky consists of 200+ strong congregations. Its vision is that every person is a missionary; every church, a mission center; and every pastor, a mission director. He cited two examples of such work in ELCA in Indiana and Kentucky : campus ministry and a joint ELCA/ECUSA congregation in Louisville . In addition, they are working on a church plant in a town in Kentucky : this plant will be an ECUSA congregation; then ECUSA will help ELCA with later Lutheran church plant.

After thanking him for his remarks, the Bishop referred to the joint Anglican/Lutheran work in our Diocese, in particular in Valparaiso where St. Andrew's and a local Lutheran congregation jointly hired a youth pastor.

The Bishop invited Charlotte Strowhorn to come forward for the Episcopal Church Women's presentation. Strowhorn was joined by Ms Linda Beitleman, Trinity, Logansport; Ms Gwen Black St. Paul's, Gas City; Ms Mary Pyles, St. James' Cathedral, South Bend **,** and the Rev'd Dcn Mary Ruth Finster, St. Andrew's, Kokomo.

Charlotte Strowhorn spoke of our need for thankfulness for all God has given us, which, was the perfect lead-in to discussing the UTO. The Diocese of Northern Indiana has been the recipient of numerous UTO grants; this year, St. Margaret's House is the recipient of $40,000. One requirement is that the presentation of the grant must be in a public place so Gwen Black made presentation.

Strowhorn spoke of ERD and the fact that there was a vacancy in the position of diocesan coordinator. Bishop Little appointed Linda Beitleman as diocesan coordinator. She spoke of her excitement in accepting this responsibility, invited everyone to look at the display in the lobby and called on each parish to appoint a representative. She reminded the Convention that ERD boxes were on each table and encouraged everyone to please fill them today.

Charlotte Strowhorn asked for prayers for Linda in her new ministry and for Diocesan and National ECW. She reminded Convention that the ECW also supports the Bishop's Discretionary Fund and presented Bishop Little with $1762 for his discretionary fund this past year.

Bishop Little expressed his thanks and said that this money allows him to stretch the work of the Diocese further.

Bishop Little called on The Rev'd David K. Ottsen to report on Rally Day.

He began by referring to 2 Corinthians: "it is not ourselves whom we proclaim but Jesus Christ as Lord, for the same God who called us out of darkness said let light shine". He thanked everyone who served on rally committee and those who participated. There were 700+ attendees, a large majority of whom rated the time together at 8+. This first rally is a stepping-stone: the work continues to bring Jesus Christ into world around us, a hurting world. He hopes all such rallies will be energizing moment for everyone, moments of proclaiming Jesus Christ and taking his light into world;

Bishop Little spoke of the rally as a wonderful experience; he enjoyed working with the committee. David Ottsen did great job keeping everyone on track and injecting humor.

The Bishop called on Ms. Sharon Katona for the Treasurers' report. Sharon Katona introduced the budget and asked for questions. There being none, she said she loved everyone.

The Bishop announced agenda adjustments, calling on Jason Beschinski, part-time Diocesan Youth Missioner, who also serves part-time for the Cathedral.

Beschinski reported that there are two parts to what is being done on Diocesan level. Youth this year went to EYE in Wyoming and did summer camp. Camp, he reported, was one thing the Diocese does well. Camp in 2003 will be 23-29 June. He also reported that the Diocese participated in the Province V trip to Great America which involved 900 Episcopalians. Happening will be coming in February; New Beginnings in early April; and a Holy Spirit retreat over Christmas with Fran Mckendree. He encourages youth ministry at the parish level, especially in small parishes where youth ministry can be more challenging. The Diocesan Youth Minister here to help everyone in the Diocese.

Bishop Little reported that this meeting of Convention is ahead of schedule and therefore we will do noonday prayer ahead of time. During Noonday Prayers, we will commission those persons elected to office today: General Convention deputies; the Standing Committee; Representatives to the Ecclesiastical Court , Provincial Synod, Cathedral Chapter and the Diocesan Foundation.

Noonday prayers proceeded, followed by the luncheon recess.

The 104th convention reconvened at 1:05 PM . The Bishop called on Canon Perry for the afternoon reflection. He began by asking for convention's support: Henry Randolph had just told him the Auburn/ Louisiana State University score.

Perry began his meditation by setting a scene: people in a room listening to speaker. Jesus walked to a raised desk in the synagogue. He was lean and gaunt from a 40 day fast. His Sabbath appearance was

long awaited – the local boy coming home. He picked up the heavy scroll, found his text and spoke without further review : "the Spirit of the Lord is upon me … ". The rabbis were confused, especially since it was not the passage for the day. Jesus read, handed back scroll, sat, and said "Today, this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing"

This was Jesus' inaugural sermon and it teaches us much today about this Diocese that is called to and yearning for new life in the Lord's mission. Here Jesus Christ is stating his mission as Messiah, very "matter of factly": he came to bring good news, to bring broken families together, to free slaves, to untie people's hands, to release wings, to proclaim the acceptable year. This is not jubilee (which occurs every 50 years), Jesus came to bring worldwide jubilee, every day, forever, bringing deliverance, laughter, release, joy to everyone.

To often, we disciples of Jesus Christ, plan and program as if the mission was to give us a "comfy" club. We build cozy classrooms to debate things which do not matter to unchurched. The Diocese of Northern Indiana was not founded to be country club but to be people who help fulfill the mission to bring the good news all over the place -- to get downright sloppy about it. The mission of the church is always outward focus. The leadership of the Diocese is not/should not be here to fulfill our needs or massage our egos. The leadership – all of us – will be constantly challenged not to meet our needs but to be sent out, to meet our neighbor's needs. We exist, not for the benefit of Christians but for those who are not yet Christians, who do not know strength of a loving community in Christ.

We do not always know the strength of what Jesus Christ read in synagogue. Why Isaiah 61? Jesus' priority is people: of all ways to announce his mission, he chose a passage about releasing people, freeing prisoners, meeting people's needs.

We should put ourselves in that synagogue: what do we read from passage? What is our mission for life? Have we found it? Have we found something worth giving our life to? We should prayerfully consider three questions:

1. What are we doing that will last forever? What really matters? What are we doing for eternity, so as to stand before God and say "this was for you"?

2. What is God calling us to do? God has a clear, meaningful mission for everyone here, every parish of the diocese. We must give careful thought to our own mission, come up with our own mission statement. If we aim at nothing, we will always hit it.

3. What are we waiting for? Do not wait another day, another moment to say "Yes Lord, your servant is listening, and will follow and obey." Won't we do that for Jesus Christ sake?

Bishop Little thanked Perry for his encouragement unconditionally to say yes to Jesus Christ. The

Bishop then spoke briefly about St. Margaret's House and welcomed Ms Kathy Schneider, Executive Director, to further discuss that ministry.

Kathy Schneider thanked the Convention for its support and work over the years. She said she began at St. Margaret's House 11 years ago, serving 75 women; today they are serving over 900 families. They are building a stair tower to improve egress/access to the building and addressing code issues. To date, they have raised $500,000 to date for phase one and broke ground this week. However, they still need to raise $430,000 to increase the number of rooms.

St. Margaret's House is important to the women and children of this area. Kathy told stories of women who found their needs met at St. Margaret's House, whose lives were turned around and are now gainfully employed. She was grateful for the Convention's belief and support in St. Margaret's House.

Bishop Little stated that St. Margaret's House is an incredible reminder that God uses St. Margaret's House to speak to us. The Bishop then called on National Cathedral representative Mr Wyatt Mick for his report.

Wyatt Mick reminded the Convention that the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul represents all of us: it is an ecumenical center, serves the poor of Washington and it serves the world. He urged Convention to support its National Cathedral. Diocesan day for this year will be 10 November 2002; however, a key date will be in June 2004 when Great State of Indiana Day will be celebrated. He hopes the Diocese of Northern Indiana will be able to match the Diocese of Indianapolis who, in 2000, sent 500 people to celebrate State of Indiana Day.

On a point of Personal Privilege: The Very Rev'd Frederick Mann reported, thanks to the Rev'd Henry G. Randolph, that the score was Notre Dame 27; Florida State University , 10

The Bishop then announced 2 PowerPoint presentations were upcoming and asked delegates to move to the end of room where the screen was set up. He called on Mr Sean Meade, Diocesan Web Site Designer. He presented the Diocesan web site, stating that the Bishop wants a graphically friendly, easy to use, up-to-date site. The Diocesan site is moving in that direction. He explained various pages on the web site and his vision: he would like to see each parish 's picture on the diocesan page with service times and contact person. In addition, he wants to have church related diocesan organizations on the site and all parishes having website. He reminded everyone that Gen X'ers use the web to find a church. Sean said he will come to any parish to help establish, improve, etc. a parish website. For the record, the Diocesan web site is www.ednin.org.

Bishop Little thanked Sean and spoke of fact that at a former parish, an increasing number of people found that parish on the web. The Bishop then called on The Rev'd Bennett G. Jones II to the give budget presentation through the gift of technology.

Ben Jones indicated that his presentation intended to connect money to the people and ministry of

diocese. There were two goals to the presentation: 1) to show who we are through pictures of the people of the Diocese, set to music (NB: "Lord light the fire again"); and 2) to help people visualize how this technology can be helpful in their parish. Jones acknowledged that indeed some Episcopalians see such technology as only being helpful to hand-waving, bible-thumping Christians; yes, … but … as you shall see, but it will do so much more.

After the pictures and music, eight slides were presented showing where our money comes from and where it goes. There are four main areas: mission; ministers; ministry; administration.

At the end of the presentation, The Very Rev'd Frederick Mann rose for another point of privilege: Notre Dame, 34, Florida State University 10, early 4th quarter.

The delegates to Convention returned to their tables and, since the Rev'd Richard Kallenberg was not able to lead discussions on the budget, due to a funeral, the Bishop called on The Rev'd Jack Myer, vice chair of Diocesan Council, to preside over the discussions. Bishop Little reminded the delegates that we needed to have the budget moved; once it is on floor, it is open for consideration. Since budget discussions can get complicated, the Bishop he therefore asked that delegates please go to the microphones, state their names and parish (for benefit of the secretary) and please be specific regarding their intent, i.e. "I rise to ask a question/introduce an amendment". If amending the budget to raise money in one item, please suggest where a corresponding reduction can be made.

Bishop asked that the budget be moved. It was so moved.

The Rev'd David K. Ottsen, St. Paul 's Mishawaka asked a question of clarification: on the income side, just before the total for Wawasee Conference Center , why was there no total? Ms Katona responded that Wawasee is trying to be self-supporting.

Ms Melissa Goodwin, St. Timothy's, Griffith spoke, indicating that two different versions of the budget had been mailed and asked if we were working on the 25 September version? Sharon Katona responded in the affirmative.

Ms Kate Bishop, Trinity, Fort Wayne : CR&D is large under ministries but is pretty small under youth; consequently, how is youth to grow? Is there something in CR&D for youth? If we do not spend more money on youth, she does not see how we will grow?

Bishop Little thanked Bishop for her question. The answer is that yes, CR&D granted $15,000 to one parish and $5000 to another. He said that Mr. Beschinski's salary is not in the diocesan budget. CR&D budget is convention mandated at 10%; about 50% is used for Wawasee, the remainder is given away.

Mr Paul Perrill, St. John's of the Cross, Bristol stated that $15,000 was given to the camp this year.

The Very Rev'd Frederick Mann rose for a Point of Personal Privilege: while the score remained the

same, Notre Dame had intercepted a pass.

There being no further questions, the question was called and the budget was approved.

The Bishop recognized The Rev'd David K. Ottsen, St. Paul 's, Mishawaka for a point of personal privilege. He said that Mishawaka has almost no parking and is trying to raise funds to increase parking. They have a fundraiser, a cruise to Alaska , in the summer of 2003. The parish will receive income as result of cruise and has reserved 50 cabins on the ship. 31 have been taken to date and the parish can go beyond 50 reserved so far.

Immediately thereafter, the Bishop asked that green/red yes/no cards and ID tags be removed from the convention packets so that the pages can collect them for recycling.

The Bishop Little announced that the 105th Convention of the Diocese would be 24-25 October 2003 at St. Paul 's, Munster .

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Bishop Little at 2:16 PM .

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd Canon John E. Schramm

From notes provided by the Rev'd Carolyn Jones and the Rev'd Canon David Seger