

THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

FROM THE RECTOR

Fr. Len Giacolone

As is my custom, I want to start off by sharing my deep appreciation for all the hard work done by so many people during Holy Week and Easter. The Altar Guild under Becky Hunt's direction always provides a marvelous setting for our worship. Ralph, the choir, the musicians made beautiful music in praise and worship to the Lord over the entire week of celebrations. The acolytes and ushers often go unnoticed but are an integral part of the services. One of the things we take for granted are the service sheets/booklets we use during our worship. Amy Crandell provides all of them for us and has for years, at a cost of what I am sure is a great amount of time and effort. Know that I am grateful to you all. These fellow parishioners work all year round in these ministries, but Holy week and Easter are a special challenge. Thanks.

We are getting ever closer to the election of a Bishop Coadjutor for our diocese. As you know we have been praying at each Sunday liturgy for the last several months that God will provide wisdom and guidance to the whole diocese and especially to the delegates to the convention who will elect the new bishop. A Bishop Coadjutor is one who automatically succeeds a Bishop Ordinary who resigns, retires or dies while in office. The bishop who is elected on June 1 will automatically become the fourth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth upon Bishop Iker's retirement at the end of this year.

The nominees for the election of the Bishop Coadjutor were announced by the Nominating Committee on Monday, April 22. They are Fathers Christopher Culpepper, Michael Fry, Joel Hampton, and Ryan Reed. Three of these priests are currently serving in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Father Fry, though currently serving in Georgia, has served in the Diocese of Fort

Worth previously. All of these men were ordained by Bishop Iker and therefore I would presume that they have his stamp of approval. I know three of these men personally, though not well. Since we have been in the diocese such a short time and since we are separated from the See city by almost two hundred miles, I have only gotten to know some of my fellow priests in the diocese on a casual basis. But the Nominating Committee does know them and each of them has gone through a rigorous process to be at this point in the process. Obviously I don't know who will be elected. However, from what I do know, I don't think we have to worry about the outcome. We will have a good bishop to follow Bishop Iker.

On May 11, there will be a Candidate Forum at St. Andrew's in Fort Worth for the clerical and lay delegates to meet and get to know the candidates. I will of course represent the parish as the clerical delegate. In case you don't remember, Frank Hunt and Dinah Arce were elected to be our lay delegate and alternate during our parish meeting in January. On Saturday, June 1, the delegates will gather at St. Vincent's Cathedral in Bedford to elect our new bishop. I want to encourage you to continue praying for the election and most especially for the man who will become our next bishop. Likewise, I want to encourage you to continue praying for Bishop Iker's complete recovery so that he might be able to retire and enjoy it.

One final item. You may have noticed on the website that you now have the opportunity to donate to St. Francis online. There is a link at the top of the page. Some people have asked for this in order to make their giving easier. Our webmaster, Jim Crandell made it possible. Just click on the link and follow the directions. If you have any questions about this please talk with Jim. While I know that you can do it, the mechanics of it are way above my pay grade..

PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

A STATEMENT FROM ARCHBISHOP BEACH ON NEW YORK'S RECENT ABORTION LEGISLATION
SUBMITTED BY STEVE MCCOWN

The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach is Archbishop of the Anglican Church in North America.

Last week [January 22, 2019], politicians in the State of New York passed legislation enabling the killing of unborn babies throughout all nine months of pregnancy, right up until the moment before birth. A full-term baby can now be killed. This legislation is a disastrous development for all of us. One of the foundational responsibilities of the State is to provide physical security to the vulnerable, and none are more vulnerable than babies. I am profoundly saddened by the blatant disregard for the value of life exhibited by the politicians who have done this and by the evident celebration exhibited in the New York City skyline. They have not only abdicated their responsibility to protect the vulnerable but have facilitated their destruction and murder. Pray for them, that God by His goodness will lead them to repentance (Romans 2:4).

Beyond the damage this "Reproductive Health Act" will have on women, men, and families, the killing of unborn babies undermines the State itself. Abortion not only ends the life of a human being, it denies the world all that she or he would have contributed to society. Future leaders, artists, teachers, doctors, and engineers are being denied the opportunity to fulfill their God-created purpose.

Abortion is the greatest moral issue of our time. The legislation and attitudes that threaten life are not going away anytime soon. Neither are we. Our Christian commitment to protect life, from conception to natural death, is literally written into the Anglican Church in North America's Constitution and identity as a Church. This is something that all

practicing Christians should be passionate about, and it was encouraging to see the next generation of youth participating in the Life Summit and March for Life a couple of weeks ago in Washington, D.C.

We are proud to partner with Anglicans for Life and support them in their mission to help equip every Anglican Church with the resources to ensure women have real options and the on-going support they need to choose life for themselves and their children. The effects of this awful law can be minimized as we raise the conscience of the culture and as churches work together with local pregnancy resource centers to inform, educate, and make available resources to women. These centers offer far more life-affirming help and support than what the abortion clinics and those who profit from the killing of the innocent ever could.

I encourage you to live out the Gospel and facilitate a culture of life in your community. There are so many ways any and every person can help: from having casual conversations with friends to supporting pregnancy resource centers; from providing free childcare for a couple who has adopted a child to political action. Most importantly, be willing to share what Jesus Christ has done in your own life. Please join me in prayer that our communities and our countries will be transformed by the love of Jesus Christ, will repent of these evils, and will protect the next generation.

You can learn more about how Anglicans for Life can help you and your church at www.AnglicansForLife.org.

UNPLANNED

The movie "Unplanned" has been released for several weeks, and despite many unbelievable challenges, has been incredibly successful. This movie takes the audience inside the abortion industry with a real-life story of a former clinic director for Planned Parenthood. In 2009, Abby Johnson walked away from the Texas clinic after watching an abortion via ultrasound. Much of her personal life is played out on the big screen, including the time she herself had two abortions. Despite the subject, the movie has a message of hope and forgiveness. It is playing in several theaters in the Austin area.

DIOCESAN NEWS

The Diocesan web page can be found at <http://www.fwepiscopal.org/>

Hope and a Future

<http://www.fwepiscopal.org/bishop/coadjutor.html>

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Since October, the Nominating Committee has spent many hours in prayer and fasting; thought and discernment; patience and guidance; travel and examination.

The result is a slate of four nominees for Bishop Coadjutor. Following the requirements laid out in Canon 40 of our Diocese, we believe the Holy Spirit has guided us to these candidates and them to us.

Our process began with meetings to articulate the qualities and qualifications for a bishop of this Diocese. We called for nominations and then considered each name carefully. The candidates answered a lengthy questionnaire and submitted their resumes and other material, including college transcripts and medical reports. Finally, small teams went out to meet each of the finalists in his home parish, spending time with him and his wife.

Meanwhile, throughout the Diocese, people were at prayer, fasting on the second Friday of each month, and remembering the committee and its charge at every Sunday and weekday worship service. We ask God's protection and above all his leading, so that we will discern and obey his will for our future.

Our prayers and work will culminate on June 1, when diocesan clergy and elected lay delegates from every congregation will gather at St. Vincent's

Cathedral for a Special Convention to choose a Coadjutor for the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth.

In preparation for this, on May 11, the lay delegates*, the alternate lay delegates*, the clergy and their wives have been asked to gather at St. Andrew's, Fort Worth, for a Candidate Forum. Here they will be able to ask questions and have dialogue with the nominees, beginning their discernment process under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

I will warn you: It isn't going to be easy. The nominees are very qualified. Have we found who God has sent to us? As I said when I addressed the Diocesan Convention last November, we are approaching a cross-roads in the life of our Diocese. Our hope and our future are in God's hands. We must not be tempted to elect by any other means than prayer, fasting, guidance and discernment in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Very Rev. Edward Kresowaty

Chairman

**including representatives from several congregations within the Diocese that do not have a vote at Convention*

<http://www.fwepiscopal.org/bishop/coadjutornominees.html>

SLATE OF NOMINEES

(Each name is linked to the nominee's profile packet.)

1. [The Rev. Christopher Culpepper](#)
Rector, Christ the Redeemer, Fort Worth
[Video message](#)
2. [The Rev. Michael Fry](#)
Rector, All Saints', Peachtree City, GA
[Video message](#)
3. [The Rev. Joel Hampton](#)
Rector, Church of the Holy Apostles, Fort Worth
[Video message](#)
4. [The Very Rev. Ryan Reed](#)
Dean, St. Vincent's Cathedral Church, Bedford
[Video message](#)

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- **On Saturday, May 11**, a Candidate Forum will be held at St. Andrew's, Fort Worth, for all clergy and their wives, and all lay delegates and alternates. These representatives, coming from each congregation, will have time to ask questions of each nominee. Afterward, audio and video recordings from the Forum will be made public online.
- The Special Convention for the Election of a Bishop Coadjutor will be held **Saturday, June 1**, at St. Vincent's Cathedral. The name of the Coadjutor-elect will be announced that day.
- In accord with ACNA canons, the College of Bishops must examine and approve the Coadjutor-elect. This will occur during their regular meeting on **June 14-15**. The bishops are scheduled to gather at Christ Church in Plano, the same location where the first Archbishop was installed 10 years ago. Once the College of Bishops gives its consent, the Coadjutor-elect will be eligible for consecration.
- God willing, the consecration service for the Bishop Coadjutor will take place **Saturday, Sept. 21**, the Feast of St. Matthew the Apostle, with Archbishop Foley Beach and Bishop Iker serving as chief consecrators. This service will include representatives from each congregation and numerous guests. The Bishop Coadjutor will begin making parish visitations on **Sunday, Sept. 22**.
- A retirement celebration for Bishop Iker will take place at a banquet following the opening Eucharist of the 37th annual Diocesan Convention, on **Friday, Nov. 15**, in Granbury. Retired Archbishop Robert Duncan will be the keynote speaker after dinner. The regular Convention business meeting will be held **Saturday, Nov. 16**.
- Bishop Iker will continue to serve as chief pastor of the Diocese until his retirement on Dec. 31, 2019, when the Coadjutor will succeed him, becoming Fourth Bishop of Fort Worth on New Year's Day. His service of installation as Diocesan Bishop will be held Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020, at St. Vincent's Cathedral. Bishop Iker will hand him the bishop's crosier at that time, completing the transition of leadership.

FROM THE BISHOP

Quite understandably, no messages have been posted on the Bishop's page on the Diocesan website from the Bishop since March. The Bishop finished the intensive in-patient therapy at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston and is now in an outpatient facility near the hospital for a couple weeks or more.

The Diocese's Facebook page has frequent posts of pictures of the Bishop with his pastoral visitors. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DioFtWorth/> to see the posts.

The diocese's home page has a picture with the Bishop and his family sending Easter greetings. <http://www.fwepiscopal.org/>



He is Risen!
Happy Easter!

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Many thanks to the many people who contributed to the food table for the coffee hour on Easter Sunday. That was quite a feast with minimal organization!

We still nominally have a sign-up list to bring something tasty to eat after the services. If you would like to team up with other folks to supply the food, that makes the task much easier! The sign-up list is on the coffee table.

If you can't bring food, help is needed with cleanup. After most folks have gone home, the food needs to be put away, coffee cleanup, table cloths changed, floors swept, trash collected, etc.

NEW HOME GROUP

St. Francis has two home groups which have been in place for many years. Each meets twice a month, one on Tuesdays in central Austin and the second on Friday in the southern part of Austin. As some interest has been expressed, a third group is being organized to meet twice a month on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. with the initial location at the church. The format of the meeting will to read and freely discuss the three Sunday Bible readings and the psalm. While this description seems sterile, regularly attending a group centered on Bible study is a wonderful way to grow closer to the Lord in fellowship with other believers. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Amy Crandell (in person or email info@stfrancisaustin.org).

ELECTRONIC DONATIONS

At the request of several parishioners, donations to St. Francis are accepted online. This includes your pledge to the operating fund. Go to <http://stfrancisaustin.org/> and click **Donate** at the top of page. This link takes you to another page with an explanation of the service charges we incur and where you can donate using PayPal, a Debit or Credit Card.

LENT FOOD DRIVE

The food collected during Lent was delivered in three loads to the food pantry at St. Louis Catholic Church on Burnet Road. They didn't have a scale to measure the food, but we filled up four grocery carts with food. The same food filled the trunk, plus some in the back seat of the Crandell's car three times. The food was

received well. Bea Dela Rosa, the Director of Social Ministries at St. Louis asked me to pass along a big **Thank You!** to us for the donations.

PENTECOST FEAST

Men of St. Francis take note! The annual Pentecost BBQ/smoke fest will be Saturday June 8 on the grounds of the church property. This was the reason that St. Polycarp's group was formed many years ago. The men gather together to smoke/BBQ/grill some meat and everyone enjoys the food the next day on Pentecost. Not many churches do this.

This is the time of year when the membership list of the St. Polycarp's group is updated. Contact Jim Crandell at info@astfrancisaustin.org or in person if you would like to be on the list. Jim may be contacting some of the men who have recently started attending St. Francis.

GARAGE SALE

On Saturday, May 4, St. Francis will participate in the Northwood neighborhood Spring Garage Sale. Doug Cooper is in charge!

Please look around your house for items appropriate to sell in the sale and set them aside. On Friday, May 3 between 1:00 and 6:00 p.m., please drop your items off at the church. You can also bring things by on the morning of the sale.

The garage sale will begin at 8:00 a.m on May 4 and end when everything is sold or when folks stop coming by.

Other help will be needed as well. Contact Doug if you can volunteer to help setup, sort, help with sales, talk about our church, or cleanup at info@stfrancisaustin.org.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY OPTIONS

- Receive the newsletter via e-mail with a printable version attached
- Pick up a printed copy on the table at the entrance to the church
- Have a copy mailed to your physical mail box (cost to the church is 50 cents)
- View newsletters on our website.

To change how you receive the newsletter, contact Amy Crandell in person or via [e-mail](mailto:info@stfrancisaustin.org).

ON BISHOPS...

Fr. Lee Nelson, Rector Christ Church Waco

"The work of bishops," our catechism tells us, "is to represent and serve Christ and the Church as chief pastors, to lead in preaching and teaching the faith, and in shepherding the faithful, to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church, and to bless, confirm, and ordain, thus following in the tradition of the Apostles."

First, the bishop is a man who represents and serves Christ. Another way of putting that is that the bishop is Christ to us, a visible sacrament of the unity of Christ and His Body the Church. Primarily, the bishop does this by presiding over the Church in the place of a father and shepherd over the flock, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist. Every Christian should be reminded that when a priest celebrates the Eucharist, he does so in the place of the bishop, as it is only by the authority given by the bishop that he celebrates the Eucharist at all. The bishop has been chosen (in our case, by an election of the diocese, following the leading of the Holy Spirit) "to shepherd the Lord's flock of the elect, servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." (LG, III.21) In this way, the ministry of a bishop is not to lord authority over the Church, but rather to serve, wholeheartedly devoted to even the most menial tasks for the upbuilding of Christ's body. In this way, the whole Body is instructed in not only the humility of the Lord's Incarnation, but are drawn to abide in His love through humble obedience. When a bishop visits the parish church, he links that parish to the whole of the Church Catholic, of which it is a microcosm. The parish is reminded that its identity is not primarily local or congregational, but universal. This is the reason that bishops stand in what we call apostolic succession: they stand as successors to the apostles and link each Christian and parish to the whole Church throughout space and time.

Second, the bishop leads in preaching and teaching. It has often been said that the bishop is the chief catechist of the Church, and in the ancient Church this was especially true, as the bishop was the one with primary responsibility for instructing catechumens, both in public teaching and preaching and later, following their baptisms, in what was called mystagogical catechesis, in which the newly baptized were further instructed in the deep and previously hidden mysteries of the Faith and of the

Sacraments. The bishop, by faithfully teaching the flock, serves as a visible and personal link to the whole Church and the unity of the Church's Faith. This particularly illustrates the reason that it is so tragic (and disastrous) when a bishop abandons the catholic faith in favor of his own personal opinion, or even the desires of the people he serves.

Third, the bishop is a shepherd, a true pastor to the people of God. He does this primarily by serving the clergy of a diocese, by making sure that they are thriving, both spiritually and physically. When my children get married, the bishop will be asked to preside at their weddings. When I'm dying, the bishop will be called in to anoint me and pray for me. Whenever I have a crisis in my life, the bishop is the first to know. When that happens, the people of a parish can know that they are in good hands, cared for by a man who is under authority. What a blessing that is!

Fourthly, the bishop guards the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church. This happens by public pronouncements on the teaching of the Church with regard to various issues germane to the day, through his work with other bishops, and also through the discipline of clergy and the upholding of the Church's canons. If a priest begins to teach or preach in error, it is the bishop's job to correct him. If a layperson obstinately persists in notorious and scandalous sin, the bishop is notified so that, for the sake of godly discipline, the bishop can revoke their status as communicants until such time as they repent.

Lastly, the bishop administers ordination and confirmation. This does not however mean that he is only a pair of hands merely useful for this task. The bishop exercises discernment and prayer in determining who should be ordained, guiding ordinands through a process of formation and instruction, serving as a father to them. The bishop also must inquire as to the preparation of confirmands, as to whether they have been adequately instructed and whether they desire to be confirmed out of devotion to Christ and a hearty faith.

Excerpted from

<https://www.christchurchwaco.org/post/on-bishops>

MAY SUNDAY READINGS

5/5 2 after Easter

- Acts 9:1-19a
- Psalm 33:1-11
- Revelation 5:6-14
- John 21:1-14

5/12 3 after Easter

- Acts 13:15-16, 26-33
- Psalm 100
- Revelation 7:9-17
- John 10:22-30

5/19 4 after Easter

- Acts 13:44-52
- Psalm 145:1-9
- Revelation 19:1, 4-9
- John 13:31-35

5/26 5 after Easter

- Acts 14:8-18
- Psalm 67
- Revelation 21:22-22:5
- John 14:23-29

5/30 Ascension Day

- Acts 1:1-11
- Psalm 47
- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Luke 24:49-53

Notes on the readings:

- St. Francis follows the [1979 BCP Lectionary for the lessons](#) (We are in Year C) with the text read from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.
- Each of the Sunday's readings is linked to the corresponding page on [LectionaryPage.net](#).
- The Sunday collects and text of the psalms are from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.
- On the second and fourth Sundays, the psalm is chanted at the 11:00 service. The psalm pointing is based on the Cathedral Psalter and is a part of the [St. Francis Psalter](#) posted on our webpage.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Amy Crandell
- 4 Cathy Stevenson
- 8 Veronica Armstrong, George Robinson
- 9 Randy Scheer
- 17 Sandy Scheer
- 24 Leah Lindsey
- 30 Champion Cooper

MAY CALENDAR

Sundays

9:30 a.m. Said Holy Communion

Sunday School for youth (last day May 19)

10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion with music - on the first Sunday of each month, Morning Prayer is held, followed by Holy Communion.

Thursdays

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

1st Friday, May 3

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Games Night

1st Saturday, May 4

9:00 a.m. Prayer Service for our Nation

2nd Sunday, May 12

3:30 -4:30 p.m. Hymn Sing at the Retirement and Nursing Center, 6909 Burnet Lane

2nd Monday, May 13

6:00 p.m. Vestry meeting

3rd Monday, May 20

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Readers of First Things group meeting. .

3rd Friday, May 17

Noon Mothers' Prayer Group

3rd Sunday, May 19

~12:30 p.m. Anglicans for Life Meeting

Thursday, May 30

Noon, Ascension Day Holy Communion

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Michael Adams and Kerry Manning
- 23 Chaille and Melissa Bernard
- 31 Ben and Shirley Ellis
- Thomas Sager and RobinRuth Alexander



ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

ST. FRANCIS ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTIN

A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth

Diocese Office: 2900 Alameda St.

Fort Worth, TX 76108

<http://www.fwepiscopal.org/>

Bishop: The Rt. Rev'd Jack L. Iker, D.D

Rector: The Rev. Canon Len Giacalone

Music Director: Ralph Webb

Parish Administrator: Mark Rambin

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden **Junior Warden**

Donna Hunt

Jim Britt

Secretary

Dinah Arce

Treasurer

Grady Collins

Vestry Members

Missy Bernard, Dinah Arce

Jim Britt, Donna Hunt, David Kristo-Reinking

Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell, Michael Ready

Fr. Len Giacalone

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

stfrancisaustin.com

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[@stfrancisaustin](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisaustin)

ST. FRANCIS' MISSION STATEMENT

We are a community of believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ whose mission it is to spread that Gospel in what we preach and in the way we live.

We are called to know the Word of God, to act on it in our lives and to share it with our brothers and sisters in the world.

We are determined to uphold the ancient faith of our ancestors in the Anglican tradition, to offer traditional Christian values based on the Holy Word of God and to be faithful witnesses to the person of Jesus in the Austin Community.

St. Francis parish is dedicated to the presence of Christ in the lives of the poor, the needy, the sick, to each other and to all those to whom Jesus comes to minister in his life on earth.

As a community of believers, we intend to entrust our growth in love, in faith and in resources to the generosity of God.