

The Canterbury Tales



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From the Rector **by Fr. Paul Beutell**

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

In October 2009 the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) issued their *Anglicanorum Coetibus*, also referred to as the *Note*. The *Note* is essentially an invitation from the Roman Church to Anglican clergy, parishes and lay persons, particularly those who are still in The Canterbury Communion, to become Roman Catholics.

Initially, it was reported the primary intent of the *Note* was to create Anglican “Ordinariates.” These would be sub-dioceses made up of Anglican parishes with their own property and clergy using a Roman Catholic approved “Anglican Use” liturgy functioning parallel to, yet within, existing Roman Catholic dioceses with Roman Catholic episcopal oversight.

Ultimately, what the Note has proven to actually be is an opportunity for Anglicans to *convert* to Roman Catholicism by an easier process. If enough people in one parish and their clergy converted together they may be permitted to remain together. In most cases though, Anglican parishes would be dissolved and the converted parishioners and clergy placed in existing Roman Catholic parishes.

I am not aware of any clergy, parishes or lay persons in the ACC that have accepted Rome’s offer. Neither has any of the clergy or parishes in our sister churches, the Province of Christ the King and United Episcopal Church. There have been clergy and parishes in the Anglican Church in America (the third of the St. Louis Declaration churches that left the ACC since its formation in 1978) which have accepted the offer, but far less than originally anticipated by their Archbishop, The Most Reverend John Hepworth of Australia.

A number of Church of England parishes have accepted the *Note*, but in most cases they were already using post Vatican II Roman rites for worship and were waiting for Rome to offer them the opportunity to convert in a more convenient way. I don’t know what the level of acceptance in The Episcopal Church has been.

I have brought the *Anglicanorum Coetibus* to your attention because of the stir it has been able to create within The Anglican Continuum (ACC, Province of Christ the King, United Episcopal Church and Anglican Church in America) for nearly two years now.

It was able to create a stir because, frankly, within many in our churches both clergy and laity do not sufficiently know the history, doctrines and faith practices of Continuing Anglicanism as well as they should. This lack of knowledge creates confusion when our history, doctrines and faith practices are challenged or claimed to be lacking some essential element by other Christian churches.

Such ignorance is understandable in The Episcopal Church and its most recent breakaway the Anglican Church in North America. Decades ago, both departed far from the faith as it is taught in Scripture and by the Patristic Fathers and historic Anglican theologians, making it nearly impossible for the average communicant of those churches to know what true Anglicanism is.

But this should not be the case in The Anglican Continuum which has “continued” the orthodox and evangelical doctrines and worship practices of Anglicanism both prior to and since the Reformation.

Continuing Anglicanism is *Protestant*, *Evangelical* and *Catholic* in the truest sense of those words.

We are *Protestant* in that we continue to agree with the “protest” The Church in England made against the doctrinal errors of the Roman Church in the Reformation era, all of which still officially exist since their dogma is considered infallible and therefore unchangeable. In the Reformation era, being *Protestant* also meant being *pro-testament*: for (pro) the supremacy of Sacred Scripture (the Old and the New Testament).

We are *Evangelical* in that the foundation of our faith continues to be the Gospel dogma of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ

unto good works, as St. Paul teaches in Ephesians 2:8-10. We are also Evangelical because we believe the Church’s primary duty is to fulfill the Great Commission our Lord gave His Church in St. Matthew 28:19-20.

We are *Catholic* in that we continue to believe and uphold the theological dogmas defined in the Seven Ecumenical Councils and adhere to the teachings of the Fathers in the Patristic Era of the Church’s history (100-1115 AD), abiding by their consensus (The Rule of St. Vincent of Lerins) for determining doctrine not plainly defined in Scripture.

Every Anglican Catholic should know the beliefs and practices of his church.

One of the easiest ways to learn them is by reading Archbishop Haverland’s book Anglican Catholic Faith and Practice. It is an excellent resource, written with the goal of presenting our faith and practice (in the Archbishop’s own words) “in clear and understandable terms.” I have several copies of the book and will be glad to give one to anyone who wants to read it.

I would also encourage all who are able to attend the Thursday morning parish Bible study. In those studies, we learn Scripture from the Anglican Catholic perspective.

Knowing our Anglican Catholic faith and practices will allow us to live them more consistently and prevent us from being needlessly stirred when they are challenged by the world or by other churches.

I encourage every member of our parish to “study” as St. Paul exhorts us to do in the Scripture verse quoted at the heading of this writing. In doing so, we will show ourselves to be faithful workmen approved unto God.

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 2

THIS IS THE DATE SCHEDULED FOR THE PARISH PICNIC TO BE HELD AT THE CHURCH. MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW AS PLANS ARE COMPLETED. DON’T DARE MISS A SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE OR YOU JUST MIGHT MISS OUT ON THE PICNIC!

When You Quit Going to Church

- **Your Spiritual Condition is a Matter of Grave Concern to God**
Jesus pictured a shepherd, whose concern for a single sheep who strayed from the flock caused him to leave 99 sheep in the fold and go out to painstakingly search for the one which was missing.
- **You are Depriving Yourself of Spiritual Health**
The failure to worship and serve God results in the shriveling of the soul. Your absence from church weakens you.
- **Your Talents and Abilities are Being Wasted**
Jesus taught that we have all been given the opportunity to serve God in some way. When you fail to do your part as a member of God's work force, the cause of Christ suffers.
- **Others Need You and You Need Them**
We need the mutual encouragement of one another in living the Christian life. By your absence from church, you deprive others of the encouragement you could give them, and deprive yourself of the strength they could share with you.
- **You Let Your Influence Work Against God and His Church**
Although you do not intend it so, your example says to all who observe your life that church is not important, and that God may be safely ignored. It is especially tragic when those who read this message in your example are your children and grandchildren
- **Your Separation May Become Permanent**
Life is uncertain; we have no guarantee of what the future holds. Though you intend to come back to God, life may end too soon.

----From The Newsletter of St. Stephen's and Christ Church, ACC

40 Days for Life Fall 2011 Campaign

Can you spare one hour for life?

If so, Fr. Paul invites you to join him and Cyndi in participating in the 40 Days for Life Fall 2011 Campaign from Wednesday, September 28, through Sunday, November 6.

As with the past 40 Days for Life campaigns, the vigil site is Planned Parenthood on Peter's Creek Rd., just south of Cove Rd.

Fr. Paul is coordinating the prayer volunteers for *Tuesday, October 4*, and *Tuesday, October 11*, from 7 a.m. through 7 p.m. on both days.

Very often people confuse the 40 Days for Life with being a "protest." It is not! It is a public PRAYER VIGIL. Our sole purpose and activity at Planned Parenthood is prayer and good fellowship.

Why is the vigil held in public at Planned Parenthood instead of in our churches? By praying on the site, it is our hope the Holy Spirit will convince the women and men who are clients to forego procuring an abortion and the staff and doctors that work at Planned Parenthood to quit engaging in the practice of abortion. We also hope to inform the public driving by that abortions are being performed right here in Roanoke City!

The founders and organizers of 40 Days for Life believe in using the "Jericho Strategy" (Joshua chapter 6). In our prayers during the vigil, we ask that the Planned Parenthood on Peter's Creek Rd. will one day close as has happened with a number of abortion clinics where 40 Days for Life vigils have been held over the past several years.

Please prayerfully consider and then sign up for one hour or more on one or both of the days Fr. Paul is coordinating. He and/or Cyndi will be at the site the entire 12 hours on both days. A signup sheet for both days will be posted on the parish bulletin board. Thank you.

Micah's Camp Trip

This summer I went to a church youth work camp in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. I went with the group from St. Matthew's ACC which is located in Newport Beach, California. I met them in Virginia Beach a day before the first day of camp. The group was great and we had a lot of fun, though we were separated during the weekdays at our work sites.

We had work crews at camp made up from different church youth groups. I loved my crew. I actually was on a double crew. We did painting and light repairs. We painted the entire inside and outside of our resident's home. I personally did a lot of the outside scraping and hard to reach places. Of course, it was so hot out that I felt like I was going to melt.

Overall, I had a great time. I loved it. I felt that I got closer to God. Not only that, but I met some great people whom I will never forget. I can't wait to go to the camp next year!!!!

Micah Beutell

2011 DMAS Youth Camp

Diocese of the Mid Atlantic States camp (DMAS) has always been like a vacation to me. This year though, to me, was the best because I was in the older guys' cabin where we could have more freedom than usual. We did some of the usual things including swimming, crafts/lessons, and four square.

It was great to see some new campers. It was also good to see the guys I've known since the first year I went. To me the best part of the whole camp is meeting new friends. Like I said, it's great to see new campers, and it's even better when you get to know them well and become friends.

This year was no doubt the hottest year since we have gone. Day in and day out, it was consistently 90/ 95 degrees out there, but we all made it through the week and had a great time. Every year I go and every year I come home, I'm glad I went.

Josh Beutell

2011-12 Christian Education Session

The 2011-12 Christian Education Session will begin the week of September 11 with the Sunday morning children's studies during the 10:00 a.m. hour. The adult Parish Bible study will begin Thursday, September 15.

This year's Sunday session will have four class groups: Pre-school/Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, Middle School and High School. All children in the parish still enrolled in school are registered for classes. The class assignments are marked on the doors of each classroom in the Christian Education wing. The high school class is held in the classroom in the undercroft. If you have any questions about your class assignment, please see Fr. Paul.

All parents of parish children are asked to encourage and bring their children to attend classes. In most cases this is the only formal Christian instruction the children of our parish receive outside of their homes and should be considered essential to the development of their faith. It is also a good way for them to fellowship with their peers in the parish.

The Thursday adult Parish Bible study begins at 10:30 a.m. following the 9:30 a.m. Mass and concludes about 11:45 a.m. Often a number of those who attend go to lunch together after the study, providing an opportunity for fellowship.

This session the study will cover the "Catholic Epistles" of St. James, I and II St. Peter, I, II, and III St. John and St. Jude. All adults in the parish are encouraged to attend this study to further their understanding of Scripture.

We would like to form an evening (likely Tuesday) Evening Prayer or Mass followed by a Bible or book study. All those interested in participating are asked to contact Fr. Paul.

Studying Scripture (discipleship) is an extremely important part of our growth and development as Christians. We are never "too old" to learn more about the Faith. Either in the studies offered by the parish or on our own, we should be reading God's Word daily and studying it consistently!

CANTERBURY CHOIR

The Canterbury Choir will begin rehearsals Wednesday evening, August 31, at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Rehearsals last for only 1 hour with a short rehearsal at 10 o'clock for the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass. Some minimal choral experience is necessary for new members as well as a basic knowledge of music. A brief "non-threatening" audition is also required. Please speak to Mr. David Tate ASAP. We welcome you to yet another way to serve St. Thomas Church.

St. Thomas Volunteers

The St. Thomas volunteer group is actively busy now. They have been volunteering at the Rescue Mission Thrift Store the second Tuesday of every month since February. The work there consists of straightening items on the sales floor, preparing and pricing items and assembling furniture to be sold.

Since June volunteers have been going to the Veterans Administration Hospital on the 3rd or 4th Tuesday of each month for one hour but will probably change to another day of the week soon. Food ranging from pizza to apple pie and ice cream is taken to provide a social hour for veterans who are unlikely to have groups provide this service. Currently the food is being provided by the volunteers who participate.

Beginning from now on, volunteers will be serving lunch at RAM House on Monday of months having a 5th Monday.

Plans are being made by the volunteer group in conjunction with the Outreach Committee to prepare and sell Brunswick Stew with crackers on October 15 on the church grounds of St. Thomas. The stew will be sold by the quart on a take-out basis. Early orders will be taken but purchase can also be \$7.00. Funds raised will help offset the out-of pocket cost to volunteers who have generously donated both time and

money. Volunteers are not "going broke" but this is one way those who are unable to take the time to go or to prepare food can also feel a part of this project.

Anyone wishing to join the volunteer group should let Billy Palmore or Fr. Paul know. It is not necessary to be present for every activity. Helping others is rewarding to both the receiver and the giver.



Volunteers gather in VA Volunteer Office after serving Sloppy Joes, chips and drinks to patients on August 23. Even while the recipients try to express their thanks for the food and visit, the volunteers express their appreciation for the great service which the veterans have provided for us and our country. This feels like a win-win situation for all.





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