Dear Faithful and Friends of Holy Faith,

Blessings for Eastertide! The celebration at Holy Faith of the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord was absolutely glorious. My thanks to the countless number of people involved in making our church so beautiful, our liturgy so inspiring, our music so uplifting, and our fellowship so joyous – the flower guild, the altar guild, the ushers, the greeters, the acolytes, the choir, the staff, the hospitality committee, and all the cooks and the bakers who provided such delicacies for the reception following the Great Vigil of Easter.

Of course, I believe our Easter celebrations are so glorious because of the seriousness with which the people of Holy Faith treat Lent, and especially its culmination in Holy Week. You have heard me say that you only get out of Holy Week what you put into it, and by journeying with Jesus to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, it makes your Easter joy that much more deep and complete. If you are not fully experiencing that Easter joy now, make a note to yourself to participate more fully next year in the events of our Lord’s last week before his death and resurrection.

It was again our delight to have Bishop Michael with us to observe Palm Sunday, and it was my privilege to preach at the ecumenical Blessing of the Palms in the Plaza. On Wednesday of Holy Week nearly forty of us made the pilgrimage of Chimayó, walking the Stations of the Cross along the way, and celebrating the Eucharist on the grounds of the Santuario. We made it back to church in time for that evening’s hauntingly beautiful monastic service of Tenebrae in the shadows of the early evening. Maundy Thursday was a humbling experience, not only because of the ceremony of the Foot Washing, but also because of the Institution of the Lord’s Supper, the procession to the Garden of Repose in the chapel, the Stripping and Scrubbing of the Altar, and the closing of the Baumann reredos until the first Mass of Easter. Good Friday was appropriately observed with the Mass of the Pre-sanctified, the preaching on the Seven Last Words of Jesus, and the Veneration of the Cross. It was a full week, but not one to be missed!
Bishop Michael will be back with us on Sunday, June 18, for his Annual Visitation when we will offer the sacramental rites of Confirmation, Reception of Members from other traditions, and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows. In the Episcopal Church, it is the bishop, in a line that stretches back to the apostles, who lays hands on new members to welcome into the fellowship of the community. Confirmation is a mature affirmation of one’s faith, confirming the vows that were made at the time of one’s baptism. As such, it is not to be entered into lightly or unadvisedly. Consequently, beginning in May I will be offering preparation for Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation as part of the Sunday morning Adult Forums. In this season of Easter, when we hear in the Sunday lectionary from the Acts of the Apostles about the formation of the early Church, it is appropriate to learn more about our own church and the Anglican tradition. The schedule for the Adult Forums is as follows:

May 7:  An Outline of the Faith – the Catechism – Part I  
May 14: An Outline of the Faith – the Catechism – Part II  
May 21: The Beginnings of the Church  
May 28: The Modern Church & Anglicanism  
June 4: The Episcopal Church  
June 11: What it means to be an Episcopalian  
June 18: Bishop’s Visitation

Sunday Adult Forums are open to everyone, but those seeking Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation are especially encouraged to attend as the basis for being presented as part of the sacramental rite to the bishop during his visitation. Those seeking Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation should be in touch with Donna in the parish office about their interest, and should also plan on attending a session on Saturday morning, June 17, when we will look at the vows for the sacramental rite and the order of the service.

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you this Eastertide and always!

Yours faithfully in Christ,
Robin D. Dodge
Rector

IN THIS ISSUE

| A Message from the Rector | 1 |
| Ex Voto Workshop: Giving Thanks for Divine Intervention | 3 |
| Story by Bill and Karen Gahr  
Pictures by Karen Gahr and Molly Lott |
| Readings and Conversation with Sallie Bingham | 4 |
| Story and Pictures by Alexandra Ward |
| Annual Pilgrimage to Chimayó | 5 |
| Story by Cathy Gronquist  
Pictures by Cathy Gronquist and James Overton |
| Holy Week in Pictures | 7 |
| Pictures by Marty Buchsbaum, James and Patty Vaughan, James Overton and Alexandra Ward |
| Clergy, Staff and Vestry Listing | 11 |
EX VOTO WORKSHOP: GIVING THANKS FOR DIVINE INTERVENTION

STORY BY BILL AND KAREN GAHR
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MOLLY LOTT AND KAREN GAHR

On March 11, ten pilgrims painted ten images of gratitude for Divine support. Local Santa Fe Santero Juanito Jimenez supplied the materials and guided the group preparing these visual prayers of thanksgiving. Jimenez explained, “These images, commonly called “ex votos” because they were prepared ‘out of a vow of thanks’ for Divine intervention, or retablos to venerate particular saints, emerged from early faith communities as a form of folk art.” New Mexican santeros/santeras continue this tradition and encourage anyone who is thankful for God’s presence in their life to try their hands in this prayer of personal thanksgiving.

The variety of ex votos that were prepared in the one-day workshop demonstrated the many ways that God aids our pilgrim journey. Molly Lott prepared advance materials and advised the participants on what to expect in the workshop. On the day of the event, everyone had a good idea of what image or event they wanted to use in thanksgiving. Ray Wallace was thankful for extended family, past, present and to come. Ashley Margetson wanted to acknowledge the healing of a complex bone fracture that continues to require attention. Alice McSweeney painted a Los Pinos Ranch scene and gave thanks to God in Irish (Bhu’ochas Le Via) for many blessings. Molly remembered the tradition of dancing with her brother with whom she hopes to dance again in heaven. Mari Russel celebrated her 80th birthday with three sons. Van Swift gave thanks for the support of Saint Dolores while helping with her daughter-in-law. John Jimenez gave thanks for stabilizing his eyesight. Bill Gahr gave thanks for saving a friend from drowning. Oren Ellis gave thanks for many family adventures, pets and a continuous pilgrimage. Cori Hetzel gave thanks for her mother. Jacki Walker commemorated releasing her husband’s ashes at the Grand Canyon and seeing his image as she did so.

All of the participants found the workshop to be useful as part of the cycle from sorrow to thanks. Oren Ellis said that his image would be reproduced as a card for any future family event. Van Swift said that her image would join a group of family photos on the wall. Ashley Margetson said she would hang hers with her antique ex votos collection. Jacki Walker will hang hers by her door so she can see it and give thanks when she leaves her home. Molly Lott’s are on the bookshelf in her study.

The Grief Ministry, which organized the workshop, has invited Juanito Jimenez back for future workshops and the next one will be held on Saturday, June 3rd. We would appreciate any comments from those who may want to attend. Juanito also welcomes visitors to his studio where he holds occasional workshops on request for groups or families. He can be reached 505-982-1418 or jmjjimenez@aol.com. Molly Lott is the registrar for the June 3rd workshop. She can be reached at matl44@me.com.
All three were tiny women. Sallie, Helena, and Mary—my great-grandmother, my grandmother, and my mother—barely topped five feet. In girlhood, they were as proud of their small waists as of their intelligence, which was considerable. Writing was their blessing, and each used it to create a reality more appropriate to her personality, more manageable, and more forgiving of her time.

After hearing these opening sentences from the introduction to The Blue Box, the anticipation in the room was palpable. We knew we were in for a treat!

Imagine the excitement of finding a long-hidden cache of college bluebooks, faded manuscripts, love letters, and even a marriage license listing eighteen slaves! This discovery not only shed new light on the lives of Sallie Bingham’s ancestors, but the contents also revealed their passionate love of language both written and spoken and their appreciation of the power of words. Pity the poor biographers that do not have access to source material such this. A handful of printed-out e-mails and texts would be meager fare indeed.

The theme that united the personalities of Sallie’s three ancestors was indomitability, and we are fortunate to have a story of another indomitable woman to anticipate. In 2018 Sallie’s book Doris Duke: The Invention of the New Woman will be published.

While working for an extended period of time in the Rubenstein Library at Duke University, Sallie’s curiosity was piqued by what seemed to be a staring omission. In the vast collection of family portraits of generations of Duke men someone was missing. Where was Doris? “Whenever I find the trace of a woman whose story has been expunged, I am fascinated,” Sallie said. This fascination led to a dazzling contract from Farrar, Strauss and Giroux and more than five years of work to bring the story of this extraordinary woman to life.

Doris Duke was so much more than our half-remembered snippets of tabloid gossip would lead us to believe. She was unconventional to be sure, keeping two camels dressed in pink harnesses from Schiaparelli as beloved pets. But her accomplishments and passions were legendary and eclectic—champion-level surfer, voracious collector of Islamic art, and respected horticulturalist. Above all, she will forever be remembered as a philanthropist of the highest order, having endowed a foundation, which now has almost two billion dollars equivalent, of assets. “Complex, challenging and a rule unto herself”, Doris Duke epitomized The New Woman.

The conversation after Sallie’s two readings was lively. The gradual disappearance of seasoned editors and the resulting “limpness” of written language today were lamented. The importance of the sound and rhythm of words was stressed. A writer or an editor with a tin ear can be a recipe for a less-than-enticing manuscript. In addition, the impact of photographs in a biography was emphasized. More often than not, readers will first look at the photographs in a book, and if they are badly chosen a completely erroneous idea of the contents of the book can be conveyed.

Did Amazon analytics show unusual activity on Sallie Bingham’s page on April 3rd? It was perhaps because we all rushed home to our computers to purchase one of her many publications—an impressive collection of plays, poetry, fiction, and of course biography, which is purported to be the hottest genre today. Why? Because as Sallie writes in The Blue Box, “Nothing, as we know, is as complicated as the past.”
Some walked alone, many walked in fluid groups, some rode and walked and some supported. All were there as a testament of faith and for the fellowship. A record thirty-nine parishioners participated in the annual pilgrimage to the Santuario de Chimayó from Nambé church, on Wednesday of Holy Week which concluded with an uplifting Eucharist on the grounds of the church.
HOLY WEEK IN PICTURES
PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTY BUCHSBAUM, JAMES AND PATTY VAUGHAN, JAMES OVERTON AND ALEXANDRA WARD
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