Dear Faithful and Friends of Holy Faith,

As most of you know, our bishop, the Rt. Rev’d Michael Vono, has announced his retirement. Bishop Michael has been a good friend to The Church of the Holy Faith, a great diocesan bishop, and an effective leader in the greater Church and in the community at large. We shall miss him in his role as our diocesan bishop, but we are delighted he will continue to live in New Mexico!

The Diocese of the Rio Grande is currently searching for our next bishop. The Bishop Search Committee has been hard at work during the past few months, gathering information from parishioners around the diocese about their hopes, dreams, and challenges for the next bishop. The committee has compiled this information to attract potential candidates in a diocesan profile that, according to Holy Faith’s Associate Rector Fr. Jim Gordon who serves on the Bishop Search Committee, was posted online in early September. Names of candidates will be received through mid-October.

The ministry of a bishop is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as apostle, chief priest, and pastor of a diocese; to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the whole Church; to proclaim the Word of God; to act in Christ’s name for the reconciliation of the world and the building up of the Church; and to ordain others to continue Christ’s ministry (Book of Common Prayer, p. 855). If you know someone who has these gifts for ministry and who would be make a good bishop, please encourage that person to submit an application.

Beginning in mid-October, the Bishop Search Committee will review all the applications received, conduct interviews, perform reference and background checks, and present a slate of candidates in early March. There will be an opportunity for the diocese to add additional candidates by petition.
Once the slate of candidates has been finalized, the Bishop Transition Committee, of which I am a member, takes over. The Bishop Transition Committee will organize opportunities for the candidates to tour the diocese and answer questions from parishioners at several gatherings around the diocese in early May. The Bishop Transition Committee will also assist with the Special Electing Convention on May 19, when all of Holy Faith’s Convention Delegates, Wardens, and Clergy will cast ballots for the next bishop. Following the election of the new bishop, the Bishop Transition Committee will plan a celebration of Bishop Michael and his episcopate, assist with the planning of the Service of Consecration of the new bishop at St. John’s Cathedral in Albuquerque on November 3, 2018, and work with the new bishop to facilitate a smooth entry into the diocese.

Throughout these many months, please keep as part of your personal prayers, the prayer for the election of a bishop that we pray as a community at Holy Faith each Sunday: Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 818)

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you!

Robin D. Dodge
Rector
A CONVERSATION WITH THÉRÈSE SAINT-ANDRÉ – THE RECTOR’S WIFE
STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH OF THÉRÈSE BY JAMES OVERTON, PICTURE OF THE FAMILY BY MARTY BUCHSBAUM

Discovering the balanced life of prayer, work and much more…

One cannot talk about a life balanced by prayer, work, study and rest without realizing Thérèse Saint-André defines that quiet, monastic rule in her daily and spiritual existence.

And, early in a conversation with Thérèse, it becomes clear that beneath the quiet calm, quick smile, and laugh lines at the corner of her eyes, there is a gentle but disciplined presence that is quickly becoming a part of the fabric of Holy Faith.

And, it’s not just because she’s the rector’s wife. It’s a calling steeped in life experience and an evolving framework based on the Rule of St. Benedict, which boils down to living out one’s faith in the world today.

Considered a patron saint of Europe and the founder of Western Christian monasticism, the sixth-century St. Benedict is remembered for his “rule” of living in community and ordering the day around communal prayer as well as regular silent prayer and meditation.

“I take the ministry of all the baptized very seriously, just as my husband does,” said Thérèse during a recent morning at the Santa Fe house they are turning into their new home. “This means that I try to do all that I can to contribute to the health and growth of my parish church, and of the larger Christian community, using the gifts that God has given me.”

A native New Englander, Thérèse grew up in Maine with her Dutch mother, French-Canadian father and sisters Yvette and Monique and brother Peter. Her family shared an interest in nature and the outdoors, and in music. She earned a degree in history at Wesleyan University and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

“I found banking appealing and I was pretty good at numbers, but I loved the liberal arts education,” Thérèse said in a recent interview. “I even considered going to seminary, after writing my college thesis on Martin Luther.” Hedging her bets, she applied to both the Booth School of Business and the Divinity School at the University of Chicago.

Of her decision to pursue a business degree, Thérèse said, “I just liked the idea of getting to work and being financially independent.” She worked for a Chicago bank while attending business school in the evenings. Her career in the financial services industry has included corporate lending, asset and liability management, and risk management at First Chicago Bank, Riggs Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. She has also lectured in finance in the post-graduate program of the business school at the University of the West of England.

While working on her master’s in business administration, she met a young attorney who had become very active in Chicago’s Episcopal Church of Our Savior. His name was Robin Dodge. They soon found themselves working on the same things, exploring the same musical and cultural interests, and building the ties that bind.

As one previous Holy Faith rector once observed, “Coincidence is God’s way of remaining anonymous.”

As fate would have it, they were both New Englanders and had been champion debaters, she in Maine, Fr. Robin in Vermont. They were both history majors and avid readers who discovered they share a thirst for knowledge and a passion for music. While he was raised in the Methodist Church and she was Roman Catholic, they found their way in their 20s to the middle path to which Episcopalians are drawn.
“The church was the center of our social life.”

Thérèse recollected that the then-rector of the Church of Our Savior was delighted to play the role of matchmaker for the young couple. More than a quarter century later, they are the parents of two sons, Cameron, 25, and Barrett, 22.

Living with the challenges that life can bring is part of their family bond. “We support and encourage each other. We both have gifts to offer. At Holy Faith, it’s been such a gift to be part of a joyful, worshipful community. I want to be supportive of so many ministries that are going on at Holy Faith.

“The word that best describes Holy Faith is joyful. Not duty. Or obligations. But doing the things we do out of joy!”

After 26 years in Washington, DC (and three years in Bristol, England), both Robin and Thérèse are gently dissolving the stress that comes from living a lifestyle as opposed to living a life.

“It is a switch,” she said. “People are so time stressed in Washington. In Santa Fe, folks are a lot more relaxed, and they are tied to this diverse culture. And, not unlike living in England, you have to learn how to do things differently.”

They are still discovering all that Santa Fe and New Mexico have to offer, including its rich tri-cultural history and the broad range of cultural offerings. “We go to hear wonderful music, the Chamber Music Festival, the Opera…” On a recent evening, they were among the sold-out crowd at the Santa Fe Opera to hear Pink Martini’s eclectic blend of jazz, swing, cabaret and show tunes.

As Thérèse considers what the next steps in her career may be, she is thinking about returning to asset management and also about ways to leverage her financial expertise to help non-profit organizations find sustainable financial footing. But her pathway is now influenced more than ever by her past work with the Friends of St. Benedict.

“I hope to soon be leading a Benedictine prayer group. Another aspect of my ministry is in welcoming newcomers. I never forget what it is like to be new in the church community, having grown up Roman Catholic, and then joining the Lutheran Church and then the Episcopal Church. So, I do my best to seek out newcomers and make them feel welcome,” she said.

“St. Benedict says that each guest who comes to the door of the monastery should be welcomed as if they were Christ himself.”
LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE: THE ST. JOHN’S BIBLE
STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEXANDRA WARD

The Saint John’s Bible is a stunning achievement by any measure. The first hand-written illuminated bible to be produced since the invention of the printing press, it was commissioned by Saint John’s Abbey and University in 1998, and production was completed in 2011.

Because of her background as an architectural/technical illustrator, parishioner and docent Jody Register (pictured, left) was particularly fascinated by this multi-year, multi-million dollar project, and she took us on a journey behind the scenes during a Library Open House last month.

The bible was a perfect marriage between medieval techniques and 21st century computer technology. Quill pens were carved and cured by each calligrapher and some paints, such as the red vermillion, came in cakes dating from the 1870’s, which were mixed by the artists using time-honored formulas. But what of the surface? It was vellum, but a far cry from the vellum found in any art supplies store. It came from calfskins, hair and all, delivered to the studio and after a sweaty dusty process descriptively called “scrutching” four perfect pages emerged from each skin.

This kind of vellum is a very forgiving material, and a calligrapher’s mistake can be easily removed with a special knife. But one can only imagine the cry of despair when a calligrapher discovered that an entire line had been inadvertently omitted from a finished page. But as Jody said, “When the going gets tough, the tough get creative.” The solution? The missing line was added on a scroll at the bottom of the manuscript, which was transported by a beautifully drawn raven to the appropriate location on the page. Pure genius!

The project would have taken untold amounts of time without the computer. This was not the work of one lonely artist but rather an enormous and far-flung team of calligraphers, artists, scholars and theologians, so to be able to share text and images via e-mail and Dropbox was essential. And before the first drop of ink was applied to the vellum, every single page was formatted in advance using a custom font created by the graphic designer as well as the most advanced versions of software such as Quark and Photoshop.

The Saint John’s Bible was exhibited at the New Mexico History Museum in 2013. It was definitely a blockbuster show, but exciting as that kind of exhibit is, jostling crowds can make the experience unfulfilling for the viewer. If you saw the Bible there and want to know more, come to the peace and quiet of the Holy Faith Library where facsimile editions of the seven books are displayed along with Christopher Calderhead’s Illuminating the Word, the Making of the Saint John’s Bible. And if you are curious about the Benedictine Abbey of Saint John the Baptist in Minnesota, you need only to cross the hall to Father Robin’s office, because he is an oblate candidate affiliated with Saint John’s where he goes for his annual retreat.
If you’ve ever wondered what difference a stained-glass window can make, you only have to walk into the nave of Holy Faith this summer where ordinary plain glass temporarily replaced two windows which are being repaired. The Bradford Prince window (pictured right, internal and external views), memorializing his wife, Hattie Childs Prince, and portions of the Bartlett St. Cecilia window are being restored during a six-week period. Their lovely colors are greatly missed, and the sheet glass is just so, well, clear. Ongoing environmental damage and improvements in protective techniques are a few of the reasons for the current work being undertaken done. It will preserve the windows’ beauty and stabilize their construction.

ABQ Art Glass owners Erin Magennis and Kyle Ray, along with assistant Essie Shirk, worked carefully on July 25th to prepare for the delicate removal of the St. Agnes image. Erin allowed Kay Swindell and Alexandra Ward to witness, photograph and learn about the process.

The artisans began by removing the protective Lexan covering outside, taking note of deterioration from age, changing seasons and nature itself. It was evident that oxidation had caused the lead supports to weaken over time which caused cracks to appear in pieces of glass, and finally, bulging in the lower area of the window. Instability was very evident. A closer look revealed small vents, added several years ago to the covering to allow for some air circulation, but they have proved inadequate so their number will be increased as part of this project.

The windows were transferred to Albuquerque, and the work in the studio began with a rubbing of each one to serve as a cartoon or guide for the entire composition during re-assembly. Each piece of glass, as well as the lead supports, was removed and numbered. A very complicated jigsaw puzzle is now in the artisans’ hands.

Next is a meticulous cleaning during which an inventory of all cracks and breaks in pigmented pieces is taken. At this stage in a restoration, it may be possible to solve a puzzle of establishing when a window was made and by which firm; in fact, the church hoped to gather such information about the Prince window if any is discovered.

Then any broken or cracked glass pieces are re-blown by hand, flattened, dried thoroughly, and finally repainted with a mixture of iron oxide, crushed glass and pigment. This step requires all of Kyle Ray’s experience, skill and patience. (In the restoration of the St. Hilda of Whitby window last year, Kyle recreated forty pieces of colored glass.) When completed and matched with existing pieces, the new glass is baked in a kiln and inserted into the window.

When the images are complete, the entire window is re-leded and freshly soldered. It is then covered with a layer of putty which was pushed into all crevices and corners. This putty dries for two days, after which there is a final cleaning with linseed oil and a specialized version of Portland cement. ABQ Art Glass will add updated environmental protection before the windows are installed again.

The St. Cecilia window requires only a partial repair but will receive just as much care. This effort is a vivid aspect of our stewardship: preserving the beauty of our historic place of worship for generations to come... and helping to keep that sense of awe that stained-glass windows can add.
FOOD DRIVE FOR HOUSTON
STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL D’ARCY

A speedily organized Interfaith Food Drive for Houston took place over the Labor Day weekend with remarkable results. There were plenty of Holy Faith and other volunteers and St. John’s Methodist Church allowed a large Food Depot truck to take up residence which drew plenty of drive-by donations. We collected 4 tons (8,000 pounds) of food, water, cleaning supplies and hygiene items as well as $1200 in cash/checks and $275 in gift cards from Petco and PetSmart. These donations helped fill a 40’ trailer which Food for America took to the relief area. The Food Depot has since filled another 40’ trailer for the stricken area. The Food Depot is continuing to receive donations and, in partnership with Food for America, will get the donated items to the area’s most in need.
As my husband and I have transitioned to our new life here in Santa Fe, there have been parts of our previous life we have brought with us and parts that we have left behind. In addition to his work as rector of St. David’s Episcopal Church in Washington, D. C., Fr. Robin also served as Chaplain to the British Embassy, Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese of Washington, President of the American Friends of St. David’s Cathedral (Wales), and Chaplain to Friends of St. Benedict. I was Executive Director of Friends of St. Benedict (FSB) and also co-led a local chapter (cell group) called Benedictine Way. While we had to leave most of these commitments behind, Fr. Robin and I continue to be involved in Friends of St. Benedict and wider Benedictine circles throughout the world.

FSB is a small non-profit organization whose mission is to nurture the growth of Benedictine spirituality for those living outside of the monastery. It grew out of the first Benedictine Experience held at Canterbury Cathedral in 1982. This was organized by Esther De Waal, an Anglican laywoman, at the time she was working on her (now) classic book, Seeking God. The Benedictine Experience was conceived as neither a retreat nor a course but rather as a way to learn about the Benedictine way by experiencing its unique rhythm or prayer, work, study, and rest in community. One of the people who attended this first Benedictine Experience was Elizabeth (Betty) Swenson, a devout Episcopalian who was beginning to think about leaving behind her career on Capitol Hill and who went on to become the founding Executive Director of Friends of St. Benedict. Two years later, the Benedictine Experience was held at The Bishop’s Ranch, an Episcopal retreat center in Healdsburg, California, and there have been Benedictine Experiences at Canterbury Cathedral and Bishop’s Ranch every year (or bi-annually) since then. Over time, they were held at many other abbeys and retreat houses, such as St. John’s Abbey in Minnesota and Holy Cross Monastery in New York state.

As the office of FSB was recently moved and its library needed a new home, I asked if this collection could be given over to the library of The Church of the Holy Faith. The board of FSB was delighted to know that these books would have a new home where they would be well cared for and hopefully widely read!

While this collection is by no means a comprehensive survey of books about Benedictine spirituality, it does provide an introduction to many of the prominent writers in the Benedictine tradition. Among the authors included are M. Basil Pennington, Thomas Keating, Thomas Merton, Joan Chittister, Esther De Waal, Laurence Freeman, and Michael Casey. Contemplative prayer is one of the hallmarks of Benedictine life, so it is not surprising that many of the monastics write about the practice of silent prayer (including centering prayer and meditation). Laurence Freeman, Thomas Keating, and Basil Pennington all write very clearly and accessibly on this subject. Michael Casey’s Toward God is an excellent primer on the life of prayer in general. Benedictines revere scripture; they both pray the scriptures and study the scriptures daily. Lectio Divina, the prayerful reading of scripture, is a practice which is discussed in many of these books on prayer.

Those writers who live outside the monastery walls give us some of the most practical books on how to integrate the life of prayer with our working and family lives. Anglican laywomen contribute a great deal to this literature; Esther De Waal and Norvene Vest both offer deep reflection on how the Rule of St. Benedict can inform our own daily lives, giving meaning to our work and attentiveness to God’s presence in our relationships and the world around us. Sister Joan Chittister, a Benedictine monastic in Erie, PA, combines some of the best qualities of the monastic and the non-monastic writers. She writes in both a practical and poetic way about the challenges of living prayerfully and humbly in the modern world. Holy Faith’s Spiritual Classics group is currently studying her commentary on the Rule of St. Benedict.

Inter-faith and inter-monastic dialogue is an important strand within Benedictine literature. Because of their contemplative tradition, Benedictines have a strong affinity for Eastern religions. Thomas Merton, a Cistercian monk who is one of the most widely-read Christian authors of the 20th century, was deeply interested in Eastern contemplative...
traditions, especially Zen and Zen Buddhism. John Main, a Benedictine monk and groundbreaking teacher of meditation in the Christian tradition, was deeply influenced by Eastern contemplative traditions. Sister Donald Corcoran, who led the Benedictine Experience in Healdsburg for many years, and who will offer this year’s Scheffler Lecture as well as a Quiet Morning at Holy Faith at the end of October, has been actively involved in inter-monastic dialogue.

I hope that this brief introduction to our new Benedictine collection will encourage you to explore the riches that the Holy Faith library has to offer. I want to express deep gratitude to the members of the Library Committee for their gracious support and hard work in incorporating these books into the Library. The members of the Library Committee are: Phyllis Lehmberg (Chair), Mitzi Barker, Joke Cinader, Sharon Cooper, Margaret Lopez, Alice McSweeney, Lora Morton and Alexandra Ward.

THE ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017 AT BISHOP’S RIDGE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEXANDRA WARD AND JAMES VAUGHAN
FOR YOUR DIARIES....
A CELEBRATION ON THE FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI - OCTOBER 1-4, 2017

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017
Services at 7:30 am, 8:30 am and 11am
2-3:30 pm Open House with Docent-led Tours
4 pm Blessing of the Animals
Join us in the St. Francis garden of the church with your pets. Following a brief prayer service, we will bless dogs, cats and other pets on leashes or in carriers (please). Pets will receive special “cookies,” a signed certificate with their name and a prayer for the year ahead. Dr. Brent Parker will once again be at the “Ask the Vet” table. There will be refreshments for all their human friends, as well as special activities for families.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017
6 pm Taizé Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017
12:10 pm Holy Eucharist on the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi
6 pm Solemn Evensong on the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

A WEEKEND WITH SISTER MARY DONALD CORCORAN O.S.B. CAM – OCTOBER 27-29, 2017

The annual Scheffler Lecture takes place on Friday, October 27, at 3pm in Palen Hall. Sr. Donald (pictured, left) will give a talk, entitled “Truly to Seek God.” She will explore what monastic and Benedictine spirituality can teach us about living in today’s world, and how we can live the Mystery of Christ creatively. A reception hosted by Holy Faith’s Library Committee and Hospitality team will follow. On Saturday, October 28, we will offer a Quiet Morning to pursue the themes raised by Sr. Donald in her address. The day will begin with fellowship over a continental breakfast, followed by Morning Prayer at 9:00 am, a series of meditations by Sr. Donald interspersed with periods for silent reflection, and concluding with Eucharist at noon. Sr. Donald will also preach at Holy Faith’s 8:30 and 11:00 am masses on Sunday, October 29.

Sister Mary Donald Corcoran, O.S.B. Cam, is the superior of Transfiguration Monastery (Roman Catholic) in Windsor, New York. She holds a Ph.D. in Theology from Fordham University, directed the M.A. program in spirituality at St. Louis University and has taught in the summer spirituality program at Fordham. In 1979, she co-founded Transfiguration Monastery. The co-author of Spiritual Sisters, she serves on the Board of Directors of In the Spirit Foundation, and is a well-known teacher, writer, and leader of Benedictine retreats all over the country.
CLERGY

The Rev. Robin D. Dodge – Rector
(505) 982-4447 ext. 101, or fr.robin@holyfaithchurchsf.org
The Rev. Jim Gordon – Associate Rector
(505) 982-4447 ext. 110, or fr.jimgordon@gmail.com
The Rev. Richard Murphy – Assisting Priest
(505) 982-4447 or frrichardsf@gmail.com
The Rev. Patricia Masterman – Deacon
(505) 982-4447 or deacon_pat@bellsouth.net

STAFF

Mark Edw. Childers – Parish Administrator and Director of Music and Liturgy
(505) 982-4447 ext. 102, or medw.childers@gmail.com
Donna Lukacs – Parish Secretary
(505) 982-4447 ext. 100, or donna@holyfaithchurchsf.org
Ann L. MacVicar, MS – Christian Education Assistant for Children and Nursery
(505) 982-4447 ext. 119, or amacvica@kean.edu
Marcos Castillo – Facilities Manager
(505) 982-4447 ext. 105, or marcos@holyfaithchurchsf.org
Rocio Salazar – Housekeeping
(505) 982-4447

VESTRY

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
9:00 am – 4:30 pm
311 E. Palace Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501
Phone (505) 982-4447
For more information, please visit our new website at www.holyfaithchurchsf.org.

Faithway – September 2017