



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

A few weeks ago, the President of the United States issued a statement saying that he supported the right of same-sex couples to marry. According to some administration sources, the President's position, which up to this time had been evolving, had finally evolved. Actually, the evolution of his position had come full circle, since this is the same position he held while running for the state senate in Illinois. But I want to spend less time on the evolution than the position itself.

There are so many things wrong with the statement simply on the face of it. First of all, same-sex marriage is an oxymoron. These two terms are completely incompatible. But they exist for the sole purpose of redefining marriage. It is an old trick. If you use a term over and over again, people will become comfortable enough with it so that there must not be anything wrong with it. As you know, marriage has a definition given to us by the One who instituted marriage in the first place. One man and one woman united together so that their sexual union may result in the procreation of children. According to the Word of God, any other sexual union is illicit, regardless of the circumstances. It is incomprehensible to me how any Christian, regardless of his or her motivation, can dissent from this

explicit teaching of Scripture. Secondly, to say that an individual has a right to enter into an illicit relationship is equally troubling. From where does such a right come? We learn from our founders that rights come from the Creator and that it is the purpose of government to protect rights that we have been given by Him. Does it therefore make sense that He would endow us with a right that He explicitly forbids? Whatever relationship two people of the same gender enter into, it can never be marriage. It simply isn't possible. I would encourage you to read the statement of our Presiding Bishop on this subject at www.emchome.org.

Of at least equal importance for the life of religious activity in our society is the administration's position on the requirement of all those who provide health insurance to provide contraception and even abortifacients as part of a health care package. The Catholic bishops of the nation are right in standing against this mandate of the federal government and we should stand with them. This is clearly a matter of religious freedom which is protected by the first amendment. As I write this, forty Catholic institutions have joined in a class action law suit against the federal government on this matter. I ask that you pray that the courts will hold that this mandate violates the constitutional

protection of religious freedom. If they can mandate this what else may follow?

We have just completed another year of Sunday School at St. Francis. I'm sure we will resume sometime in September, after Labor Day. I want to thank Amy Crandall who has not only coordinated the entire Sunday School for the last several years but also teaches our youngest children. Mike Ready and Doug Cooper have taught the high school students and Rebecca Hoard, Cassandra Jensen, Kim Norris, Missy Bernard and Martelle Wathen have helped Amy with the Sunday School and the nursery. My sincere thanks to all of you for your contribution to the spiritual life of the young people of our parish. This is the last newsletter until September. It is my hope that you will have an enjoyable summer, one that is not too hot or dry. Please remember to keep up your contributions if you plan to be away. God bless you.

Christian Education News

As I skipped out on writing the article for last month's newsletter, I could have a bit of catching up to do. We have had lessons each Sunday. The younger children all go into the church and leave after the Nicene Creed for 45 minutes of class. The teen class had instruction the entire hour. Since Easter, the elementary class has discussed a variety of stories from Acts, ending with the Day of Pentecost on the 20th. The group collected money in their mite boxes and after a fair amount of discussion decided to donate the funds of \$42.32 to an organization that supplies mosquito netting

to help combat malaria. The teen class has been working through the Beatitudes, plus had a wrap up lesson on the last day.

As the last day of Sunday school for this school year was on May 20, I wanted to extend a big thank you to:

- parents for being sure their children were in Sunday school as much as they could. We regularly had 11 in the younger class and 3 in the youth class attend this year. The nursery almost always had one or two young children.
- for the adults who transported two of the children to church and then back home each week
- for the adults who helped to teach this year: Doug Cooper with the teenage class, Martelle Wathen, Rebecca Hoard, Missy Bernard, Kim Norris and Cassandra Jensen for working with the elementary class
- Missy Bernard for spearheading the hiring a nursery caretaker and organizing the nursery
for Wanda Stults and Kim Norris for stepping in as substitutes.

We will celebrate the end of the school year on Sunday, June 17th with a swim party with cooked hamburgers and hot dogs at Northwest Park at 1 pm.

The most exciting news to me is that Rebecca Hoard agreed to be in charge of the Sunday school program at St. Francis beginning in the fall of 2012. Ever since my son started his senior year this past September, I have felt it was time to pass the mantle of leadership to someone else and to work toward "graduating" with him. Rebecca's enthusiasm and

organizational skills will help keep the program in a healthy state -- but she is going to continue to need volunteers to help out. I am so thankful that we have members who are willing to step up and help out when asked. Rebecca will need your support and prayers, as have been given to me these past 9 years.

THANK YOU, Rebecca!

Amy Crandell
Sunday School Director for Children and Youth
2003-2012

Anglicans for Life

The Saint Francis' chapter of Anglicans for Life will meet on Sunday, 17th, after the 11:00 coffee hour in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited to join us in supporting life through educating ourselves and supporting pro-life organizations. Also, the "Choose Life" license plates are now available for purchase. The cost is \$30.00, \$22.00 of which goes toward the promotion of adoption.

There will be no more meetings of Anglicans for Life until August 19th.

Rector: The Rev. Canon Len Giacolone
Senior Warden: Mark Rambin
Junior Warden: Keith Harrell



Birthday

- 5 Rev. Len Giacolone
- 9 Alek Denslow
- 10 Cassandra Watkins
- 12 Anne Idsal
- 15 Charlotte Ready
- 18 Nancy Jones
RobinRuth Alexander
Robert Motl
Carleton Wilkes
- 19 Gordon Lofland
- 20 Brendle Glomb
- 27 Anna Burnette

Anniversary

- 1 Jace and Cindy Phillips
- 9 Thomas and Lorraine Pangle
Mike and Charlotte Ready
- 15 Camille and Elizabeth Kalash



Associate Rector: The Reverend John Stults
Organist: Paula Blaha
Servers: Ray Merrill and Arthur Woodgate
Ed Sandlin and Philip Crandell

Newsletter Submissions

Any parishioner that has news of any kind they would like to share with everyone is welcome to send it in writing to Tricia Denslow at 640 Lakeside Dr., Wimberley, TX 78676 or to her e-mail address (triciadenslow@yahoo.com). If received by the 20th, it will appear in next month's newsletter.

St. Francis Anglican Church

1408 West 9th Street
Austin, Texas 78703

JUNE 2012

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| 1 | Games Night, 6:30pm | 17 | Father's Day
<u>Morning Prayer and Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Ezekiel 31:1-6, 10-14 Psalm 922
Cor. 5:1-10 Mark 4:26-34
Anglicans for Life Meeting, 12:30pm |
| 2 | Austin City Prayer Walk, 9am | 18 | Mothers Prayer Group, 11am |
| 3 | <u>Morning Prayer and Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Exodus 3:1-6 Psalm 93
Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-16 | 19 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon |
| 5 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon | 20 | Transformation Prayer, 7pm |
| 6 | Transformation Prayer, 7:00 pm | 21 | Evening Prayer, 6pm |
| 7 | Evening Prayer, 6pm | 24 | <u>Morning Prayer and Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85
Acts 13:14b-26 Luke 1:57-80 |
| 10 | <u>Morning Prayer and Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Genesis 3:1-21 Psalm 1302
Cor. 4:13-18 Mark 3:20-35 | 26 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon |
| 12 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon | 27 | Transformation Prayer, 7pm |
| 13 | Transformation Prayer, 7pm | 28 | Evening Prayer, 6pm |
| 14 | Evening Prayer, 6pm | | |