THE TRADITIONAL ANGLICAN NEWS

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Fr. Robert's Remarks



FR. ROBERT MANSFIELD, SSC

Greetings, The Lord be with you!

August 18th, 1985: August 18th was a Sunday that year and St. Bartholomew's Day was the following Saturday. It was also within the Octave of the Falling Asleep of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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In his sermon below, Fr. David draws attention to St. Bartholomew and I leave that to him, but, as I was reading his sermon and formatting it for the Newsletter, I was reminded of that week in 1985—August 18-24.

St. Joseph of Arimathea, Anglican Catholic Church of Canada was a significant parish of the Continuing Anglican Church located in downtown Toronto. That parish no longer exists but it was a significant one at the time. One priest who served that parish was Fr. Roland Ford Palmer, SSJE. Fr. Palmer was a very familiar figure in the Canadian Church for various reasons. He was a mission priest of the Society of St. John the evangelist and a founder of the Canadian House of the SSJE. He was a long-time member of the General Synod and served on the Prayer Book Revision Committee for many years. He wrote the beautiful Marian hymn "Sing of Mary" (#807 in the 1938 Book of Common Praise, Canada), was retreat and mission conductor, a writer; — I

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Fr. David Marriott, SSC: A Sermon for St. Bartholomew's Day



FR. DAVID MARRIOTT, SSC

The name of St. Bartholomew is well known to most people in Britain, and those round the world who have some link to medical research: this is because he gave his name to one of the major teaching and research hospitals in London, usually referred to as Bart's.

St. Bartholomew, also known as Nathaniel, was friend to St. Phillip, who brought him to Jesus. He is thought to have traveled and preached in Asia Minor, Ethiopia and India, and was martyred in Armenia. His relics are to be found in Rome, and at Canterbury Cathedral.

'There was strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest'.

We have to be thankful for this anniversary of S., Bartholomew coming on a Sunday, because it gives us an opportunity to review one of the basic tenets of our faith, which is also one of the most distinguishing qualities separating Christian belief from what had gone before, and from what is around us today in our society.

How do you view success? If you were to write down the three things, which you might think of, in calling someone successful, what might they be?

Fr. David Marriott, SSC: St. Bartholomew's Day

Now, in a workshop setting, we could get out the sheets of paper, and then review what we had all written, but please bear with me if I list some of the qualities, which we hear and read about in our world:

- 1. Lots of money and possessions
- 2. A big house, a luxury car, a boat: preferably big, toys of various kinds.
- 3. In charge of a company, or government ministry: many people in his or her employment.
- 4. Consulted by other 'important' people, about 'important' things.
- 5. Opinions respected.

This was the sort of world that the apostles had come from. Who were the key people in their world? The people with the power, the power to hire and fire, the people who had authority vested in them because of their appointed role; this including the priest and the politician. The wealthy businessman, and the ones who sat at the top table of the big dinners.

So, it was really quite natural that as they came from that background, these were the guidelines that they applied to their 'new group': this little band of apostles grouped around Jesus. It was a bit like a new parish: you know, the gentle elbowing for position: have you ever heard of the church where people could be quite rude if you were unlucky enough to sit in 'their' pew? If we live in a world where authority and position: being one of the 'inside group', is a sign of acceptance and respect, it is to be expected that we will bring these same qualities into our place of worship, isn't it?

'They that exercise authority over them are called Benefactors.' That is something we might all like to be called: if you give enough money to the Vancouver Symphony, you'll have your name listed under the title 'benefactor' – doer of good deeds: you have earned the right to be known by your generosity.

But Jesus tells us very clearly that we are not to behave like that: 'ye shall not be so.' He tells them, and us, 'that he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.' What is Jesus saying? If we are not to follow the established rules, what are the rules, or is this anarchy?

Some years ago, a colleague in business gave me a remarkable little note, entitled 'Let's get rid of management!' Of course, as I was then working in a training job, one of the first things I did with this was to present this to a management group meeting! The reason for this was very simple: the message made sense. What it said was that nobody needs a manager: nobody needs someone to tell them what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. We are able to work this our very well for ourselves; most companies do not hire stupid people (indeed people are not stupid): they hire people who are reasonable thinking individuals, who can speak for themselves, and who will tell you if things aren't working out right, or if things could be done better.



Fr. David Marriott, SSC: St. Bartholomew's Day

However, what we all need is a good leader: someone who can inspire us. Someone who can bring the very best out in us. Someone who can help us grow. In the first book of Kings, chapter 3 verse 5-11, Solomon tells how, in his dream, his desire was 'pleasing unto the Lord'. What did he ask for; 'Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad, for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?' Perhaps this tells us why Solomon was such a great leader: they are few and far between.

Now, think back to the Gospel message for today: because Jesus, in His infinite wisdom, gives us all a wonderful picture of what we could become. He describes a leader; He is The Leader: one who leads by setting an example of behaviour we can follow, by caring for those in need, by seeking out those who need support and help to achieve their goals: and in becoming this person, we not only grow in ourselves, but we also help and develop growth in faith and devotion in all those whom we meet, and what is needed more in this so-called 'secular' society? Leadership in action is to put the needs of those we lead first: if you think this cannot be done in our society, think of the caring and loving mother: just as the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of Our Lord, cared for and tended Jesus, so Jesus commands us to care: not to pander to, not to give in to, but to cherish, and therefore see grow and develop and mature, those around us.

May we all pray as Solomon did, and may we all have the wisdom to understand when our prayers are answered?



Bonnie's Reflections: Pobody's Nerfect



BONNIE IVEY (& LAD)

The Collects and Gospels for each Sunday are treasures handed down to us. The Church seasons bring us on an educational journey like the one the first Christians experienced. The focus of Trinity season is "How to live as a follower of Jesus". Many of those who became Christians in the First Century were former Pagans, who had once believed that various gods and god-

desses had "specialties". Concerned about your health? Make an offering in this temple. Are you a young recruit facing your first battle? Go make an offering to the god of War. Not enough rain for your crops? The goddess of growing things will appreciate and reward your gift.

Other newcomers to the faith had formerly been Jews. Some had been members of the sect of Pharisees who tried particularly hard to keep all the rules of behaviour and of ritual cleanness. That had been St. Paul's original faith. "I was a Pharisee of the Pharisees" he said, meaning he strained even harder than most Pharisees to do everything



Bonnie's Reflections: Pobody's Nerfect

"right." But that could lead to a loss of compassion in the search for perfection. Remember the story Jesus told of the man beat up by thieves on the Jericho Road. A priest and a Levite are headed up the road to take part in a Temple worship service. Each "passed by on the other side of the road", never stopping to examine the victim or offer aid. Why? Because he might be dead. If anyone touched a corpse, he had to remain ceremonially unclean for the rest of the day, forbidden to enter the Temple. Even if the beaten man was only unconscious, any trace of his blood on the hands, clothing, or shoes of anyone helping him would disqualify them from taking part in the service. So the two ministers of God's worship gathered their robes tightly around them and backed away.

This is why the Gospels and Epistles bring us, each year, through lessons learned by generations of believers before us. We, too, have to hear of the coming of Jesus into the world, his teachings, his death and Resurrection, his offer of eternal life. We have been given these weekly readings used for worship, as an Instruction Manual for the Owner of a Life Renewed by the Lord. We might learn new truths about ourselves, for example, in considering the collects for Trinity 11 and 12.

"O God, who declares thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity..." Wait! Do we *need* God's mercy and pity? Maybe we thought we were doing pretty well! Better than "those people" anyway...But could we have messed up without realizing it? "Mercifully grant to us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running the way of thy commandments..." Wait, now. We are asking for "such a measure," a quantity sufficient, as much as necessary, of grace. What is God's grace? It is his unmerited favor and help. Unmerited. Not deserved. How much is enough? Enough to keep us running the way of his commandments. Have I been...? What did Jesus say I need to do? A teacher of God's law once asked Jesus "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus in reply asked him "What does the scripture say? How do you read it?"

"You shall love the Lord thy God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and your neighbour as yourself," replied the teacher. But wanting to justify himself, he asked, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus answered by telling the story of that assault on the road to Jericho. (Luke 10:25-37) The point of Jesus' parable is that the two Jews who believed themselves to be serving God rightly were blind to the wounded man's needs. It was a Samaritan, a member of a despised group which had different religious beliefs, who had compassion and acted in mercy. "Religion" will so us no good unless it goes all the way into our hearts. If we examine ourselves, we may find we are less than we hoped as followers of Jesus. Even self-examination will not help if we are willfully blind to our own sins. We might do well to pray for God to show us the truth about ourselves.

Ah, but here comes another difficulty, pinpointed in the collect for the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity.

"Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear then we are to pray..." He waits to hear from us, like a good father who waits for a child to admit she



Bonnie's Reflections: Pobody's Nerfect

or he has messed up and needs help. This is the God who is eager to give us more than we desire or deserve. How much do we desire? He wishes to give us even more. More self-knowledge, more self-control, more love for each other and for him. Do we want for-giveness? Do we want to lay out the whole big mess before him and be done with it, or keep kidding ourselves that we are going to fix ourselves up and *then, when we decide we are good enough,* approach him?

The collect continues, "Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. *Amen.*"

Fr. Andrew, SDC: The Four Kinds of Crosses

As there are four points to the Cross, so there are four kinds of crosses. There is, first of all, the exterior cross, which is formed of all those natural trials which we must all know, through sickness or bereavement or whatever exterior circumstances come to us. All of us, the good, the bad, the indif-

'Endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.'-2 Tim. ii. 3

Secondly, there is the interior cross, which any sensitive soul has to know, consisting of spiritual trials, temptation, interior dryness or darkness, all sorts of interior fears and feelings of spiritual pain.

ferent, have at some time to bear an exterior cross.

Thirdly, what may be called the cross of necessity, that which our daily duty demands of us in the stewardship of what we hold for our Lord's sake. Nothing that we have, do we have really for ourselves. All Christians are called to live their lives as stewards. They must think of the opportunity of riches or the possession of talents as a steward-ship laid upon them by God.

Lastly, there is the cross of love, when we feel ourselves called by our own deliberate act to give up some good thing that we might honourably keep, as an act of sacrifice for the kingdom's sake. The mark of the Christian in the world is stewardship: the mark of the religious, who is called out of the world, is holy poverty. In this passage from the stewardship of possession for the love of God to the holy poverty that renounces the loved thing for the love of God, consists the cross of love which some of our Lord's lovers are called to carry.

"Pour down

UPON US THE

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Fr. Robert's Remarks

have no doubt that I am just scratching the surface. He was also a founding member of the continuing Church in Canada. By 1985, Fr. Palmer had moved out to Victoria, British Columbia and served in Victoria and also in Sequim, Washington.

St. Joseph of Arimathea Parish moved to the west end of the city—today it feels like it is almost downtown, things have changed so much—and rented a little Lutheran Church where they held an afternoon service. It was the Church in which I was made Deacon by Bishop Alfred Woolcock a couple of years later, but I get ahead of myself. That they had an afternoon service was certainly convenient for us with 3 children and a 2.5 hour drive each way.

On August 18th, as a family, we drove to Toronto and attended service at St. Joseph of Arimathea parish. It was our first visit to a congregation of the Anglican Catholic Church. In the Intentions and Intercessions Fr. Palmer was mentioned. He had just been taken to hospital. It was his brief and final illness. On the following Saturday, St. Bartholomew's Day, Fr. Palmer went to be with the Lord. Since the Church had already designated August 24th as St. Bartholomew's Day, the Anglican Catholic Church of Canada assigned August 23rd to the commemoration of Fr. Roland Ford Palmer, SSJE, something that those who use the Ordo produced by the ACCC Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist will notice next week. Of interest, that congregation in Victoria had operated under the patronage of St. Athanasius until the consecration of the Church on Falmouth St. The parish was styled 'St. John the Evangelist' when it was consecrated and Fr. Palmer's ashes were interred in the altar.

I remember that week of August 18-24, 1985. It was the week during which we decided to become part of the ACCC. I still had responsibilities in our local Anglican church here in Parry Sound. Those responsibilities were completed at the Annual Meeting of the parish in January, 1986 and, having had an ongoing correspondence and some conversation with Bishop Woolcock from the end of August, just before the Feast of the Purification, 1986 we became members of the ACC.

There was a little book published by the Convent Society called, 'Thanks For the Memory'. It was a series of short autobiographical articles by members of the Church. As I was reminded of St. Bartholomew by Fr. David, that title comes to mind as I write this brief column. 'Thanks for the Memory'!

Please give thanks as we take note of Margaret's baptism and Simon's reception on August 7th (see the next page) at St. Bride's, Pitt Meadows, BC.



From the Parishes

Simon and Margaret at St. Bride's.

Fr. David Marriott writes,

In early July, I had a phone call from Simon, in which he asked whether he, a Roman Catholic, could receive Communion at St. Bride's. He added that his wife, Margaret, had been attending the RCIA (Roman Catholic Instruction for Adults course), prior to being received into the Roman Catholic Church, and Baptized, but would come with him. It was clear that this was of great importance to him, so I suggested that they come and attend Mass, which they did on July 17th, when Simon made his communion, and Margaret received a blessing.



After the Mass was ended, I met with them both to enquire further, and then arranged to meet with them at the church on July 19th. Based on this meeting, I consulted with Fr. Mansfield, and on his advice, I also wrote to Archbishop Haverland, to have his advice on the way forward, including Margaret's Baptism, which we celebrated on the Holy Name of Jesus, Comm. Trinity VIII, August 7th, immediately prior to the celebration of the Mass.

Simon Yong and Margaret Ng are both originally from Singapore, and now

live in Maple Ridge, BC, not far from the church in Pitt Meadows. Having them join our parish family has given us all a feeling that we are not simply 'voice(s) of one crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' (Mark 1.3): and nobody listens, but that yes, some do listen, and seek us out!



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Fr. Robert's Remarks

Please pray for each of our congregations, clergy, and people, and the communities wherein they reside and live out their Christian calling and commitment.

Please pray for the preparations for and our upcoming Synod at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in the first week of October and for our presenter, Bishop Scarlett.

May God bless you and keep you!

More next month.

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