



The Forward

January / February 2010

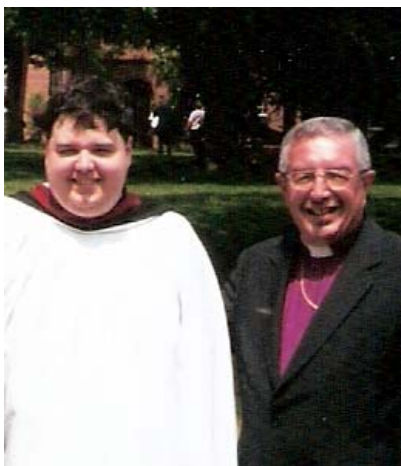
Letter from the Bishop

Two weeks ago, our diocese lost its seventh bishop, the Rt. Rev. Robert D. Rowley, Jr. Our diocese is grateful to Bishop Rowley for his faithful and dedicated leadership over many years. From the time of his ordination to the episcopate in 1989 until his retirement in 2007, he provided episcopal oversight and vision.

Early in his ministry, he developed the Cross Model of Ministry which assisted congregations in considering the ministries of the Church as they related to God (the vertical axis) and as they related to each other (the horizontal axis). You may recall receiving the cards with the model printed on them so that we could remember.

I especially remember the crosses that he gave to each congregation as a reminder to stay focused. He challenged each vestry to place the cross in the middle of the table. When business of the meeting would get

out of focus and lose sight of mission, he said we should take a pen and simply tap the cross. Sometimes, even to this day, I will find myself sitting at a meeting and remember him tapping the cross in the middle of the Diocesan Council table.



The circumstances of the diocese were changing rapidly as he assumed his role as Diocesan Bishop. It soon became clear that the ways of providing ministry were not sustainable over the long run, and he began to think about local formation for ordination and new models for ministry. The Diocesan School for Ministry provided a new way of forming persons for lay and ordained ministry.


Most importantly, Bishop Rowley was a man of simple faith in Jesus Christ—a faith he encouraged in others. Our diocese was blessed by his service.

Bishop Rowley, may you rest in peace and rise in glory.

+ Sean

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Memorial Service for the Rt. Rev. Robert Rowley

A Service of Evensong
Sunday, February 14, 2010
4:00 PM
Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie

One Church of miraculous expectation under the Lordship of Jesus Christ equipping transformational leaders for transformational ministry through our missionary outposts — our congregations.

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*The Rt. Rev. Robert D. Rowley, Jr.
July 6, 1941-January 18, 2010*

The Rt. Rev. Robert D. Rowley, Jr., seventh bishop of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania, passed away on the morning of January 18, 2010, following a short illness.

Prior to coming to the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Bishop Rowley earned a Bachelor's of Arts Degree and Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Master of Laws in International Law from George Washington University. In 1977, he earned his Masters of Divinity from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest. Bishop Rowley served in the U.S. Navy from 1966 until 1974, and the U.S. Naval Reserve until 1992 when he retired as a Captain for the Judge Advocate General Corps. After being ordained as a deacon in 1977 and a priest in 1978, Bishop Rowley served in the Episcopal Dioceses of Hawaii and Bethlehem.

Bishop Rowley began serving the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania in 1989, when he was elected as Bishop Coadjutor. He became the diocesan bishop in 1991, upon the retirement of the Rt. Rev. Donald Davis. During his tenure, Bishop Rowley moved the diocese forward in many important ways, including the creation of the School for Ministry, which provided an educational forum for those seeking formation locally. He also found ways to bring groups from the community together with the church, including a service of Evensong directed towards the law community of Erie County.



He was also active on both the National Church level and in the local community where he lived. On the National Church level, Bishop Rowley served on the Presiding Bishop's Council of Advice, the Committee for Dialogue on the Ordination of Women, the Episcopal Church House of Bishops Rules of Order Committee, the Episcopal Church Standing Commission on Ministry Development, and the Episcopal Church Title IV Review Committee. In the community, he was past Chairman and member of the Board of Directors of the Ecclesia Center in Girard, Pennsylvania; a member of the Advisor Board for the College of Humanities and Fine Arts of Saint Vincent College; past president of the Erie Philharmonic; and a member of the Board of Corporators of Saint Vincent Hospital and Hamot Hospital. He was also a past member of the Erie County Bar Association, the Christian Lawyers Group of the Erie County Bar Association, and the Northwestern Pennsylv-



vania American Inn of Court.

Bishop Rowley will be fondly remembered for the leadership he provided, his sense of humor, and, most importantly, his inspiring faith in Jesus Christ.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; his daughter, Karen Butler, her husband David, and their children, David, Kellie, and Kendis; and his son Dean Rowley, his wife Colleen, and their children, Christopher and Jessica.

Lenten Clergy Retreat



A clergy development retreat will be held February 28-March 2 at Olmsted Manor in Ludlow, PA. The retreat will begin at 5:00 PM with Evening Prayer, followed by dinner. The retreat will continue until Tuesday, following lunch. To register for the clergy retreat, please go to the diocesan website's calendar page at www.dionwpa.org/calendar.htm. If you are unable to do that, please contact Vanessa at 814-456-4203 or at vbutler@dionwpa.org to register. Please register no later than February 16.

Report on Natural Church Development by the Rev. Adam Trambley

For more than two years now, our Diocese has engaged the Natural Church Development process to look at concrete ways to improve the health of our diocese so we are more capable to carry out our mission and ministry. Using a process designed for dioceses and other church organizations called Organic Quality Management, the diocese has now completed two cycles of work. We might think of our health team's work as equivalent to an annual physical check-up and the positive lifestyle changes that might result. As we get our heart, lungs and muscles strengthened, we are more capable of doing the things in life we want to do. When the elements of our diocesan life, such as our structures, our relationships, our lifestyle, or our ministry teams, are stronger, we can better engage whatever particular ministry God is calling us to.



Part of our process is to identify the diocese's current minimum factor. Once we know our minimum factor, we can identify where we can leverage the greatest improvement. One example NCD uses to explain how a minimum factor works is a potted plant. A plant may need water to grow. Once it has enough water, however, to keep growing it may need sunlight. And once it has enough sun it may need fertilizer.

During 2009, our Diocese's minimum factor was functional structures. Throughout the year, our health team met to plan, implement, and evaluate ways to increase our functional structures. Our health team members included Bishop Sean, Canon Martha, Dennis Blausler, Anne Bardol, Holly Davis, Mary Norton, Jack Malovich, Cheryl Pryts, Brian Reid, Adam Trambley and John Wesley. The previous year, in 2008, our minimum factor was also functional structures and we had put together focus groups to help the Bishop and the

Diocese in the development of a mission statement. We felt the next step in functional structures for 2009 was to help people identify and use their spiritual gifts in diocesan ministry.

Over the course of the year, we held four seminars throughout the diocese to help people discern their spiritual gifts. Almost 70 people from 16 congregations attended. We also began working with a number of diocesan committees to develop ministry descriptions, so people might know the spiritual gifts and commitments necessary for that particular ministry. The Diocesan nominating committee began to incorporate a gifts-oriented approach in their work leading up to convention. The nominating committee also noted that as more people have identified their spiritual gifts and more ministries have developed ministry descriptions their work will be easier and more fruitful. The Diocesan office is preparing ways to track people's spiritual gifts to assist our work going forward. We have also formed a committee, chaired by Jack Malovich, which will be continuing this work with spiritual gifts over the next year.

If you have any questions, or would like to get involved in with this work, please contact Adam Trambley at 724-347-4501 or atrambley@gmail.com.

Safeguarding God's Children Trainings

The following Safeguarding God's Children's Trainings have been scheduled:

Saturday, February 27 @ 10:00 AM - Trinity Memorial, Warren

Saturday, March 6 @ 10:00 AM - Holy Trinity, Brookville

Please sign up for the trainings by contacting Vanessa at the Diocesan Church Center (814-456-4203 or vbutler@dionwpa.org). There are a limited number of seats at each training, so it will be first come, first serve.

If you have news, story ideas, or pictures that you would like to share with the diocese, please contact Vanessa at the Diocesan Church Center at 814-456-4203 or at vbutler@dionwpa.org.

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Stations of the Cross

by Joyce Gieza

Welcome to St. Mary's Lenten Fridays!

They began more than 20 years ago when the Rev. Jeffrey Hamblin purchased and installed our 14 Stations of the Cross. While not a congregation to always jump in with both feet, the plaques sat on the walls of the nave and grew on us for a number of years with only sparse use.

It was during the tenure of the Rev. Kay Johnson that we actually began the Lenten devotion on Friday evenings. After she moved to Hawaii, we found ourselves without clergy (again) and needing the comfort of the familiar we decided to continue our Lenten Friday Stations of the Cross and expanded it to include a potluck supper and, for the lack of a better word, a teaching. Our laity officiated (Zach Irwin, Monica Irwin, Bill McLean, Enid Bishop and Joyce Gieza) if the visiting clergy declined; we also participated as crucifers and readers. Today we use a crucifer and an officiant; the description of the station is read by individuals in the pews.



Over the years we have been blessed by the ideas and views that a variety of clergy and laypersons have brought to us. Our clergy guests have included Bishop Sean (even in his pre-bishop days), the Revs. John Downey, Don Baxter, Richard Elberfeld, Carol Carlson, David Evans, Johnnie Cassell, Julie Nelson, Doug Dayton and Charl Kapp to name a few. From our Lutheran brethren we have hosted the Revs. Charles Wertz, David Laakso and John Coleman. Among the laity, in 2009, Teresa Murtland offered her insights on Africa 6000 and the need for the recently completed well project.

While this is a very diverse group, it is its diversity that intrigues us. For us it is a time of listening to different viewpoints, to the other person, view, or model.

This year's guests are as follows: Feb. 19 - Rev. Kathleen Ziegenhine, Feb. 26 - TBA, Mar. 5 - Bishop Sean, Mar. 12 - Rev. John Downey, Mar. 19 - TBA, and Mar. 26 - Rev. Shawn Clerkin, our new vicar. You may check for updates on our website: www.stmarys-erie.org.

If you are from the Erie area or just in the area on any of the above dates, we invite you to join us for this special service. Stations begin at 6:00 p.m. and we finish around 8:00 p.m.

Again, welcome to St. Mary's!

Thank You

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the love, prayers, and support that you have given us following the death of our daughter, Aria. Your prayers and acts of kindness have blessed us and are a good reminder that, even in times such as this, we have much to be thankful for.

Blessings,
Tim & Vanessa Butler

Bishop Sean's Visitation Schedule

February 21st - St. Augustine, Edinboro
February 28th - St. Luke's, Smethport



St. Luke's, Smethport

Diocesan Council Reminder

Diocesan Council will meet on Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:00 PM at St. John's, Franklin. Council members, please let Vanessa know whether or not you can attend.