



CHURCH OF THE
HOLY COMFORTER

November 2009

THE DOVE

Christian Healing by Fr. Hardman

On Sunday, November 8, we will be holding a Celtic Healing Service. I have already said a few words about Celtic Spirituality and its emphasis on God's presence everywhere. Now I would like to say a few words about Christian healing.

First, forget most of what you know or think you know about Christian healing if the television is your only source of knowledge. Much of what happens on TV is manipulative, simplistic, and often damaging to all who listen-whatever the effect to those who may or may not be healed.

Christian healing goes back to Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God. We are healed when we enter that kingdom or when that kingdom comes near.

To understand what is meant by that think about our world as being made up of two kingdoms, the kingdom of me and the Kingdom of God. The kingdom of me kind of dominates our thoughts and experience while the Kingdom of God is often hidden from view.

The kingdom of me is characterized by a quest for prestige, status, and power over others. It is about grasping all we can, getting what we think we deserve, and establishing our worth through our own efforts. This is how the kingdoms of the world operate, and we, of course, get caught up in thinking that is the way life operates as well. But, the more we live into that way of thinking, the more restricted and diminished our life becomes. When we think life is about grasping everything we can, we soon find we can never grasp enough to satisfy our increasing desires. When we think life is about getting what we deserve we find we never get what we think we deserve. When we think life is about securing our worth through what we do, we find we can never do enough to feel worthy. Thus, trying to grasp at life does not bring life. Instead, it diminishes our life because we get caught in cycles that alienate us from ourselves, from God, from each other, and from the world. Before we know it, we are emotionally distraught, spiritually bankrupt, and often physically ill.

Jesus invites us into another kingdom, with a more expansive way of looking at life. When Jesus says his kingdom is not of this world, he does not mean it is other worldly; he means it is not like the kingdoms of this world. It is not about a quest for prestige, status, and power over others. It is about sacrifice, service, and love. It is about receiving the love of God so that we are empowered to love ourselves and reach out in love to the world around us.

The sacraments of the church not only proclaim the kingdom of God they actually bring us into that kingdom. In Baptism we are declared God's children and are brought into a community of love that continually reaches out beyond itself. When we receive the bread and wine of communion, we receive the very love of God, which empowers us to give up that grasping, possessing self and to take on that generous, loving self.

The laying on of hands and anointing with oil do the same thing. When we touch someone, we convey our love for that person. When the priest lays hands on someone, it brings that person more concretely into the whole Body of Christ so that the health of Jesus may be received. When we are anointed with oil in the church, the sign of the cross is made on our forehead. That not only reminds us of our baptism, it reminds us of Jesus, who anointed many who were sick. Thus, anointing, too, brings us close to Jesus, close to the kingdom that heals. Sometimes these sacramental actions open us up to that larger life of God's love more intensely and in such a way that emotional, spiritual, and physical healing may occur immediately. More often, however, that awareness and that healing take place over an extended period of time as we experience God's love and become more open to allowing God to reign in our lives.

Our Celtic Healing Service will bring all those sacramental elements into one service. In addition, the music, the trees, the candles, and the whole Body of Christ gathered will make us much more aware of God's healing presence all around us. We do hope you will join us.

RECTOR'S COLUMN: *2009 Turkey Awards* by Fr. Myers

From time to time, we have discussed having a parish social event and presenting "turkey awards" to various parishioners. All in good fun, of course. I can't remember why we have not done this, but I suspect it is probably for the best. We don't want to hurt anyone's feelings.

Well, what do you know? I've decided to make some "turkey awards" anyway. Not to parishioners, of course, but ones that I think are well deserved. You may wish to add to my list. Send me your suggestions, and I'll include them next month.

1. Chicago Cubs - just because and for trading Mark DeRosa last year
2. Alfonso Soriano - for spitting with much more consistency than batting
3. Carlos Zambrano - for pointing to heaven as he leaves the mound for the dug out - Carlos use your finger and point to the strike zone; it might help you locate it. We know God is "up there" but evidently you don't know where the strike zone is!
4. Milton Bradley - for being a poor sport; Milton, Cub fans boo - other players, our players, and especially the Sox; get use to it; well, I guess you won't. Bye. Bye.
5. Chicago's Olympic Bid - for spending \$70 million trying to get the games when Rio de Janeiro was certain to get the nod - South America has never hosted the games. Dah! We didn't have a chance.
6. President Obama - for dropping in and jumping out quickly in support of the games - do it or don't do it, but don't half way do it.

In the Vineyard

We joyfully announce the birth of . . .

Alex Joseph to Andrew and Lisa Young. Alex's grandparents are Charles and Harriet Young.

We extend our sympathy to . . .

Janet Drake and her family on the death of her husband, George, on October 18.

7. Chicago White Sox -- for trading Jim Thome
8. New York Yankees -- for being the Yankees
9. John Madden -- for retiring; Sunday night football isn't the same
10. House and the Senate -- for failing to get the people's business really done. When I was in high school, Washington talk was about energy independence, education's declining standards, transportation problems, and security. We created new cabinet level posts of Energy, Education, Transportation, and Homeland Security and have spent billions of dollars. Are we less dependent on foreign oil? No. Is our educational system improved? No. Look at the car industry, the railroads, and airlines. A mess. On it goes. My frustration as a citizen and patriot is the amount of money taxes consume and yet little gets properly resolved. It seems that politicians are more interested in returning their party to power and retaining their seats than in getting the people's business done! Turkeys!
11. Rod Blagojevich -- for, well, you know what for...
12. David Letterman -- for tasteless comments about a Vice-Presidential candidate and her family and the recent revelations about his conduct. It's called sexual harrassment. People who work for you cannot be consenting adults. Period.
13. Journalism -- for allowing itself to become pedestrian. The noble "fourth estate" is meant to preserve and to be guardian of our democracy and our freedoms. Print and media newsources have become as ideological as the political points of view they have come to represent. They report the same news stories with such spin you wouldn't even know it was the same event. Gobble, Gobble!

Congratulations to . . .

John Hinshaw, Chief Information Officer of the Boeing Company, who was the recipient of the Executives' Club of Chicago's 2009 CIO of the Year Award.

Special Liturgies

All Saints' Day and Holy Baptism, Sunday, November 1

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated on the Feast of All Saints at the 9:00am Eucharist. On this day, Currey Jane Godbout will be received into the Body of Christ. This is a celebration of God's love that gathers the lost, binds what is broken, and knits together that which is separated into one fellowship and communion. A reception welcoming Currey Jane will be held in the Great Hall following the liturgy.

All Souls' Day Liturgy, Monday, November 2

This pastoral Eucharist commemorates all the faithful departed, and honors in particular the memory of family and friends. During this service of light and prayer, an opportunity will be given to place a lighted candle on the altar and name the departed loved one before God. The Bereavement Ministry will host a reception in the parlor following the 7:00pm liturgy.

Celtic Healing Service, Sunday, November 8

Our worship space will be transformed into a more authentic Celtic atmosphere for our Celtic Liturgy and Healing Service on Sunday, November 8. Music, trees, candles, and the whole Body of Christ gathered will make us much more aware of God's healing presence all around us. We do hope you will join us for this special liturgy at 9:00am.

2nd Saturday Service, November 14

Our next 2nd Saturday Service, an informal family Eucharist with contemporary music, will be held on November 14 at 5:30pm. It is celebrated in the Great Hall, which is transformed through lighting, candles and art to create an intimate worship space, bringing us closer to each other as we draw nearer to God. The service lasts approximately 45 minutes and is held once a month on the second Saturday.

Youth Preacher Morgan D'Arcy, Sunday, November 22

New Trier Senior Morgan D'Arcy will be our guest preacher at the three liturgies on Sunday, November 22. Morgan is a talented, articulate young man, and has been an active member of our youth program, and we look forward to hearing his perspective.

Thanksgiving Liturgy, Thursday, November 26

In observance of our nation's day of thanks, a Choral Eucharist will be celebrated at 9:00am.

Community Life

Celebration Sunday, November 1

Canvass is a time to reflect on the role of Holy Comforter in our families, our community and our world. We ask that you join in the celebration of our community by offering your 2010 Canvass pledge at the altar with other parishioners on Sunday, Nov 1.

Shawl Ministry Invitation, Monday, November 2

Kenilworth Union Church's Knitting Ministry will join our Shawl Ministry at their weekly meeting on Monday, November 2, from 1:00-2:30pm in the library. They will enjoy refreshments as they share their experiences and stories. All interested knitters, regardless of ability level, are invited. To date, the Shawl Ministry has given away 195 shawls and baby blankets, providing comfort and strength to the recipients.

Thanksgiving Food Drive, November 2-13

Our food drive provides a Thanksgiving meal for families serviced by the Primo Center for Women and Children. Donations will be collected in the church parlor until November 13; perishables should be put in the kitchen refrigerators or freezers.

Wine Tasting Party, Tuesday, November 10

Can you tell the difference between a \$10 bottle of wine and a \$30 bottle? A \$20 sparkling wine and a \$50 Champagne? The MOM Group is hosting a Wine Tasting Party at the Bottle Shop in Wilmette on Tuesday, November 10, at 7:00pm. Receive a 15% discount on any wine purchased that night. Cost is \$20/person (regularly \$37.50); reservations are required.

Parish Service Project, Saturday, November 14

Twenty-five parishioners will roll up their sleeves and put in a full day's work doing manual labor at Good News Partners in Rogers Park. Job will include scraping, sanding, painting and general cleaning at the Jonquil Hotel and Esperanza, low-income and transient housing offered by Good News. Thank you to our volunteers for providing this very worthwhile community service.

WHAM Pizza Party, Saturday, November 14

WHAM, our high school youth group, will host a pizza party beginning at 6:15pm in the Student Union. High schoolers are encouraged to attend the 2nd Saturday Service at 5:30pm and join us for dinner afterwards. No RSVP needed - just stop in!

Thanksgiving Offering

Thanksgiving gifts are given to the Rector's Discretionary Fund and used to strengthen his ministry among us. Your generosity is appreciated. Thanksgiving offering envelopes are available in the parish office.

It's Only November? by Patti Pateros

One night last week, I woke up around 3am with terrible heartburn. I laid there wondering what I had eaten the day before that would bother me so much. I have a pretty bland and boring diet so it didn't make sense. Then I realized I had been dreaming about the Fall Fellowship Dinner -- and Mexican food! I often lay awake at night planning or worrying about upcoming events, but this is the first time I remember not only dreaming about an event but also having a physical side affect (insomnia doesn't count).

I have been stopped quite often over the last few weeks by parishioners who comment about the exciting start to our program year. It indeed has been a full and busy two months. Since the beginning a September, we have had four weddings and a funeral (not starring Hugh Grant*), four fellowship events, our major outreach fundraiser, the start of three new adult formation groups, the continuation of three ongoing adult ed classes, the kickoff of a comprehensive Adult Forum program, a diverse offering of Hands-On Outreach opportunities, and the introduction of a dynamic new website.

WHAM, our high school youth group, is experiencing the best Sunday attendance in years as they prepare for the first parish-sponsored overseas mission trip. Our junior high schoolers are learning to overcome obstacles in their journey to young adulthood, and began the year with an overnight retreat. Grades 4-5-6 are serving the parish and the community as they oversee our seasonal outreach projects. The lower grade levels are having fun learning and exploring what God's love means to them.

Holy Comforter Facts

The parish library was built through the generosity of Marilyn and Armand Norehad. They researched and developed the present layout, color scheme, and oversaw the construction. We are grateful to them for their gift of a parish library.

The first librarian was the late Eleanor Johnston, who was the one time owner of the Winnetka *Bookstall* when it was housed on Green Bay Road. She was succeeded by the late Chet Teeple, and he in turn by Alice Young. When Alice moved to the Covenant Village, she was succeeded by our current librarian, Trudy Bunge

Our ministries are active and engaged, serving the needs of our parish and our community. We have begun a Saturday evening Eucharist and are preparing for four special liturgies to be celebrated in November, including our first Celtic Liturgy and Healing Service. And while all of this is going on within the building, there are small groups of parishioners meeting regularly for fellowship outside the confines of our space.

This is what keeps me up at night, and now gives me heartburn. It's not that I worry about their success, but rather that everything is complete and thought through before being presented to the parish. Every member of the staff has had a part in the planning and execution of most of these events, ministries and programs -- from the input of information on the website to the development of our youth group curriculum; from the set up for a special event to its clean up. We are proud of the work we have accomplished.

And it's only November. We've barely begun our program year. We've got a long way to go and an exciting and fulfilling year for all members of the parish, young or old, male or female, single or married. With your continued financial support, our adult and youth formation programs will remain strong and stimulating, our liturgies spiritual and uplifting, our ministries meaningful and productive, our fellowship events creative and fun, and our buildings and grounds safe and well-maintained. Thank you for doing your part in making our 2010 Canvass Campaign a success; its success ensures a promising year ahead.

* *Four Weddings and a Funeral* is a 1994 British romantic comedy starring Hugh Grant.

Worship Notes

The word "altar" comes from the Latin *altare*, which probably meant "burnt offerings." Its usage was influenced by the Latin *altus*, which meant "high." "Altar" is the name given to the Eucharistic Table from the earliest and ancient Church.

www.holycomforter.org

More information about our programs and liturgies as well as an up-to-the-minute calendar can be found on our website. You may also register for any upcoming events on our site. Be sure to check us out!

That's Not How You Do It! by Mary Johnson

Ask any student at any grade level and he or she has heard that statement at some point. Grown ups aren't exempt either. But how do you do "it"... whatever "it" is; whether a math problem, reading problem, physical activity or playing a musical instrument. Early educators believed there was only one way to learn; that intelligence was an inherited single component and that all humans could be taught as long as it was presented in an appropriate way: screaming "that's not how you do it" is generally considered an inappropriate way. That is what educators believed. Then along came Howard Gardner. Even back when I was in the education curriculum in the 1970's, Gardner's new theory of "multiple intelligences" was the buzz. Howard Gardner initially formulated a list of seven intelligences. The first two are what had previously been the focus and valued components in schools (linguistic intelligence and logical-mathematical) the next 3 have to do with the arts (musical, bodily-kinesthetic and spatial) and the final two are what Howard Gardner called 'personal intelligences' (interpersonal and intrapersonal). To be sure, it was a revolutionary way of considering how human beings learn and for those children who have been the recipients of this philosophy, they have truly benefited from Dr. Gardner's work.

But he isn't done yet! Now Dr. Gardner has expanded his teachings to go beyond *how* we learn to *what* we need to learn. *Five Minds for the Future* is the new book and the topic of his presentation on October 29 at New Trier High School. Dr. Gardner asserts that to prepare students for the future, educators need to cultivate both academic skills and character. Parents and teachers alike would agree that these disciplines seem quite obvious. But unless there is intentionality about the integration into the educational process, it may not happen. Or it will happen sporadically, at best. Having witnessed the

paradigm shift when the Multiple Intelligences approach was implemented in schools, I am very excited to learn more about Dr. Gardner's *Five Minds for the Future* campaign.

In his *Five Minds* Dr Gardner presents the first three as they relate to intellect; disciplined, synthesizing and creative minds. The last two emphasize character: the respectful and ethical minds. Gardner believes that "as the world we inhabit continues to change, educators must frequently reevaluate the goals of education and the type of minds we wish to cultivate". Academic achievement is an important goal for K-12 education but we must not lose sight of the other important components of a future-oriented education. We are blessed to live in a community where academic success is the norm. We have terrific schools, outstanding teachers and beautiful facilities. The second two components of Gardner's new approach are what I am committed to in the Sunday School program and All Things Bright and Beautiful. As I mentioned before, it requires intentionality. As teachers, we recognize the importance of fostering respectfulness among students. (the Gardner distinguishes real respect from mere tolerance of differences. Cultivating respect and emotional and interpersonal intelligence among students, teachers, and the greater school community are essential goals. We've seen it here in this parish and in the Episcopal Church in this country. When points of view differ, solutions for a task or project are not always on the same page, the respect with which we treat each other is key in the resolution. In a world where diversity of perspective is a fact of life, it is how we meet those challenges that measure our true character. I am so grateful for this community where respectful and ethical minds prevail and confirm **that IS how you do it!**

All Souls' Day by Derek Nickels

On our All Souls Day liturgy on Monday, November 2, we will commemorate all of the faithful departed with a special candlelight liturgy. The choir will be singing Gabriel Fauré's *Libera me* from his famous *Requiem*, Op. 48. Composers have written settings of the Requiem Mass since around the 16th century when the austere beauty and polyphony of Renaissance reached its full flowering potential with the works of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina and Orlando di Lasso, to name two famous examples. By the end of the 18th century, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Luigi Cherubini added a more theatrical flair to this genre, albeit within the context of the very sacred element. The theatrical and operatic nature of the massively orchestrated Requiems by Berlioz and Verdi brought the development of this genre to a pinnacle of excessive instrumental forces. Brahms added his genius to the repertoire with his unique German Requiem, a large, multi-movement work for chorus and orchestra based on Biblical passages and written in memory of his mother.

However, the Requiem written by the very influential French composer Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924) stands apart from earlier examples in this repertoire for its subtlety and serenity. Unlike other Requiems by other composers which utilize the *Dies*

irae sequence, a very dramatic and often bombastic illumination of the day of wrath and judgment, Fauré concentrates on the idea of eternal rest. Begun in 1887 after the death of his father, Fauré completed the first of three versions in early 1888. Fauré, who served as organist-choirmaster at the very fashionable Church of the Madeleine in Paris and professor of composition at the Paris Conservatory, conducted the first performance of this first version of his Requiem at the Church of the Madeleine in 1888. In 1893, Fauré added the *Offertoire* and *Libera me* movements to comprise a second version. Finally, a third version was urged by the music publisher Hamelle for a performance at the Trocadéro Palace during the Paris World Exhibition in 1900 that included a fuller orchestration.

A translation of the *Libera me* text is as follows:

Deliver me, O Lord, from death eternal on that fearful day, when the heavens and the earth shall be moved, when thou shalt come to judge the world by fire....Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord: and let light perpetual shine upon them.

This setting has been an inspiration to many composers such as Maurice Durufle, who also wrote an exquisitely beautiful setting of this ancient text.

Church of the Holy Comforter

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