

Confirmation

By Deacon Adam Salter Gosnell

So I was lying on the floor at All Saints' Cathedral in Amesbury. And I was trying to figure out how to lie on my stomach on this hard wooden floor. At first, I tried to lie face-down, because that was what Craig was doing. I took my glasses off. I turned my face one way and then the other way. And then I thought to myself, "Well, I guess there's just not a comfortable way to do this. I might as well make peace with it." Then I thought, "Actually, wait. I can't see my bulletin from here. How am I supposed to know when to get up?"

And, long story short, I was ordained in the Anglican Diocese of New England to the Holy Order of Deacon. I knelt at the altar in front of Bishop. He laid hands on me, and I received, spiritually, sacramentally, a unique relationship to the Church that I hadn't had before.

A priest during the preparations had mentioned that it was almost like a marriage. And the more I thought about it, the more I thought that it's not an inappropriate metaphor. In marriage God takes a man and a woman and spiritually unites them to each other. In ordination God takes a



Mosaic from the National Cathedral, Washington DC.

person and spiritually unites them to the Church. That's what sacraments do—unite.

So... what does this have to do with Confirmation?

Confirmation is an interesting hiccup theologically, because in the Western Church (Catholics, Protestants, and Anglicans) it's so far removed from its sister-rite, baptism. But maybe it would be most helpful to think about Confirmation as a sort of Lay-Person's Ordination.

Here, Laity, is the laying-on-of-hands for your work of ministry. Here is your unique gift of the Spirit for your work as Church. Here, God takes you and unites you, spiritually, sacramentally, to the Church in a way that you weren't before.

Sometimes people find themselves wondering, "Well... I'm a Christian. I've been baptized. I can take the

Eucharist. Why do I need anything else?" And I always want to say, It's like marriage. Just because you've been dating for a long time, or you've told him/her you love them, or because you've proposed—even if you've moved in together and started a family (not that I'm suggesting that)—that's still not the same as being married. Just because you've been going to church for a long time, or because you've committed your life to Christ, or because you've been baptized into his death and resurrection (as fantastic and right and good as those things are), that's still not being confirmed. You're still missing that spiritual, sacramental uniting to the Church for the work of your ministry as a lay-person.

And sure, it'll probably be awkward. You'll have to go to confirmation class. (We'd love to have you!) You'll probably overthink how far away you kneel from Bishop. You'll probably think "Man, his hands are really big" and then "Wow... he's not quite squeezing my head, but there's definitely pressure." (It happens to all of us.) But, awkwardness and all, you'll have received that spiritual, sacramental, uniting to the Church that you didn't have before.

Can you have a happy life without it? Sure. But you'd be missing out.

Today at CTR



FORUM SERIES: Sheila Wise Rowe discusses how we can "Love our Neighbor who is a Racial Minority" with Fr. Tim at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Part of our Keep Calm and Love Your Neighbor series.

SENIOR HIGH LUNCH: Today in the Sacristy from 12:30-1:30 p.m., join Fr. Brian for lunch and discussion.

THE ANCHOR: Junior High Youth group today at the Keifer home from 2-4pm. Snacks, games, Bible Study. Contact Fr. Brian for info, brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org.

This Week at CTR

FIRST TUESDAY PRAYER: February 7, please join us from 10 a.m. to noon in Fellowship Hall. We gather for songs of praise, Scripture, and then follow the prayer points in Intercessors for America's newsletter praying for America, Israel and the Middle East, and the persecuted church around the world. "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever he will" (Proverbs 21:1). For further information, please contact Linda Preston, ljpreston7@yahoo.com.

MOMS IN PRAYER INTERNATIONAL: Do you worry about your children? Their friends? Their school? Experience the joy of replacing your fear with peace by praying with other moms. We meet on Thursdays during the school year from 9-10 a.m. at CTR. For more info, please contact Flora Lee, floraisabella@gmail.com or 978-626-1179.

WINTER PLAYGROUP: Kids feeling cooped up this winter? Then come get their sillies out at Winter Playgroup! Caregivers with children from ages 0-5 years old, Tuesday mornings from 9-10:30 a.m., January 17th through March. Contact Rachel Nimon by emailing emma.acker@ctr-anglican.org.

PRAYER FOR CTR'S STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS: Join us to pray, Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Sacristy.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: The Women's Ministry offers a weekly Bible study for women of all ages. The group meets in the Parish Hall every Thursday, from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. for fellowship, refreshments, Scripture study, discussion, and shared prayer. Led by Carol Powers Sheridan, we will walk in gratitude, unity, and joy as we study the book of Philippians. Contact Kim Ober, kimwober@msn.com, with questions or to request materials.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Confirmation is for those looking to make a post-baptismal profession of faith or to be received from a different church tradition. We are meeting weekly, at 10:00 a.m. in the Baptistry. Contact Dcn. Adam for more information, adam.gosnell@ctr-anglican.org.

Upcoming Events

GO CONFERENCE NEW ENGLAND: February 17-18, Worcester, MA. Keynote speakers and workshops. For more information about the conference visit, www.go-conf.org. **A significant group ticket discount is available for CTR parishioners,** contact Emma for more information, emma.acker@ctr-anglican.org.

MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY INSTITUTE presents a Regional Advocacy Training Session on Monday, February 20 from 7-8:00 p.m. at West Congregational Church, 27 Johnson Street in Peabody. The purpose is "to learn how you can reach out to state representatives & senators on issues impacting families throughout the state." RSVP to Michael King, michael@mfamily.org or 978-204-9131.

GO CONFERENCE
DO JUSTICE · LOVE MERCY · WALK HUMBLLY · MAKE DISCIPLES
February 17-18, 2017 DCU Center | Worcester, MA

Congress Returns with a New Look

Neil Hudson Disciple Making In Your Everyday Life	Bob Coff The Power of Loving Mercy	FIVE PLENARY SESSIONS 24 WORKSHOPS BY NEW ENGLANDERS WORSHIP
Sarah Bessey Gender Equality and the Gospel	Jo Saxton Empowered by the Spirit	
Rickey Bolden Jesus' Call for Humility	Ruth Graham Mercy for the Hurting	

As Christians in New England, it's easy to become discouraged, but we have much to be encouraged by. From Boston to Burlington, Bar Harbor to Bridgeport, God is moving, building his Kingdom and you are a vital part of it. This is your mission field and you are not alone. Something powerful happens when we come together rather than staying isolated. GOCONF.ORG

"Keep Calm" Visitors...

In Part II of *Keep Calm and Love Your Neighbor* we look forward to hearing from the following friends of CTR as they dialogue with Fr. Tim. A full schedule of visitors and their bios is available on our website, www.ctrnorthshore.org.

5 February:

Sheila Rowe – Loving our Neighbor, Who is a Racial Minority

Sheila experienced growing up in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston at a time when the government was trying to desegregate our culture. Later in life she and her husband moved to South Africa, where she began a non-profit that worked to help women in difficult circumstances. Sheila is a counsellor focusing in marriage and family, and a dear sister in the Lord.

12 February:

Zeke Smith – Keeping Kids & Youth Healthy on and around Social Media

A former professional sports photographer, Zeke now serves boarding school students in the Boston area as an on-campus pastor with FOCUS.

19 February:

Chris Warne – Entering our Neighbor's Perspective

Chris is a Gordon College grad who spent a few years on mission in Kazakhstan upon graduation and now is at Gordon-Conwell. He is working with Fr. Tim around the question of what makes for effective witness in New England.



Hospitality

And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me' (Matt 25:40).

One of our convictions as Christians is that God is, in his nature, hospitable. In creation, God invites us into a world that he has made. It's all his. Even in giving to him, all we can say is "all things come from you, O Lord, and from your own have we given you" (1 Chron 29:14). In redemption, God invites us into his family, into the Divine life. ("When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son... so that we might receive adoption as sons," Gal 4:4-5).

Because God is hospitable, we also should be hospitable. In that spirit, the people of Christ the Redeemer offers several expressions of community-based, laity-driven hospitality. Among them are the following:

- **A free lunch after the 11 o'clock service** (though donations are welcome(!)): This lunch is set up, cooked, served, and cleaned up all by volunteers.

- **Meals to be delivered:** Volunteers cook and (sometimes the same, sometimes different) volunteers deliver the meals, with minimal fuss, as an expression of love to those who are sick, had a new baby, etc.

These are great ways to get involved in the community!

If you'd like to help with lunches, email Allegra, allegras-mick@gmail.com.

If you know someone who needs a meal, email us at mealdelivery@ctr-anglican.org.



Meal Delivery Making Team on Monday night—before things got messy!

Archbishop Beach issues a call to prayer for our neighbors and our nations.

Dear friends,

Our Archbishop has issued the following call to prayer to all of us in the Anglican Church in North America around issues of immigration. As he points out, our church spans all of North America, which includes three nations, and our identity as Anglicans links us to a world-wide communion. More locally, should you feel the Lord stirring your heart to love our immigrant neighbours please let me know — we have a few opportunities right in our own family of faith.

*Blessings and peace,
Fr Tim*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As a province that spans Canada, the United States, and Mexico we face unique challenges on issues affecting refugees and immigration. I am thankful for our congregations that are a part of the Anglican Immigrant Initiative. They have taken the lead in caring for those in our communities who are refugees and immigrants, showing the love of Christ to the most vulnerable.

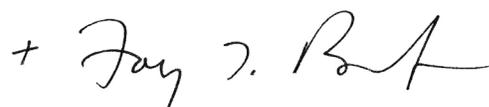
This week, I encourage you to follow their example, and make a special effort to reach out to refugees and immigrants in your local community. In these divisive times, we have the opportunity to demonstrate a compassion that builds bridges, and overcomes fear.

In our province we also have lawmakers who face a different, but related set of challenging moral issues. As public servants, they are called to carefully discern how best to respond to the global humanitarian need while also maintaining the appropriate role of government in protecting its citizens. There are no easy answers to how our nations should balance these priorities, and our leaders need your prayers.

In light of the Syrian refugee crisis, changes in US immigration policy, and the way these changes will affect us all, I ask you to join me in prayer. Please pray for the poor, the refugee, and all immigrant families whose lives are made more complex, and sometimes more desperate by these events. Please also join me in praying for all those in positions of public trust who seek wisdom in the formation of the laws and policies of our respective governments.

A Collect for Refugees and Immigrants:
Heavenly Father,
from whom every family on earth derives its name,
have mercy on all those who sojourn in this world.
As you sheltered your Son Jesus
who fled from the tyranny of Herod,
so now provide new homes for all those who flee the violence of this age
that they may know the peace of Christ.
Grace your people with hearts of welcome and lives of courage
through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

A Collect for Government Leaders:
O Lord our Governor, whose glory fills all the world:
We commend our nations to your merciful care, that we may be guided by your Providence, and dwell secure in your peace. Grant to Justin, Prime Minister of Canada, Donald, President of the United States, and Enrique, President of Mexico, and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them continually mindful of their calling to serve the people in reverent obedience to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.



The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach
Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Church in
North America