



November/December 2024 Diocesan Update



Pictures left to right: 1) Six newly confirmed members at All Saints Parish, Lynchburg, Virginia, 11/2/2024; 2) Fr. Davidson and Bishop Manto with Bishop Dan Morse's crozier, All Saints Parish, Lynchburg, Virginia; 3) Fr. Jameson Lowery, Ordination to the Presbyterate, Church of the Redeemer, Wilson, North Carolina, 11/24/2024; 4) Three newly confirmed members, Church of the Redeemer, Wilson, North Carolina; 5) Newly confirmed and three newly received members, Church of the Redeemer, Wilson, North Carolina; 6) Discussing the REC 100 Church Plant, Johnson City, Tennessee, 11/25/2024.

By way of DCS

For All the Saints

On the weekend of November 1-3, Janice and I visited All Saints Parish in Lynchburg, Virginia. During my episcopal visit there, we spent time with our beloved Bishop Emeritus Daniel Morse whose labor and sacrifice laid the groundwork in establishing the Missionary Diocese of the Central States that began in January 2008. Through Bishop Dan's unwavering efforts, along with his dear wife Marianne's tireless support, the DCS was awarded full diocesan status in 2013. Bishop Morse retired in December 2019. He sends his blessings to everyone and continues to pray for us regularly.



I was honored to carry Bp. Dan's crozier during the All Saints Day service at All Saints Parish, Lynchburg.



In 2009 Bp. Dan confirmed our son Peter (on the right) and Fr. Truax's son Bruce (in the center).

Lowery Ordination Sermon Excerpts

Jesus' life WAS the Gospel...the Good News. The things He was saying and doing proclaimed the very things God intended to do for His Creation. Here's Isaiah prophetically describing/anticipating the Jewish Messiah's arrival and task:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor.
He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives,
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set free those who are oppressed,
To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.*

I'm certain most will remember an important incident surrounding these verses. When Jesus' ministry was getting started, and after being tempted by the devil in the wilderness, Jesus returned to Nazareth and was taking His turn reading in the neighborhood synagogue—somewhat like Dcn. Jameson reading the lesson at our synod communion service. In Jesus' case, the reading was from these very words of the prophet Isaiah. At the end of His reading, Jesus closes the book; and with the eyes of those who had known Him since infancy fixed upon Him, Jesus makes this astonishing announcement to everyone present: *Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.* Stunned silence.

God's prophets had announced and insisted that God would keep His promise to save His people. That promise was fulfilled when God sent His Son Jesus into the world. Jameson's ordination reminds us that in one way or another we are all both recipients and heralds of that good news. God has kept His promise to save His people...rescued them/rescued us from sin and death through Jesus our Savior and Lord and set in motion the advent of His Kingdom destined to fill the earth and to renew all things.

We read this from St. Matthew's Gospel this morning:

When Jesus saw the crowds, he felt deeply sorry for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he

said to His disciples, There's plenty of harvest to be had but not many workers! So pray the Master of the Harvest to send more workers to harvest his fields!

A new movement was springing up among God's people. Jesus was at the very center of its arrival; and, right from the start, Jesus began calling and empowering others to share in His life-changing, world-changing movement and task. The task certainly seemed overwhelming at times, even to Jesus; but He never got sidetracked, never ran away but rather remained determined and resolved to give everything He had, including His own life, in order to complete what he had been sent to do: to preach the gospel to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord—to launch a new movement which would forever change the world and bring healing and renewal to the nations!

Dear Brother Jameson, you are here this morning in answer to prayers for the harvest; and dear Redeemer Parish, you are here today in answer to prayers for the harvest as well! Something good and important is at work within your fellowship. Please do not overlook it but rather be encouraged...be strong...and embrace it. Be devoted to God's gracious work among you! May Jameson's ordination remind all of us that Jesus' life-giving movement continues; and may it also enable us to see the ripening harvest right outside the doors of our churches and our homes ready to be gathered into its world-changing waves.

And now again we exhort you, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye have in remembrance, into how high a dignity, and to how weighty an Office and charge ye are called: that is to say, to be messengers, watchmen, and stewards of the Lord; to teach, and to premonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for his children who are in the midst of this sinful world, that they may be saved through Christ for ever.

Wherefore consider with yourselves the end of the Ministry towards the children of God, towards the Spouse and Body of Christ; and see that ye never cease your labour, your care and diligence, until ye have done all that lieth in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all such as are or shall be committed to your charge, unto that agreement in the faith and knowledge of God, and to that ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ.

We have good hope that ye have well weighed these things with yourselves, long before this time; and that ye have clearly determined, by God's grace, to give yourselves wholly to this Office, whereunto it hath pleased God to call you: so that, as much as lieth in you, ye will apply yourselves wholly to this one thing, and draw all your cares and studies this way; and that ye will continually pray to God the Father, by the mediation of our only Saviour Jesus Christ, for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Ghost.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Blessings,

+Peter

Photo Gallery



In the moment, Jameson Lowery, ordination to the Presbyterate, Church of the Redeemer.



Fr. Paul Edgerton hard at work at The Church of the Redeemer.



The feeling is mutual at All Saints Parish, Lynchburg, Virginia.



Thank you, dear clergy and laity, for your dedication to the high calling in the service of our Lord.