

## **The Diocese of the Central States**

### **2022 Synod - Canon Missioner's Report**

#### **New Churches & Plants**

Holy Cross Mission in Richmond, started by Fr. Ken Mills several years ago, is now in the construction phase of an addition to the church building they purchased in Amelia, VA. Fr. Mills hopes that the new facility will be in use by Advent. It is sorely needed and will enable growth and expanded ministries there.

Fr. Richard Tarsitano continues working to grow our REC funded plant in Connersville, IN. Trinity Anglican has grown from 4 to 17 regular attendees. They are attracting young families and have 7 children under 10 years old. In addition to family ministry, they minister to the drug addicted. Fr. Tarsitano makes the church available to meet with, feed, and pray with addicted people, working to interrupt the chain of addiction, even if only for a day.

Deacon Andrew Costa continues to work under the supervision of Bishop Peter, Fr. McNamara, and other clergy within the DCS preparing for a church planting effort. Additionally, there may be an emerging opportunity to acquire a church building near Dcn. Costa.

#### **Church Growth & Revitalization**

Churches in our Diocese are experiencing growth in these post-pandemic times. At the risk of leaving someone out, I wanted to mention a few highlights.

Fr. McNamara is seeing young families as a large part of growth that has Christ the King at well over 100 in attendance weekly. Likewise, Fr. Boettner is experiencing solid growth at St. James in Memphis. In Owensboro, KY, Fr. Goodwin has gone from an original three or four people to 20 plus each Sunday at Christ the Redeemer.

St. Paul's Anglican (REC) in Lexington, VA has more than doubled in attendance since the arrival of the Rev. Dr. Eric Parker as Rector. St. Paul's hosted a very successful "Revive" seminar last fall, conducted by the Rev. Canon Mark Eldredge. This year, Fr. Parker extended the one-on-one consulting portion of with Canon Eldredge since it has been so successful in helping revitalize that church.

Fr. Jonathan Kell, Rector of Church of Our Saviour, Oatlands in Leesburg, VA, is experiencing attendance over 100 and growing. That is the highest attendance in the long history of that church, and represents triple the attendance since he arrived. He is anticipating a future planting effort west of Leesburg. He continues to work with nearby Patrick Henry College in Purcellville, VA, in building up Church of Our Saviour and as potential participation in a future plant.

Holy Trinity Church in Fairfax completed the build-out of their new facility, and it was dedicated in January of this year. Their new facility now gives them a footprint in the community which is helping with growth and enabling outreach into the surrounding community.

The recent installation of Fr. Veley as Rector of Covenant REC in Roanoke, VA provides succession and continuity from the excellent work of Fr. Rich and Jane Workowski there. Roanoke is an important strategic location in Virginia as we work to build upon our churches in Roanoke and Lexington, VA, and move up the Virginia I-81 corridor from there. For example, Fr. Kell thinks a future plant in Winchester, VA may be feasible which is at the Northern end of that corridor. Major towns in between include Staunton and Harrisonburg, VA.

Since becoming Rector, Fr. Bart Gingerich at St. Jude's Anglican (REC) in Richmond, VA, has doubled average attendance and attracted more families with young children, including several infants. Fr. Bart has embarked upon a front porch ministry for men called "Holy Smokes." Men gather for their favorite cigar or pipe, and their favorite drink or wine, and discuss theological topics. Men of the church are beginning to invite other men outside the church, and one was recently attended by 27 men.

## **Schools**

Affiliated schools are a major priority of the REC, as evidenced by the formation of our own Anglican Schools Association (ASA) and the emphasis by our Presiding Bishop in his address to the last General Council. Classical Christian Schools meet a tremendous demand in our society today, and they do so in a godly and Biblical way. Plus, they are wonderful front porch ministries to sponsoring parishes. Schools in the DCS have increased twofold this year.

In Lexington, VA, the Rev. Dr. Eric Parker has started St George Classical School. They began this school year with five students, and are expected to grow steadily since the need is so great in the Rockford County, VA, area they serve. They are members of the ASA, and affiliate with the REC through the DCS.

In Richmond, I have worked closely with Hunter Classical Christian School in their inquiry into REC affiliation. The HCCS Board recently voted to apply for ASA membership and affiliate with the REC through the DCS. HCCS started the 2022 academic year with over 120 students. It has a strong Headmaster in Mr. Jeff Brown, a member of St. Jude's Anglican (REC), and is experiencing strong annual growth.

## **Clergy Incubator**

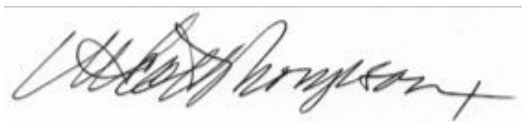
To plant churches and grow the Diocese, we need boots on the ground. We struggle to replace retiring or departing clergy within the Diocese, much less spin off new plants. Four of our postulants have been ordained to the Diaconate this year. The Rev. Dcn. Jameson Lowery now serves at Church of the Redeemer in Wilson, NC, and the Rev. Dcn. Tim Kline serves at Christ the Redeemer in Owensboro, KY. The Rev. Dcn. Andrew Costa continues preparation for a possible plant, and The Rev. Dcn. Aaron Pelot will be continuing his studies overseas.

We now have four remaining postulants in the pipeline, one of whom was examined for the Diaconate yesterday. So we are making progress. Many of our churches are ready for a Deacon in order to facilitate growth and be part of succession planning efforts.

## **Revitalization Resources**

Some of our churches may have static or shrinking membership, and some may have aging congregations that are not being replenished with new young families. For churches experiencing these symptoms, the pilot program last year of Canon Eldridge's "Revive" seminar at St. Paul's in Lexington, VA, was a great success. I continue to urge using Canon Eldridge as a revitalization resource. I can arrange for REC 100 funds for churches that need financial assistance for this program. I am ready to work with any of you who would like to give this a try, and I encourage you to do so. Give me a call and let's get the ball rolling.

The Ven. W. Scott Thompson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Scott Thompson", written over a horizontal line.

Archdeacon  
Diocese of the Central States