

The Anglican Catholic Chronicle

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A Message from Archbishop Shane Janzen Primate of the TAC Metropolitan of the ACCC and Bishop Ordinary of The Diocese of Canada West

N the Gospel for the First Sunday in Lent, we are drawn into the encounter between our Lord and the devil. We witness the temptations offered to Jesus by Satan -- the temptation to question the truth of God's Word, the temptation to base one's happiness and security upon the things of this world, and the temptation to reject God's love and care for the false promises and indifference of Satan.

As we are told in Scripture, Satan was an archangel by the name of Lucifer, meaning 'bright star'; who rebelled against God, attempted a coup d'etat in Heaven, fought against the forces of the Archangel Michael and his heavenly army of angels, was soundly defeated, and summarily cast out of heaven by God into the utter darkness of eternal damnation. And what was Lucifer's sin? Challenging the sovereignty of God: demanding equality with God; believing himself to be better than God. Wanting to determine his own destiny apart from God; wanting to "call the shots" as we would say in modern parlance. Unfortunately, these sins are as old as time, and as current as this very moment.

Being in control, calling all the shots, determining our own way, can seem to be very important – almost our right. Giving up control, handing over our lives to God, walking by faith rather than by sight, can be very risky and rather unsettling. We like to be in control, we like to know what is going to happen. Acknowledging the reality of our life, our situation, and our place in the God's divine plan demands courage, humility, and trust.

When Satan quoted Scripture to Eve in the Garden of Eden, he discovered to his great delight that God's new creation -- made in the very image of God -- could not even recall the basic commandments of her Creator. As a result the devil was able to sow the seeds of doubt in the minds of our first parents and to lead them down the very path of rebellion and destruction which Satan had himself taken against God before the beginning of time.

As a result of Adam and Eve's willful ignorance and disobedience, sin took root in the soul of humanity; and, like the devil and his apostate angels, our first parents were cast forth from the presence of God, no more to dwell in Eden, that Paradise of utter perfection, peace and plenty which God had prepared out of love for His creation. With Adam and Eve, humanity was cast forth into the harsh reality of a fallen world, with the words of God resounding in their ears: 'Remember, that thou art dust and to dust thou shalt return'.

These are the very words we heard on Ash Wednesday, as we knelt here before the Altar to be marked with ashes, symbol of our contrition and of our acknowledgement of the power of sin in our lives. But as the ashes of contrition for sin are marked with the sign of the Cross – the very sign of hope and redemption – so the words God spoke to Adam and Eve as they were cast out from Paradise were also accompanied by words of hope and redemption. The promise of salvation which would be wrought, in the fullness of time, through the new Adam and the new Eve.

And so we come to Lent. The devil once more makes an appearance, this time to our Lord in the desert. The devil again seeks to tempt and to mislead, to test the Son of Man; and to twist the words of Sacred Scripture. He tempts Jesus; he quotes Scripture to the new Adam, recalling the fall of the first Adam, hoping to trip up the only-begotten One, and so ensnare the Son of God, the new Adam. But as we have revealed to us in the Gospel, this time the response is neither confused nor in doubt. The new Adam -- Jesus -- corrects the devil and quotes the Word of God accurately and in the proper context. Where the flesh is tempted and carnal satisfaction is offered by the devil, our Lord responds that humans do not live on bread alone but by every word which proceeds out of the mouth of God.

Our life, our very being, is dependent upon God Who uttered the decree of life. The body is more than flesh, and life more than desire. We come from God, we are His very own, soul and body, and it is He alone who nourishes our souls and sustains our bodies.

Where earthly power is offered and the omnipotence of God questioned, Jesus responds that the power and mercy of God are not to be tested nor presumed upon. Unlike the devil and his desire for superiority over God, our Lord does not even presume upon His equality with God, but submits Himself in obedience and utter humility to the will of His Father, even unto death upon the Cross.

In the third temptation, Jesus is shown all the kingdoms of the world, their glory and power, in a moment of time. He is told that all of this will be His if only He will bow His knee to the devil -- if the Son of Man would acknowledge the sovereignty of Satan over the kingship of God. How subtle, for Jesus is already King of kings and Lord of lords -- all creation is already His. He is the Word from Whom all worlds were made, He is the Lord of heaven and earth. Jesus responds and does indeed bow His knee, not to Satan but to God His Father, quoting in turn: "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." There is no other, there can be no other, than God -- all else is but illusion and deception. Only God has the power to save; only God is sovereign; only God can raise up that which has fallen in sin and death.

The world, the flesh, and the devil: These same temptations come to us all, young and old, sinner and saint, and usually in the most unlikely and seductive guise. Fortunately, God's grace is able to sustain us in our temptations and to prevail against the wiles of Satan. We have only to look to God in faith, to believe in His promises, to be obedient to His commandments, and to trust in His redeeming love. The snares of the devil are always being set, for that is the way of evil; but it is not the way of God. St. James bids us: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you." (James 4: 4,5)

Our Lord withstood the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil in order to restore the obedience of fallen humanity to the commandments of God. Our Lord offers to each of His disciples the grace to withstand these same temptations; and to offer in the place of sin and death, blessing and life.



A Message From Bishop Craig Botterill, Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of Canada East & Provincial Chancellor

The Government of Canada has for many years offered a Canada Summer Jobs program to allow non-profit organizations, the majority of which are churches, to hire university students with federal government funds. When I was serving my curacy at my first parish, for example, I utilized this program to hire students to serve as tour guides of the church building, and to care for the parish cemetery. This year there has been a modification to the application form. A church must now complete the following attestation:

"I have read and understood the Canada Summer Jobs Articles of Agreement and referred to the Applicant Guide as needed; The job would not be created without the financial

under assistance provided а potential contribution agreement; Both the job and my organization's core mandate respect individual human rights in Canada, including the values underlying the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as other rights. These include reproductive rights and the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of sex. religion. race, national or ethnic origin, colour, mental or physical disability or sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression; I have all the necessary authorities, permissions and approvals to submit this application on behalf of myself and the organization."

The instructions that come with the application form make it quite clear that if the church does not check the attestation box and sign the same, it will be disqualified. The government has also qualified the term "core mandate" contained in the attestation to mean the mandate set out by the church when it first applied for recognition as a tax-exempt non-profit charity. In Canada, that mandate is normally expressed as "the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the advancement of the Christian Religion".

So if a church's core mandate does not respect the values and "other rights" of the government, including abortion, euthanasia, homosexual marriage, trans-gender bathroom choice, etc., the church must either repudiate the truth of the Gospel or be disgualified from receiving public funds. What is next – a requirement that university students who apply for Canada Students Loans must first complete this attestation? Will retirees have to complete such an attestation to qualify for their state funded pensions? I think this should serve as a wake up call for all faithful Christians in the Western world that their faith is under attack and that we can expect more of this in the future.

> +*Craig* Bishop of the Diocese of Canada East and Chancellor of the ACCC

N accordance with the ancient practice of the Church, and as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer (p. xiii), the Forty Days of Lent are days of abstinence from flesh and fowl; and Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are also days of fasting.

Christian Fasting consists of a reduction of food so that the permanent state of a certain hunger may be lived as a reminder of God and a constant effort to keep our mind on Him. The exact amount of food we cut down on depends on our individual capacities, occupations, age and state of health. It is best and safest to begin at a minimum, and increase our effort little by little.

In a letter to the clergy, our first Bishop, Carmino deCatanzaro, provided us with sensible guidelines in the matter of fasting. He pointed out that some people should not fast at all, such as pregnant women, nursing mothers, those in poor health, the elderly, children, and those engaged in heavy manual labour. In other words, it is for those adults in normal health. He also stated that the list of days of abstinence and fasting in the Prayer Book (p.xiii) are as simple as can be, yet wholly traditional. Any of us ought to be able to remember them. He links fasting and abstinence to penitence. We go without because our Lord denied Himself, even to the point of death on the Cross, for us sinners. Fasting and abstinence are meant to reinforce our "fasting from sin" which is a Christian duty at all times.

Bishop deCatanzaro also pointed out that while fasting refers to a notable reduction in the food we eat, abstinence refers to what we or drink. Traditionally the eat Friday abstinence applies to meat dishes. In Lent this is extended to each of the weekdays (Monday · Saturday). Our abstinence. whatever form it takes, must be a real act of self-denial, and that we do it "for the Lord", not to be seen by men (see S. Matt. 6:16-18). It must be real! Lent is also the time to increase our charitable givings and doings; to reach out to others by giving of our time, talent and treasure. With this understanding, let us enter into Lent, preparing for a blessed Easter!

IN AND AROUND THE ACCC

St. Thomas, Courtenay BC

On Quinquagesima Sunday, Archbishop Janzen made his official episcopal visit to the Parish of St. Thomas in Courtenay, B.C. Journeying up on a beautiful sunny day, the Archbishop was accompanied on the two hour drive from Victoria by Paul Nicholson (son of Brent and Sonia Nicholson), who served at Mass. Mass was celebrated at the Piercy's-Mt. Washington Funeral Home. In attendance were priest-in-charge Father George Daley, along with his wife Stacie and their daughter. and а number of parishioners. Canon Rick Root (Regional Dean for the Diocese of Canada West) was also in attendance and read the Epistle for the day. The Archbishop celebrated and preached at the Mass. Following the Service, the clergy and congregation joined the Archbishop and Paul for lunch and fellowship at the local White Spot restaurant. Father George Daley continues to deal with the effects of brain cancer but soldiers on in his pastoral ministry with prayer, perseverance and dedication. While small in numbers the Parish of St. Thomas remains committed to the Christian Faith and the traditional Anglican liturgy and discipline. Should you be visiting the north part of Vancouver Island, Mass is celebrated on Sundays at 11:00 am. You will find a warm Christian welcome!

Church of the Resurrection, Edmonton AB



"Praise be to Our Lord Jesus Christ who is strengthening us to live as faithful Christians with the hope of the resurrection!" ---Fr. Davis

On the way home from church today, I asked James, "If you were writing an article

for the Anglican Catholic Chronicle about our parish, what would your theme be?" He thought seriously and then he said. "Tell them we're happy. We are a small bunch, but we all get along and we are happy". Father Davis' sermon today talked about Jesus healing the blind man on the way to His crucifixion in Jerusalem. In spite of the clamour of the crowds, Jesus hears the faith-filled, passionate plea of the individual. And so our "small bunch" in Edmonton balances faith, solid worship services, work, co-operation. Surrounded and bv the clamour of a world that says Faith isn't worth the fight, we are not complacent, but we are happy.

This is the Lenten edition of the Chronicle so it is worth noting that we will be holding Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday services this year. We will not be holding our traditional Saturday Easter Vigil.

At our February 4th A.G.M., Father Davis thanked Archbishop Janzen, Canon Trevor Elliott, and other church members for providing him the opportunity to serve the Lord through preaching and teaching of the Word of God and administering the sacraments. He acknowledged the blessings God has been showering upon the church. "Although the Church of the Resurrection looks like a mustard seed due to its small membership, we still thrive by the grace of God. Since we are only a small bunch of people, it is easy for the devil to shake and shatter us in our unity, but we hold on to Christ and pray that we continue to be united in love and charity with other members of the body."

That description of a mustard seed is an apt one. As small as we are, we have tremendous potential. Our core members ensure that our worship remains true and our faith remains strong. Father Davis celebrates the Mass each Sunday, researches the sermons for teaching and preaching, takes Communion to the shutins, created our new logo, shares modern technology and meets with strangers to extend the Gospel. As well as serving in the sanctuary. Tom Hilton ensures that the bulletins, and the services, conform to the Ordo/A.C.C.C. Missal. Canon Trevor as Rector Emeritus binds us with his gentle spirit, forged in the fire of over fifty years in the priesthood. Vera Elliott holds all of us together with her organization and her experience, keeping the books, providing goodies for our fellowship, offering a sage word in love, quietly doing whatever needs to be done, and planning ahead when we forget. Vera has also been passing on her knowledge, teaching Debbie, a newer member, the intricacies of how to set up the altar and Debbie has been soaking up the information with enthusiastic eagerness, already putting it to good use. Eugene Phoa continues to "go the extra mile", doing the practice needed to be cantor and to lead the hymns (without whose leadership we flounder), serving as Rector's Warden, and being willing at all times to offer pertinent advice. The outreach of our Praver Ministry extends the work of our parish far beyond its physical boundaries. For this we credit Silvia Roberts who at ninety-seven years of age refuses to give up. In spite of her own infirmities, she keeps the intercession list, contacts those on it, and records miracles. James Stolee has been a faithful ally and support for countless years, bringing a vibrant Christian witness to the community on week days as well as Sunday.

As steady as the "old guard" try to be, it is exciting to welcome the younger people, either those who have chosen to become those who members or make their contributions in other ways. Not only have they been willing to ask the hard questions, they too have worked behind the scenes. This year it has become obvious that our time with the Lutherans and their older congregation may be limited. In spite of a heavy work load, a younger parishioner has donated precious hours promoting church membership, bringing his friends, and

permanent home. Likewise, John Niruban took on the challenging "behind the scenes" task of setting up our new webpage. Hampered by work commitments, he will now be assisted by Pat Peard to bring everything to fruition. Our new domain name is www.anglicancatholic-edmonton.ca. Look for us in April/May. As noted, an ongoing challenge for many of our younger people is the reality of Sunday work hours which makes attendance sporadic. In spite of this, they come when they can, and pitch in as they are able.

Sadly, this year we said goodbye to long time member Rudy Walch, and to Gwen Johnston who, not of our parish, still offered her time and talents as an accountant for our use.

We recognize that, as we faithfully and actively seek to present God's love to our communities, and to bring new members into our parish, change will happen. We will rock the boat of our comfortable predictability. and that will create difficulties, challenges and opportunities. As we welcome newcomers through our doors, we welcome unfamiliar ideas, unexpressed fears, tentative hopes, different needs, fresh vitality. Just as they accept the challenge of their turning point, finding a new church family, we accept the challenge of growing together in grace as well as numbers and, only then, by the power of the Holy Spirit, actually extending God's Kingdom in the hearts and lives of people in and around this city. And still, by God's grace, we are happy.

Kay Hilton

Parish of Saint Barnabas, Moose Jaw. SK

The Parish of St. Barnabas Moose Jaw received word late last fall that Parkivew Funeral Chapel may be sold in the near, or fairly near future. We have enjoyed being at Parkview Sunday by Sunday and really like the building and owners. We are saddened

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that we need to leave, however, with God's guidance we know that we would be able to accomplish this difficult task.

facility search committee Δ was established and we began the process of looking at different options for a new place to come together and worship God. Through a number of interesting "God-cidences" we were led to contact Central Lutheran. They are in the process of examining ways to keep their church open due to ongoing facility costs and a declining congregation. We met with their pastor, and after a tour of the building, followed by discussions with Archbishop Janzen, St. Barnabas wrote a general proposal for renting the church on Sunday mornings and mid-week. After their Visioning Committee approved the proposal



in general, they sought and received approval from their bishop and overseeing organisation. The search committee from St. Barnabas and the visioning committee from Central Lutheran met to discuss the finer details. concerns, and answer questions presented on both sides. We then received a formal proposal from Central Lutheran and we asked for a few amendments to be made which were gladly done. Their Council (Vestry) met and approved the proposal, which was presented to the congregation for their consideration. The Vestry at St. Barnabas approved the proposal as well. Central Lutheran held their Annual General Meeting at which the proposal was overwhelmingly approved. St. Barnabas, at their Annual General Meeting, unanimously approved a motion to make the move to Central Lutheran. St. Barnabas' Vestry met to discuss the details of the move, and we will begin using the facilities at Central Lutheran on Sunday, March 18th at 11:30 am.

Though we are hesitant to leave Parkview as the building suits our needs quite well, we are excited that God has guided us to Central Lutheran and we look forward to worshipping in a proper church building. We would ask for your prayers as we take this step forward in our ministry in Moose Jaw. May God be praised!!!

The Rev. Glenn Galenkamp, Rector

