



*The Bishop's Charge to
Synod 2013*

My Dear Brethren in Christ:

AS we begin our Synod today we give thanks to Almighty God in our Saviour Jesus Christ for all His blessings bestowed upon us as members of His Church in this Diocese. We especially give thanks for “the Faith once delivered to the saints” and pray God to give us the grace and strength always to witness faithfully to the same unimpaired to each generation.

We remember this day all His righteous servants known to us and unknown, who have gone before us marked with the sign of Faith and go from strength to strength in the service of His perfect Kingdom. We remember particularly the life and ministry of Father James Corps, Father Dennis Dickson, Father William Ivey, Father Howard Patterson, and Father Rudolph Rohim, Father Reg Alcock. We pray for the repose of their souls and all others of our brethren in our parishes who witnessed a good confession. “Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon. May they rest in peace, and rise in glory. Amen.”

As I begin my Charge to Synod, I would like to take this opportunity to formally and publicly thank Bishop Botterill for his steadfast leadership, steady hand, and faithful witness in guiding us all through the troublous times we experienced in late 2011 and through 2012. It is in large measure due to his efforts, his patience and wisdom, that we are gathered here today – renewed, strengthened, and moving forward. Thank you, my brother!

I would also like to thank Bishop Michael Gill for being with us (travelling all the way from Johannesburg, South Africa); and to thank him for his tremendous work in marshalling and holding together the Traditional Anglican Communion (TAC) in the face of recent divisions and upheaval. As the Secretary to the College of Bishops and Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of Southern Africa, we here in Canada thank you for your hard work, dedication, and faithful witness to the truth in Christ.



*Left to right: The Right Reverend Michael Gill,
Secretary to the College of Bishops, Traditional
Anglican Communion; The Right Reverend Shane B.
Janzen, Metropolitan & Bishop Ordinary*

It is for us, inspired by the faith and good example of our first Bishop, Carmino de Catanzaro, together with his successors and all our faithful brethren who have gone before us, to be strong and courageous in our witness to our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the Head of the Church, and the Author and Perfecter of our Faith. Together as members of the Anglican Catholic Church of Canada (ACCC) within the larger Christian family of the Traditional Anglican Communion, we witness to the ancient Anglican heritage and tradition in the worship and doctrine of Christ's one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We are not a new church nor a sect; nor are we a 'splinter group' or 'gathering of disaffected Anglicans'.

In the words of the *Solemn Declaration of 1893* [Found on page vii of the Book of Common Prayer -Ed.], we are an:

“integral portion of the one Body of Christ composed of Churches which, united under the One Divine Head and in the fellowship of the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, hold the one Faith revealed in Holy Writ, and defined in the Creeds as maintained by the undivided primitive Church in the undisputed Ecumenical Councils; receive the same Canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as containing all things necessary to salvation; teach the same Word of God; partake of the same Divinely ordained Sacraments, through the ministry of the same Apostolic Orders, and worship one God and Father through the same Lord Jesus Christ by the same Holy and Divine Spirit Who is given to them that believe to guide them into all truth. And we are determined by the help of God to hold and maintain the Doctrine, Sacraments and Discipline of Christ as the Lord hath commanded in His Holy Word, and as the Church hath received and set forth the same...; and to transmit the same unimpaired to our posterity.”

Our witness to the Christian Faith, the Anglican Tradition, and the Book of Common Prayer, in worship and doctrine should be evident to anyone who comes into our midst. As a continuing Anglican Church we are both catholic and reformed – preserving, maintaining and living out all

that is best in the ancient Anglican Tradition.

Building on this foundation, and with faith in God, it is nevertheless important that we recognize the realities of our times. As I recently wrote in our diocesan newsletter, *The Anglican Catholic Chronicle*, we live in a post-Christian era and a post-Constantinian Church – meaning, the current conventions and social standards of propriety no longer demand church attendance nor recognize or support the place of the Christian Church within the institutions and homes of our nation. Those days are gone and may never come back – so there is no sense in pining away or lamenting their loss. We are back in many ways to the times of the primitive Church, back to the apostolic age.

While we may lament our present reality it must not impair our efforts at evangelization. The saving Gospel of Christ is as vital and necessary today as it was for the early Church – founded as it is upon the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ‘Who is the same yesterday, today and forever’. The Apostles and early evangelists, together with the Christian missionaries of centuries past, all faced the challenges of a pagan world – as we do today – living in a society based on secular values and the paramount importance of individual expression and self-determination, over and above all other concerns or interests or moral imperatives.

What then are we to do? How are we to ‘work the works of God’ in an increasingly faithless secular society? Firstly, it is critical that each of us knows the Faith.



Bishop Janzen giving his Charge to Synod

This may seem axiomatic but when faced with the challenges, morality, social and ethical debates and divisions within secular society today we must each, as Christians, be willing and able to witness to the hope that is within us, and to preach the gospel of Christ 'in season and out of season'. So know the Faith – know the Scriptures; know the Church Catechism; know the teachings of Christ on the issues that confront modern man today. And then be prepared to practice and to witness this Faith.

Yet in this knowing, and in this outreach, we must always 'speak the truth with love' as St. Paul exhorts. Be positive, not negative; let people know what we believe, not what we condemn – let others experience our Christian charity and welcome rather than a litany of woes or a chorus of moral lamentation. We are a people of faith, hope and love – let that be evident in all we say and do in the Name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Secondly, let the presence and place of your Parish be known – 'do not hid your candle under a bushel basket but set it up for all to see'. In other words, explore ways and means of highlighting the fact that there is a traditional Anglican parish and Christian church in your neighbourhood, town or city. Holding a parish bazaar or tea or offering the use of the church hall for social activities or groups within the community are some of the ways to get the word out of who we are and where we worship. For house with a church building, hold an 'Open House' one Saturday or Sunday afternoon for people to drop by without the pressure of attending a church service. Have available bookmarks, pamphlets, prayer cards, guest book. A choral Mattins or Evensong Service commemorating a national or local occasion can also be a drawing card, especially for those who may have drifted away from the Church. Most of all 'think outside the box'. We may be

traditional in our worship and orthodox in our faith but we do not need to be conventional in our thinking nor old fashioned in our outreach. It is important that the Church be relevant – not by conforming to the modern age but by offering the truth in Jesus Christ within the times in which we live.

Finally, I would like to speak briefly about healing, unity and moving forward. We all know of former brethren – clergy and laity – who left the ACCC at or just after the discussions and events surrounding the talks with Rome. While we cannot undo the past – and it is a pointless exercise and waste of time even to try – we can seek healing and reconciliation. Reaching out to our separated brethren with an invitation to come together once again as one traditional continuing Anglican Church in Canada within the Anglican Catholic Church of Canada, (Traditional Anglican Communion), founded as it was in 1979.

However, we must be realistic. This reaching out, this offer of healing and reconciliation, will not come easily nor will it necessarily produce immediate results. There are still many people who were hurt or left behind as a result of the recent divisions – both clergy and laity. Some have found they no longer have a parish close by; others in their confusion or concern left prematurely and may not know if there is a way back or what to expect if they do come back. Others simply need more time to get over past events and to be reassured of the future.


For all of us, reconciliation and unity will mean leaving behind old arguments, old divisions, old baggage, and finding ways to become one again. Bishop Craig and I, along with others, have had long and serious conversations about the need for healing and unity among traditional Anglicans in Canada. A divided voice is never an effective voice in matters of faith and morals. I have tried to kept the lines of

communication open with some of my former brethren here in Canada; and they with me. And it is important that we continue to do so.

So I would ask for your prayers, and I would ask for your concerted efforts at the parish and individual levels to bridge the divide, to promote healing and unity, and to welcome in those who may have thought the Anglican Catholic Church of Canada and the Traditional Anglican Communion no longer upheld the doctrine, discipline and order of the historic Anglican tradition. We continue to pray for the unity of all Christian people in fulfilment of our Lord's prayer for His Church.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your steadfast witness, perseverance, and patience. We have all been through a lot since our last Synod some three years ago. But we are also stronger for it; more focused, more determined, more sure.

As I begin my episcopal ministry among you as your Bishop, I would ask for your prayers, your patience and understanding, and for your continued support of our Diocese and the TAC. I pledge to serve you with all that I have and can offer in our Lord Jesus Christ. Like all of you, I have my shortcomings, limitations, and opinions. I will try to keep these in check by God's grace. However, I do bring an enthusiasm, a deep abiding faith in our future, and a willingness to serve where and as you need me.

As in all things in life, there are no guarantees, only the assurance of our Lord's abiding presence and saving grace. He transcends all time and all circumstances, therefore it is in Him that we place all our hopes and all our tomorrows. 

Let us pray:

O GOD the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful: Sanctify thy Church in this Diocese by thine abiding presence. Bless those who minister in holy things. Enlighten the minds of thy people more and more with the light of the everlasting Gospel. Bringing souls to the knowledge of God our Saviour; and those who are walking in the way of life, keep steadfast unto the end. Give patience to the sick and afflicted, and renew them in body and soul, especially our brethren who could not be with us here at this time. Guard from forgetfulness of thee those who are strong and prosperous. Increase in us thy manifold gifts of grace, and make us all to be fruitful in good works; O blessed Spirit, whom with the Father and the Son together we worship and glorify, one God, world without end. Amen. [BCP, p. 44]



Bishop Shane Janzen's Schedule

Following consultation with Bishop Botterill and the Clergy of Atlantic Canada, Bishop Janzen intends to visit those parishes and missions during the fall months.

The diocesan website for the ACCC is

www.anglicancatholic.ca

For those with mobile devices that can read QR codes.



"We will rejoice in thy salvation, and triumph in the Name of our God: the Lord perform all thy petitions."

~ Psalm 20:5 ~