

REGENT OF THE SUN



“THE WORD
BECAME FLESH”
(JN 1:14)

THOUGHTS FROM OUR BISHOP

In this section of the “Regent of the Sun”, I usually write my column, “Thoughts from the Rector.” Instead, I would like you to hear from our bishop. I came across a homily that Bishop Cuncell preached in November 18, 2001, back in the days when he was known as Fr. Cuncell, Rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Lake Forest, Illinois. While this homily was preached just after September 11, 2001, I believe our bishop’s words to his parish then is just as relevant to us today who have suffered through so much from Hurricane Sandy and the nor’easter

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Whatever the future holds, God holds the future and God holds you.

Our hold on the future was shaken on September 11. We lost our grip that day. We were shocked to realize just how flimsy our hold is on everyone and everything that we love, and how little the things that we

strive for the most afford us in the day of disaster. When towers crumble, when freedom is assaulted, when someone we love is dying, when a marriage is threatened, when a job is ended, when the world is unraveling, then we have what they call a “learning opportunity.” Our hold on all that we love and cherish is important, but not ultimate. We are held responsible, but we are also held. We need God, who holds us and the future, no matter what the future holds.

I recently came across an essay by C.S. Lewis that was published during World War II and entitled, “Learning in Wartime.” In it, he wrote,

If you have not directly lost a loved one, but rather find yourself dazed, shaken and fearful, God is saying to you: “Wake up to your need for me and up to what real security is. No military power or technology or human factor can make you



Bishop George E. Cuncell
11th Bishop of the Diocese of
New Jersey

safe. Only in the very center of my will is there any safety. You don't have the human ability to control things. You need me."

If we had foolish hopes about human culture, they are now shattered. If we thought we were building up a heaven on earth, if we looked for something that would turn the present world from a place of pilgrimage into a permanent city satisfying the soul..., we are disillusioned, and not a moment too soon. In ordinary times only the wise realize it. Now the stupidest of us knows it.

"Wake up to your need for me and up to what real security is." This is life-long learning in wartime, peacetime, anytime. Have we awakened to our need for something, for someone beyond ourselves? For some security not of our own making, some surprising light in the darkness of human sin, hatred and terror? For some peace that passes our understanding?

These are timely questions, in the light of the events of this fall and in the light of this time in the Christian Calendar. Each year the Gospel readings assigned for the final Sundays in the Church year feature Jesus' teaching about the unraveling of the world and its securities. Jesus speaks of signs, disasters, wars and warnings about suffering and persecution that will come at the end. These are not the most popular passages in the Gospel. They have little of what we would call the comfort of the Gospel. But they are the truth. They come from a real – if disturbing – portion of Jesus' teaching about the end of time and the evaporation of our earthly securities.

Today's Gospel reading (Luke 21:5-19) begins with the disciples admiring the beauty and strength of the temple. It was, by all accounts, a splendid, awe-inspiring structure. When you go to the Western Wall in Jerusalem today, you can still see the huge foundation stones from the Temple of Jesus' day. But, in the time that Luke was writing (about 40 years after Jesus' death and resurrection), the Temple was destroyed and Jerusalem was a heap of rubble. It was an unspeakable calamity and the people of Luke's time and they all strained to see how this catastrophe could be part of God's purpose.

No wonder, then, Luke thought it important to pass on Jesus' words about the Temple: "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down" (Luke 21:6). To grasp how alarming this was,

remember that this remark was part of the testimony against Jesus at his trial (Mark 14:58) and helped to get him convicted and condemned and killed.

Jesus' remarks were a radical assault on the human securities that had built up around a physical building of impressive proportions and spiritual significance. But the disciples and others who were so impressed has missed the point. The point of that Temple (and this one) is to direct our trust, our worship and our day-by-day dependence toward God and not the structures that witness to God. Now, someone might say, "Well, that was a good lesson for those ancient Jews and Romans." But it is our learning opportunity as well. We all fall down. We all depend upon our Lord.

Of course, as soon as Jesus spoke of the end of time, people immediately asked him, "When?" "How will we know?" He never gave them what they wanted. He said, "Of that day and of that hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (Mark 13:32).

It is not ours to know the end, in the sense of finis, a terminus or end point in time. But in Jesus Christ we have a picture of the end, in the sense of telos, the purpose for which time is given to us. And that purpose is found in Jesus' words, "This will give you an opportunity to testify" (Luke 21:13). Time is opportunity to testify to the love of God.

So, let me offer you this testimony about my personal encounter with a loss of security. Three years ago, a month after I underwent surgery for colon cancer, I was walking through an airport in Nashville, Tennessee. I was holding in my palm a hazel nut. For years I had carried that hazel nut to remind me of the teaching of St. Julian of Norwich, a 14th century English mystic. She lived during one of the world's greatest catastrophes: the Black Plague. During a severe illness when she was 30, Julian received 16 revelations of the love of God. In the first, she saw our Lord holding a hazel nut in the palm of his hand. In the contemplation of this little object, she realized that God is Creator, protector and lover of all things, and that, "Everything has being through the love of God."

But the main purpose of carrying around the hazelnut was another of the revelations, which formed the heart of all her teachings. "And so our good Lord answered to all the questions and doubts which I could raise, saying most comfortingly: I may make all

things well, and I can make all things well, and I shall make all things well, and I will make all things well; and you will see yourself that every kind of thing will be well..."

In that time of my life, between surgery and the beginning of chemotherapy, I was helped by those reassuring words. But then something happened. As I walked along, a child was wheeled by in her stroller. As she rolled along and passed me, I saw her waving her hand at no one in particular. Only after she passed did I realize what she was saying. Over and over again, she was saying, "Everything is fine. Everything is fine. Everything is fine."

You can make of that what you will. I only know this: Every set back, every disappointment, every calamity and every loss is an opportunity for us to listen for the voice of the Lord is our true security. To discover the hand of the Lord at work in our lives. And to testify to what we have heard and seen. Every time we are reduced, we can reach down and depend upon our God, who sustains us. In these shakiest and most insecure days that many of us have ever known, we have a Word to share and a rock on which to stand. He has a hold on us, even when everything is slipping away from us. If we lift him up, he will not let us down.

"All shall be well." Only a person who has been to hell and back has the authority to promise such an assurance. We have met that person in Jesus Christ, who is alive and is among us today. With him, we know that, even on the darkest days, all shall be well.

One of Julian's prayers is a fitting closing and consolation for us this morning. "God, of your mercy, give me yourself, for you are enough for me. I can ask for nothing which is less which can pay you full worship. And if I ask for anything less, I am always in want. Only in you do I have everything."

In Christ, we have everything. We do.



REPORTS OF A NEW ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

By Alan Cowell

Published: November 8, 2012

[The New York Times](#) [Europe Section]

Article written just before the official announce of Bishop Welby's elevation to Archbishop of Canterbury

LONDON — The bishop of Durham, Justin Welby — a former oil company executive who once said he was unable to escape “a sense of God calling” — is likely to be named the new archbishop of Canterbury, the spiritual head of the world’s estimated 77 million Anglicans, British news media reported Thursday.

The current archbishop, the Most Rev. Rowan Williams, announced in March that he would step down at the end of the year, saying his successor should have “the constitution of an ox and the skin of a rhinoceros” — an allusion to the tasks facing the head of a church riven by debate over issues like same-sex marriage and the ordination of women as bishops.

Though the appointment of a successor is supposed to be secret, word leaked out this week that Bishop Welby had been chosen, prompting bookmakers to close their books after an avalanche of bets on him. On Wednesday and Thursday, leading newspapers and the BBC reported that he would replace Archbishop Williams.

There was no official confirmation of the appointment from either church or lay authorities. The office of Prime Minister David Cameron said a formal announcement would be made Friday.

Bishop Welby, 56, who would be the 105th archbishop of Canterbury, is said to have been chosen over three other contenders: the archbishop of York, John Sentamu; the bishop of Norwich, Graham Jones; and the bishop of London, John Charteris. Bishop Welby is regarded as an evangelical conservative in opposing same-sex marriage but favoring the elevation of women to senior church positions.

Educated, like Mr. Cameron and other members of the British elite, at Eton College, Bishop Welby studied law and history at Cambridge University before working for 11 years for French and British oil companies.

After his youngest daughter, Johanna, was killed in a car crash in 1983, he said, “It was a very dark time for my wife, Caroline, and myself, but in a strange way it actually brought us closer to God.” They have five other children.

He began his training as a priest in 1987 and was made a deacon in 1992. Since then he has risen rapidly through the church hierarchy. He was made Bishop of Durham only a year ago.

In an [interview published in September](#) in Money Marketing, a British financial newspaper, he said he had abandoned the oil industry in favor of the church because “I was unable to get away from a sense of God calling.”

In June, Bishop Welby [told The Mail on Sunday newspaper](#) that his father, Gavin Welby, had made a living as a bootlegger during Prohibition in the United States after the bishop’s grandmother had sent him to America. “I remember my father telling me she gave him five pounds and put him on a boat,” he was quoted as saying. “He said he went to New York in 1929 and traded whiskey.”

According to biographies in British newspapers, Gavin Welby later moved in the same circles as the Kennedys before returning to Britain and marrying a private secretary to Winston Churchill, Jane Portal, who became Bishop Welby’s mother.

The Next Step in the Recovery

Along with so many different agencies, Churches of the Ministerium are coordinating a great deal of the recovery efforts from the Hurricane. Among the Churches, the First Baptist Church of Manasquan, First Presbyterian Church, and Manasquan United Methodist Church are the three central recovery centers. The other Churches of the Ministerium are supporting and sending in volunteers and goods essential for the recovery.

There are some things which YOU can do to help in the recovery.

THE NEXT STEP:

With clean-up well underway, the Churches of the ministerium are now looking ahead to the next steps for residents affected by the storm.

If you would like to support recovery efforts here are some practical ways you can help:

1. Bring in with you to St. Uriel's a **"Kitchen Recovery Kit"**. This is a WELL PACKED box [use a **Tote** because it is durable and stackable]. Your tote should contain **new** [not used or old], new service for four: flatware, a few pots, pans, bowls, plates, cups, salt, pepper, etc. The plates should not be paper and the flatware should not be plastic throw-aways. Remember, these people have lost everything. They have no plates, pots, pans, cutlery, etc.
2. Help people rebuild with gift cards in any amount from Home Depot or Lowes.
3. Help people re-stock their homes with gift cards in any amount from home goods stores such as Walmart, K-Mart, Sears, Target, etc.
4. Help re-stock their their pantries with gift cards from ACME, Shop-Rite, Food Town, or A&P.
All these things can be brought to St. Uriel's.

Volunteer Work Teams:

If you would like to join a work team and volunteer team, please call

First Presbyterian Church of Manasquan on their Sandy Hotline, 219-921-4931 or e-mail sandyrelief@fpc.org.

Volunteer For Support Teams:

First Baptist Church of Manasquan is coordinating the lunches and drinks to the relief teams in the beach front area. Sandwiches and drinks are being prepared at 1st Baptist and then teams are being sent out to the recover teams in the field. This includes the National Guard troops stationed on the beach front. Anyone who wishes to assist in this ministry call First Baptist Church at 732-223-4649 or call my cell phone 732-996-6188.

Manasquan Methodist Church is serving dinners each night. They have been serving over **200** dinners every night! St. Mary's-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Point Pleasant has been serving 300 meals a night. Manasquan United Methodist Church contact number is (732) 223-5432. Ask for Pastor Reggie.

When VOLUNTEERING:

1. There may be some days when you show up to volunteer and they already have enough volunteers. Please do not get angry or upset. Simply find out what days are available for you to volunteer.
2. If you would like to volunteer, it would be helpful for you to either contact one of the three main churches, or go down to see when you can volunteer. They may need you that day, or they may ask you if you can come in on a [whatever day].
3. If you wish to volunteer, **DO NOT** attempt to drive into the recovery areas on your own. You will be stopped and told to turn around. You can only go into the recovery areas with the recovery team to which you have been assigned.

LOREM IPSUM



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NEWS BRIEFS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Brotherhood of St. Andrew cleaning the Columbarium: Pictured: Steve sroka, John Muly, Fred Hand, Peter Cavagnaro, Jack Brisben, Jeff Thorpe, Tom Branch, Steve Shebell all searing the Bishop's TGIF [Today God Is First] bracelets

Annual Parish Meeting

Columbarium:

Since the columbarium was erected in ???????, ????? Numbers of the faithfuk departed have been intered in the Columbarium and ?????? Have been sold. The price of a niche was set at \$850. That was intended to be an introductory price. Prices over the years have increased, herefore,the price of a niche in the St. Uriel's Columbarium will be raised effective January 1 to \$1,000. What a deal! Where in Sea Girt can you buy property for \$1,000.

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Parish Retreat

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DEC. 2, 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11:00pm Advent Wreath Party

DEC. 8, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Saturday, 9:30am Mass [Lady Chapel]

DECEMBER 8, 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CONTEMPORARY MASS

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass [2nd Sunday of Advent] [Hulbert Hall]

DECEMBER 21 ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE AND MARTYR

Friday, 9:30am Mass

DEC. 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

Monday, Dec. 24
5:00pm Mass
10:00pm Mass

DEC. 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

Tuesday, 10:00am Mass **ONLY**
NO 8 and 9:30am Masses

OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 26, ST. STEPHEN, DEACON AND MARTYR

Wednesday, December 26

9:30am Mass

JANUARY 1, HOLY NAME [SOLEMNITY OF MARY]

Tuesday, 9:30am Mass

JANUARY 6 THE EPIPHANY

Sunday, Jan. 6 9:30am Mass

JANUARY 13, THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Sunday,
8:00am Mass
9:30am Mass