



# Old Catholic Church of the Americas

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## Landslide—by Sister Ann Roe

*“...And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”*

Matthew 7:26

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Recently, in our area, a massive mudslide wreaked havoc in an upper-class neighborhood. Buildings were crunched and smashed as though a giant toddler had come through and stepped on them, and the neighborhood was evacuated. The people who invested in these homes are swarming around the mayor and city, angry as hornets for what happened.

Well...one has to ask, who built their homes on unstable ground on the side of a mountain?

Also recently, a local oldies radio station has been playing a live rendition of Stevie Nicks' "Landslide," which seems to come on every time I turn the radio on in the car.

I don't believe in coincidences anymore.

It is long ago. I am a young adult (so I think) and I am sitting in a strange room in a strange place. Utah. I don't like it. I have just come from the golden light

and order and castles and cathedrals of Germany. Instead, here it is windy and dirty and all I see are car dealerships, fast food places, and run-down buildings. The sun is white hot. Rain falls from clouds and doesn't reach the ground. I sit with my boom box, depressed. "Landslide" by Stevie Nicks comes on.

It is the present. I am still healing, reeling, from the collapse of a decades-long relationship that started with a Fleetwood Mac concert. I keep asking myself what happened. Well, it was a relationship built on sand. Neither one of us had any idea how love really works. We were relying on pop music and TV shows to guide our marriage. How superficial. How unanchored. We loved each other a tablespoon at a time, holding back out of fear.

More importantly, perhaps, we thought we were too cool for religion. We were too afraid to trust each oth-



er. We were FAR too afraid to trust in God.

In the last year or so, I have witnessed God working in my life. He constantly surprises me, because whatever He does, it's never the way people do things. All I have to do is let down my guard and trust Him. (Yeah. Let down my guard. So easy to say.) But I know that His love is solid. It is there for ME.

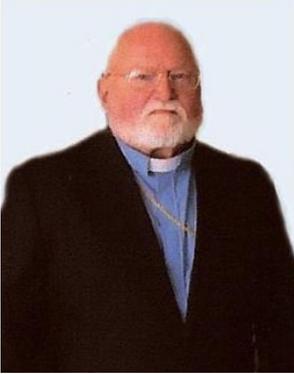
The way Jesus loves us is beyond measure. No tablespoons. He gave all for us. He gives all for us, for eternity. Gentle Lord, I reach out my hand to You. Pull me onto the solid rock, save me from the shifting sand.



### HAVE A RELAXING LABOR DAY



## **Editorial 5 Anglican History: Essay on the History of the Anglican Church: From Kin George I (1714) to the beginning of the reign of Queen Victoria(1839) —by Bishop Richard Mence**



The era when the English Church was still part of the Church of Rome was a period where the prelates in England exercised a

great deal of temporal as well as spiritual authority. The English Church also controlled a great deal of wealth in land, persons and other resources.

With the advent of the Tudor dynasty this would change and the Tudor monarch's exercised power over the church as the English Church became separated from the Church of Rome.

It can be said that since the beginning of the Stuart dynasty (1603) that the Church of England has largely become an instrument of the Crown. With the restoration of Charles II (1660) and then the rule of William and Mary (1688-1706) the Head of the church and Protector of the Faith has been the sovereign with Parliament having increasing influence on the appointment of bishops and especially the Archbishop of Canterbury. The

Lords Spiritual, as the bishops were called continued to be members of the House of Lords in Parliament. (25 bishops serve in Parliament today). Though the House of Lords has lost a great deal of power, there continues to be a voice of the church in the nation's Parliament. However, there is speculation as to whether or not the House of Lords will continue to exist into the next reign.

With the coronation of King George I in 1714 came the increased power of Parliament in all areas of government and the Church of England receded from temporal power and became increasingly a moral presence.

From the time of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) the Church of England became anchored in the "three legged stool" approach to theology: Scripture, Tradition and Reason. The Church of England retreated from great catholic-like ceremonial in liturgy and inclined more toward more Protestant usages with its austerity and lack of sacramentals.

With the advent of George I and other Hanoverian monarchs the traditions of the Church of England ranged further into the colonial expansion of Empire. Missionaries of the Church of England would go into the various corners of the

world from North America to India and from the Rock of Gibraltar to South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. From there it would expand further into the islands of Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia.

The number of adherents to the Church of England would grow so that it was necessary to create bishoprics outside of Great Britain. This began with the consecration of the bishop of Canada in Nova Scotia as well as an Episcopal Bishop in the United States in 1787. The American bishop was consecrated by bishops in Scotland. T.F. Middleton was consecrated bishop in Calcutta, India, in 1814, while another bishop created for the See of Madras, India, in 1815, and then in Bombay in 1835. In 1836 W. G. Broughton was made bishop of Australia while G.A. Salinger was consecrated bishop of New Zealand in 1841. The consecration of the first bishop outside of Great Britain did not occur until 1855, well into the reign of Queen Victoria.

Thus did another arm of Great Britain's Imperial system become widespread to enhance the efforts of trade, the military and the political officers, to not only spread the Word of God but the word of Empire in the support of British expansion.

### **CORRECTED INFORMATION from Last Month**



**Mr. Ron Johnson, the owner of Stained Glass Illusions at 1414 South West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84115 (801) 466-5344. To see more of Ron's fine work, check out his web site: at**

**Www.stainedglassillusions.vpweb.com**



## My Fear or MY FAITH—by Mother Rachael Christian, O.S.B.

It has been a great source of interest to me of late, how fear dominates my world and quite often, my daily life. How is that the words of God, spoken in Genesis and throughout the Old and New Testaments, “Do not fear, do not be afraid, “have somehow, somewhere along the line, become my opposite, in thought and action. **(By this I mean, I “am afraid, I do doubt, I am fearful”)**

I was reading in the Old Testament (I quite enjoy learning how in my life, old behavior and attitudes affected even them), and I found that every time God said, **“do not be afraid, do not doubt, do not become fearful,”** the same people He spoke with came up with the “yeah, but God” answers I do today. “Yeah but God, did you see the way they looked at me when I said I was going to do this or that? Did you hear their reaction God, when I told them I was going to go here and do this instead of that for a career?” How can I not be afraid God, when everyone around me fills my ears with the “if you do that this will surely happen... or the ever popular...No one will like you if you do that, and you already have very few friends as it is, why risk it.?”

So I am reading along and it hits me, as only the Old Testament can do, in its subtlety and grace: People are afraid, God is faithful and strong and delivers us from all our fears! He tells us time and again, you can do this, you can overcome this,” You can be strong. I am with you.” And time and again, the people respond with yes! Amen! We can do it! (Then, the next storm comes along.) And the New Testament puts it so succinctly: “Do not be afraid! Why do you doubt? I am with you, even to the end of the age.” And sometimes still; the lure of people and their thought of me, pulls me down, into fear, away from faith.

So how is it that fear that started in the garden with Adam and Eve, has become so central a place in my life? I would have to say, that in the areas of life that have meant or mean something to me now, I tend to side with

people and not God. I tend to believe what people tell me, when God is the One who I must believe.

I do this to be accepted. To be loved. To be wanted. And am I really any different than Old Testament or New Testament folk: The way I see it, not so much different, just a different family, a different view but the same situation and circumstances in a different age and time, and place.

**Faith is the evidence of things hoped the certainty of things unseen.** And for little things I have great faith. I have faith God is going to wake me up in the morning to face my fears and get on with doing His will for my life. (Which takes greater faith than I realized!): I have faith that my day will go along pretty much as usual: barking dogs, cats play fighting, I will eat and rest in regular times and I will live and breathe and laugh with friends and talk with strangers, even a brief hello. I am not afraid that these things will not happen, because they have done so since I was a small child.

Some people call that simple faith. I used to just say: I believe in God. And when someone would ask where I was from, I would say: “I came from God and am going back there someday. To which silence (which could be fear, was the reaction, or it could have been incredulous shock that I would think such thoughts!)

My life from birth to the age of 54 has been a series of living by faith in God. Medically a mystery, my spiritual life has its own strength, of which I do not see, and I do not question its validity, I often question how it can be, when I am only one person. Then I realize I am showing fear not faith. And faith moves the “mountains” of my life, making them stubble, while life without faith, is evident in my steps, words, thoughts and actions. And I live in fear. Fear dominates until I say, enough! Back off!

I keep reading on in Scripture to find that not once, many, many, many

times, God says “do not be afraid.”

So why do I believe the world and its fear bases, and not God who is Truth and Light? Because people I can see, God I can only hear when I am still. Interesting that someone who created me, whose very breathe is in my body, for when He desires it back, He takes it and my body becomes dust and ash in the wind. So what I am afraid of, really?

I am afraid God will do just as He says and He will make it so I do what He leads me to do and do them for Him, not for me..for in my own life, fear will dominate, but in His Will, faith will be the victor. And that scares me because, while I want to do them, every one, I am afraid that I will fail. And in God’s economy, the only failure that produces fear; is the failure of not attempting to do what God has asked me to do.

I am writing this thinking about fear and faith. Faith is the evidence of things hoped for. Fear is the belief it will not happen or it will be bad. **(This is of course, only my life I am speaking of: I do not know how you perceive faith or fear).**

I choose to live by faith and walk beside God. And tomorrow I will choose to do it again. Many times, and equal to that same number of times will be the dreaded, “what if and yeah but, **yet,** the greater truth will always be: This I My Covenant with you, that I AM with you, even to the end of the days.” So why do I fear, if everyone around me is scared, lingering in doubt; because as I said, people impress me. God shakes me up.

Come on God, shake me up more, so my faith outweighs my fear and gives me courage to do those things you said I would do when I was a child at my parent’s sides.

**I AM not afraid. I am yours.**

## Rooted—by Deacon Darren Hayes

Instead of just starting right into the writing that I have going on in my head to share with you I would like to start in prayer so as in all things we begin in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit Amen

***Abba, Father in Heaven, please take the time to bring the Holy Spirit down upon me as I write and share with others, let the Holy Spirit come down upon those taking the time to read this. Allow your wonderful Grace and Mercy to be within all of our lives Lord, Allow us to see more clearly your Word and to be able to be so grounded in it that we are able to share it with others around us with no fear. We say this in the name of your son Jesus the Christ Amen.***

Take the time to open your Bibles and read Mathew 13:1-23 it is a great Gospel reading though I won't place the whole reading in full below this article will focus on this Gospel reading. At least portions of the reading. Let us begin:

*The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirty fold.*

Do you ever ask yourself if you are really doing the things that God wants you to do? Were the seeds planted deep enough within you that they are spreading through you and reaching out to others around you? You are spreading your faith inside you and reaching to those that you meet and encounter?

When you take the time to plant in seeds in others you want those seeds to be deep, so deep that they continue to learn and grow in their knowledge of Jesus and the Word that has been placed before them, so that they can then reach out and share with others. Of course we also hope that we ourselves are doing this as well. After all we should be deepening not only others relationships with God but also are own.

A lot of us take the time to hide underneath the surface the things that we have discovered and learned in our growing relationship with Christ. We need to learn to break that and not be afraid to spread what we have learned with others so that they may also grow. We need to be able to do both; it is what we are asked to do.

How do we dig deeper into our relationship with Jesus? How do we come to understand Christ more? How do we know who we are in Christ? Scripture, Prayer, The Eucharist, The Message, there are so many ways that we can gain knowledge and grow in knowing Christ. When we do this we can also share and reach out to others. This way we are making God known.

This is part of what God gives to us to complete as his plan, it shows that we love him and that we are willing to bring others to him so that they may also know his love. This is a part of completing the emptiness that a lot of us feel at some point in our life and emptiness that only God can fill. We must also keep in mind that everyone has a different walk with Jesus, though we may be on the same journey everyone is on their own path.

You may see this as something that you are scared to do, or unsure of how to go about it. Pray and allow yourself to rely on the lord and for him to be able to work in your life and in you and have no fear or worries. Remember this is what God wants he wants you to learn and grow in relationship with him and he wants you to plant the seeds in those around you he is not going to let you fail in this area or any area.

Continued on Page 6

## A Book Review—by Mother Rachael Christian, OSB The Eucharist Yesterday and Today—M. Basil Pennington



This is the first of what I hope to be many book reviews provided by Mother Rachael. If you don't already know, Mother Rachael is a prolific reader, and Bishop Jim has coaxed her to share her thoughts and views on some of her books.

In his book, entitled as you see here, "**The Eucharist Yesterday and Today**" is a read that will take the mind and heart back to the beginnings of First Holy Communion days; bring one closer to God through prayer, and ultimately, will unite the soul to Jesus Christ through active communication of the mind, body, soul and spirit to the Reality of Who and What the Eucharist truly is and what it contains in all its elements of love God gave us.

This book is not a light read, in that there is no plot, and yet there is; there is no character to follow and yet, the Main Character is our LORD, who humbled Himself to share in our humanity! Listen to hear His Voice echo through the ages.

**The Eucharist Yesterday and Today** is an invitation to the hungry and thirsty for understanding a bit more of the Mass and, seeking a

deeper union with Jesus Christ, is a book, set apart for the communion of community through prayer to Christ in the priest's prayers for us and in our own prayers for one another before, during and after the Mass is finished and our day to day living resumes. Coming home to the Eucharist is coming Home.

This particular book, leads the imagination into breathing again. How so? Basil Pennington, takes particular care to examine the many aspects and flow of the Mass, not only through the eyes, hands and voices of the Priests and deacons, but through the people responding to the call, the invitation, to come, gather and receive, Him who is and who was: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, always the Same. Become who you see before you.

It is here, in this first book I have read in a very long time, that hunger and thirst for Scripture and not just Scripture, but a feast of the Old and an embracing of the New, became my desire. This book, **The Eucharist Yesterday and Today**, has an appeal not only for the seminarian, but for the lay person, seeking understanding and, having found it, compels the mind to dig for greater communication with God by active participation in the Mass. Make known to the world, Jesus Christ.

Read this book for yourself and discover the Light of the world coming alive in Basil's words that tell us to reach beyond our selfish desires and seek communication and life. **The Eucharist Yesterday and Today** does not change the elements we receive, nor does it tell us how it happens, it only leads us to enquire more fully into the

ability for one aspect of our daily lives, when all around us, changes constantly; this one aspect remains the Same and so, reminds us who we are seeking to become like. Easily readable, **The Eucharist Yesterday and Today** is a book for all who come to the Living Water for refreshing and those who have yet to discover that is, their need as well. This book tells us plainly, communication, so vital for us as humans, is even more so, intimate and intricate and dynamic with God, in that place that God meets with us, (our hearts) and speaks of His Love for us; the same Yesterday Today and Tomorrow.

A thoroughly enjoyable read, that brings alive the Mass and more importantly, brings the Eucharist alive and I find that, its desire is for me as mine is to become His. Come to this book expecting nothing more than your own life to be stirred and the Eucharist to remain what it is, a Gift of Love given to a people, hungry and thirsty for love and for life, in a world dying for lack of both.



## Rooted—by Deacon Darren Hayes—Cont'd from Page 4



Another thing we need to keep in mind is that our plans are not always God's Plan, we may think that God is taking us one way and then in the end the reality is he is going to take us a completely different direction in our life. That his plan will take our whole life to complete it is something that we are not capable of knowing at once. All we need to know for certain are a large portion of that is getting to know Him and Sharing Him with others. God is never finished working within you.

Learn to put yourself into God's Mercy and Grace, give into him, surrender yourself and try to tune out the things that others are saying around you. Allow God to present to you the things that you are here to do for him, to be his hands and feet, to speak his words, to listen and to see when you are needed.

So remember to allow yourself to go from being a seed to being planted in rich soil and allowing your roots to grow not only in that soil but also out in the world, reaching out for others sharing and teaching of Christ. Share your story and God's Love with others. Planting a seed and allowing God's beautiful

## Labor Day—A Nationwide Holiday

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take was outlined in the first proposal of the holiday — a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sun-

day preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

The character of the Labor Day celebration has undergone a change in recent years, especially in large industrial centers where mass displays and huge parades have proved a problem. This change, however, is more a shift in emphasis and medium of expression. Labor Day addresses by leading union officials, industrialists, educators, clerics and government officials are given wide coverage in newspapers, radio, and television.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.



*If you wish to have an article or news item included in **OCCOA Newsletter**, please contact Bishop Jim Morgan or Mr. Minott Gaillard. This is just an attempt to share with each other and give us a chance to "promote" each other when someone does something good that we'd like to copy—or tries something that doesn't work—and we won't try that—bottom line, we'd just like to open communication channels—share **lessons learned**—share our blessings. Minott is at [wmg937@aol.com](mailto:wmg937@aol.com). Please submit articles no later than the 15th of the month.*