



Old Catholic Church of the Americas

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When People Leave—Bishop Jim Morgan, OSB

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Gospel Saint John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither;

people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

In my life I have read these words many times. And always in my heart I have thought them meant for others. I believed that because I subscribed to the thoughts that if you did enough and you did it correctly then we would ‘de facto’ all get along and grow together. What I have discovered along the way of, this my life’s journey is that God loves us too much to leave us in a static lifestyle.

Static: ADJECTIVE lacking in movement, action, or change, especially in a way viewed as undesirable or uninteresting:

Someone once told me, to my chagrin, that “the only constant in life is change.” I have no real idea where my abandonment and loss issues have come from and only recently have I been able to acknowledge that in fact I do have them and that they play out fairly regularly in my life. That said, I press

on with the reality that for a myriad of reasons people come and go in our churches. The real opportunity for Christ-likeness is how will you and I handle or deal with it, personally and publically.

Our Lord gives us a very practical example in John 6:22-69. Jesus understood that not everyone followed him because they believed him to be the Messiah. Some followed for the, “Free Food”, the excitement of the latest “New Thing”, some because “My Neighbor is Doing It”, some because they knew it was right but when asked to give up a pet belief or habit could no longer walk with him, and some thought that it made them “Look Very Very Good” mirror please!. In 2000 years the excuses and reasons are not very much different from today’s.

Jesus says something that should give us a major clue as to how to feel about departures.

”³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” John 6:36-37

Those who leave exercise their Free Will and rightly so. By the actions and non-

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When People Leave—Bishop Jim Morgan, OSB—Cont'd

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actions committed in and by our free will, we will be judged. I for mine and you for yours, not you for mine. And so we must take care that we do not allow it to become a feeling of personal rejection (even though it may feel like it, it may even be said so but it is not. It is a rejection of Him) If we believe and teach that we are here, not by accident or personal

choice but by God's design then it can be no other way. Is this a sad thing? Yes, it absolutely is, and it is also not a fault thing. It is a choice. I encourage you to deal with the sadness of their departure but also respect their choice. God never closes a door but that He opens a window somewhere. And as the Scripture at the beginning of this little essay states

“He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.”

So, chin up and “When God weeds the garden, For Heaven’s Sake ChurchDo not replant the weeds.” Rev. Ed Sherriff MCC Sacramento 1973

Expanding Catholic Message, Identity and Mission Through “Penny Bibles” - Father Dex Trujillo, OSB



Those who visit Glory to God notice very quickly several things about us that are different than most Catholic Churches. During Mass, our Praise & Worship Music and our Prayers of the People are unlike most others. The other thing that folks notice is the Bibles that are in the pew racks next to the hymnals. They also notice that those Bibles are expounded upon during homilies (which we call preaching).

Part of the reason for these unique qualities can be summed up in the statement, “It’s just who we are, it’s in our DNA.” To ex-

pand on that—it is where we came from. Our parish’s history as a community church and our intentional decision to embrace being Old Catholic did not happen overnight. It has been a journey. And it is a journey that is still unfolding in many exciting ways.

For some, it has been difficult and there have been some struggles embracing identity—especially a newer identity. We filled an important and vital mission for the Lord over the years as being one of the very few places in all of Utah that members of the LGBT community could find spiritual refuge. It is an important part of our history and identity, and it is something God led Bishop Jim and Deacon Joseph to do. What is exciting is that God didn’t stop there!

When the decision was made to begin developing an underlying Catholic identity, much grappling took place (and sometimes still does) about how we can embrace a new identity without los-

ing all of the good things that we have been—and still are. In a nutshell, we at Glory to God Parish perpetually endeavor to be ourselves. It’s not an identity crisis. We know who we are. We just want to make sure we continue to honor where we have been as we move forward to where God is leading us.

Our love of the scriptures and our desire to encounter them seriously and authentically is part of that endeavor. The Bibles in the pew racks go back to the community church days and are “a few books short of a complete deck.” At Thursday night Bible Study, Bishop Jim taught parishioners that don’t come from a Catholic background about the differences in the canon of Catholic and non-Catholic Old Testaments. A discussion developed about the Bibles in our pew racks.

Father Sava and Deacon Tammy had purchased some paperback NAB Bibles on Amazon.com for 5 cents each (+ \$3.99 shipping)

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Expanding Catholic Message, Identity and Mission Through “Penny Bibles” - Father Dex Trujillo, OSB—Cont’d

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while teaching the RCIA class at the Mission in Salt Lake City. An idea was born that supports our efforts at Glory to God to continue to merge our Catholic identity, message and mission with our “DNA.” Father Sava has started small

purchases of “Penny Bibles” and they will begin appearing in the pew racks over the summer.

We have such an amazing history as missionaries to the marginalized. We rejoice in the way God is expanding our outreach and

mission. And we will probably always “perpetually endeavor to be ourselves.” But that is what God calls all of us to do. It’s like it’s Pentecost every day.

My Journey Continues—Deacon Darren Hayes



When I first came to Glory to God, I was a non-believer. I hid the things that happened to me in my past and kept it bottled up inside. I didn’t want to be there. Then the realization of my past, what I believed when I was young, the things that happened to me as a child--all began to make sense to me all over again.

The beliefs I had as a young child, of there being a trinity, was not something that I had been taught. It was just something that I knew. I had a strong belief in the trinity and that Jesus the Christ, the Father, and the Holy Ghost were three entities that made up one, God.

I had an idea of what a Deacon was and an idea of the things

that needed to be done at the church. I knew that I was called to serve others and to bring God’s Word to others. I didn’t at the time of being ordained know if I would go any further than that or if I could really make it as a Deacon. I felt completely unworthy right before ordination. I had things going on in my personal life that almost kept me from continuing. However, I kept at it. I kept doing what I knew God had called me to do, and that is when I knew that there was much more to all of this and that I was called to go even further and I am still working on that.

Feeling unworthy is something that we all feel, but it is something that we all have experienced. Through choosing the Lord into our lives and accepting him as our savior. We may look at ourselves in a different light but still we are only worthy through Christ and only righteous through him.

Forgive me if I go off in different directions there is just so much that I am thankful for experiencing. I am not even sure if I can fit it all here. In fact I know I won’t

be able to. Let me share some of the things I have experienced and things that I have come to love as a Deacon.

First let me explain something that I have always felt honored to be doing. It is an amazing and beautiful thing to be able to set up for the altar, to make sure that everything is taken care of with the help of others or on my own, either way it brings shivers and positivity through me. To be able to serve on the altar and to be in the presence of Jesus the Christ and to be able to bring that to others in a more intimate way through Christ’s blood and flesh. Which to me is not a symbol it is literally the blood and body and to be able to serve others and watch them partake in that is wonderful thing. To know that we are all there to worship and to become closer to God. This is always something that I have found extremely important.

God gave me the ability to sing no matter how much I want to keep denying it, because I have for years. “No, I can’t sing. I don’t know what you are talking about.” In reality I love this expe-

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My Journey Continues—Deacon Darren Hayes—Cont'd

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I enjoy listening and talking with people, though most would say I am more of a listener. Sometimes all people need to do is talk and have someone to just listen to their words. To actually just take the time to sit, listen and not give back through what you believe is correct, they just need someone to hear. I am always happy to do this, because I personally occasionally go to others just for them to listen to something I have on my chest.

Breakfasts and Pot Lucks, It is great to be able to bring people together and see them interact with each other. It is a nice thing to be able to come together with others and enjoy one another through our company with each other and be able to share our faith and be able to talk to one another about our lives and grow in relationship with one another.

So this is just starting to sound like a list of things I enjoy or have been through while I have been here at Glory to God. Well it is the thing is I enjoy being a deacon. I enjoy being a part of this community and hearing about the other churches in the denomination. Though I need to do that a little bit more. It is a wonderful thing to see that you have been an instrument of God's to love and serve others and to love and serve Christ.

I have been at the side of others through tough times, I have been able to witness and perform weddings for individuals who want to express their love and commitment to each other. Some of those were fast and others were slower paced. It didn't change their importance to me and to them. To be able to see the smiles and the emotions in their

eyes. I have been able to experience going to people's homes and bringing them communion and reading them the readings that had taken place at mass and talking with them about it and learning with one another.

There is another thing. As a Deacon you are there to help people grow and learn about Christ, about the Catholic faith, about God, and sometimes about themselves. Here is another great thing though you also learn from them as well. here is so much we can learn from each other all we have to do is start.

I have experienced both the negative and the positive that comes from being a person of faith. Serving God is not as easy as some people think, however choosing to have Christ in your life is such an easy thing that we seem to make it seem harder than it really is. Yes when you choose a life of faith you will be a target the evil one however the good triumph over evil because Christ has already won and defeated Satan.

Never be afraid to come deeper into serving Christ and serving others. This includes everyone. We are all God's children and we all have done things that only He can forgive. We need to be willing to accept everyone no matter what they have done in their lives we are all capable of walking away from God, He will never walk away from us. We are called to lead others to Him and to teach them and share Gods Word with them. Everyone, no one is excluded. This also means that no one is excluded from serving him as well. Only God can qualify the called. At the same time we need to make sure that the beliefs we share are the ones that we be-

lieve in as a congregation especially when we come to serve in the clergy.

One of the things I have always loved serving is the diversity of people that we reach out to and that is a wonderful and beautiful thing. To know that we are doing what God has called us to do and serving all people. I have come to learn sentences in different languages from others just from listening to them talk or them trying to get me to know something.

So I feel that this needs to come to an end soon, not being a Deacon or continuing my path to becoming a Priest. This article. I could keep going on but either you're going to get bored, distracted, or become absorbed in what I would have to say and there is too much. So I will talk about two more things. Studying and Loyalty.

I am not of Catholic background; I was raised as a Latter Day Saint or as most of the world seems to call them, a Mormon. This is why I was given a hard time about believing in the Trinity, because they do not. Though there are a few Mormons that I know do which I find fascinating. I came to this church knowing nothing. I came to this church with no knowledge of what happens in a Catholic church. The Mass was foreign to me. I knew nothing about saints. I had no clue what the Eucharist is. However, two visits in my view on their being no God changed and I wanted to know as much as I could. It can be overwhelming and there is so much to learn. Luckily we have our whole lives to learn and grow and that is something I have grown to love.

Then there is the fact that I came to become a deacon that I invest-

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My Journey Continues—Deacon Darren Hayes—Cont'd

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ed my time and my life to become this wonderful servant of the congregation and of Bishop James Morgan, and to help serve alongside Father Sava and Father Robb and the other Deacons. I will always be a part of this congregation. I will always be a part of Glory to God Old Catholic Church. God called me here, God showed me love here that I had never known before. He lifted a veil that had been placed over my eyes and made me see the truth in myself and the truth in others. I am grateful for all I have learned and experienced here, and I will continue to be grateful as I continue my journey here. Through this journey I will stay out of the loyalty that I have always given. I will always attempt to make this and every place around me a safe place. I will also continue to serve because of the fact that I love

Christ, I love Bishop James Morgan and I love this congregation and denomination. With that said I will end this in a prayer:

As with all things we begin in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Father, Abba, I pray along with any of the others who have made it through this article that they got something out of the words and experiences that I have shared with them. That for those that are to come to serve you as clergy that have not stepped forward begin to step into the water and that you guide them into your love, mercy and grace. That they begin to realize how much love that you have for them and that they are each and every one of them are a beautiful and wonderful mas-

terpiece that you created. Abba, we ask that you watch over us all, that you guide us to what you have planned for our lives, that you help us through the rough times, and help us realize that sometimes change is something that we need to have in our lives to continue serving you on that path and to serving others. We pray that everyone begins to understand in their heart and mind and soul that all people can be called to serve you. That all people can be forgiven for their sins and that those sins are forgotten by you once they have truly went to you for forgiveness. We ask this in the name of your son Jesus the Christ, Amen.

Now Then, This is the Love of God—Mother Rachael Christian, OSB



Day after day, we rise. Night after night, we sleep. Moments come and go before us and for the vast majority of them all, we

really don't glimpse them. We walk through them, around them, or we run from them, but rarely, rarely do we ever take time to consider them.

Take for instance, the wind. Jesus said, "You know not where the wind comes from or where it

goes." And that is so true. But each time we see the ripple of leaves in the trees, or the grasses begin to bend, we think, "oh how nice, a cool trend is coming." But what about the cause of that wind, where DOES it come from and where does it GO back to? When I see the trees bowing and the flowers waving, I like to think they are reaching into depths of life, we, or I rather, have not entertained in so great awhile. They are before the Throne of God, running swiftly to His Feet, and perfuming them with praises and songs, only creation itself can hear. This in itself is amazing to me.

And what of the sound of the

wind; it rushes to and fro over the land and through valleys, across rivers and streams and lakes, and the chord it strikes in my soul, is that of the ocean. I imagine that the world itself is covered in so much water, as it was in the time of Noah, that the land took on the heartbeat of the ocean waves and constantly calls back to God through its song in the wind.

Now to me, this is love. Not that I deserve to know what love is, or could be or even remotely sounds like, but God does not leave us to wonder the great deep things, He gives us small pieces of the greater to taste and see His goodness all around us,

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Now Then, This is The Love of God—Mother Rachael Christian, OSB— Cont'd

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if we, or I should say again, have the eyes to see and the ears to hear. It is not always about people. Though they are and I am, one of His finest creations, so He says. I may not always agree with His thought on that when I creak and groan like an old board about to bend and break in the early dawn after a long night sleep or even a restless one at that. But God is God and His Thoughts are much Greater than my own.

Love. What is it really? I don't profess to know completely. But when I look at the stars and the heavens, when I see my hands and my eyes, and the very color of my eyes, and I think, God says I am made in His image and likeness, could it be that THIS is love? What of all the times I fall, fail to understand, rage against my faults and those of others? And yet, He forgives me. That I almost can convince myself is Love.

Then one day, I happened to look at the Cross. Jesus was torn and bleeding. His chest appeared to open before my very eyes. And His Heart came out and pumped scarlet red blood and His Face, torn and tattered, His eyes shattered from pain and rejection turned softly to me and I heard Him say, I love you. I would do this if only for you. And then I knew that love, is not

about gain, but is about loss. Loss that separates the sin from the soul and unites the heart with the Maker who heals without a word, a sound, a whisper like a sound of wind rushing through me, filled me and I wept. Not tears that anyone could see, but tears that covered my heart and calmed my soul.

So what is Love? God is love. Not the ordinary kind of love we, or rather, I understand love to be. Because my idea of love is limited to touch, taste, smell, hear, see. God on the other hand, is eternal. His love is shown through the very creation I cannot often describe adequately. The ocean, the trees, the wind, flowers, birds, animals of every sort and size, and even reptiles; His love is unlimited. Endless; abounding in every good and perfect thing; And mine is circumstantial. I like to think it's freely given and received. But if I am honest with myself, I know it's not. I want to, even yearn with all I am, to be worthy of the love I was shown that day, that bleeding loving heart reaching out to me, and I shudder to think how quickly I run from such an embrace. Yet when a child needs me I am there. When a lonely soul weeps I am ready with a tissue. When an animal is hungry I will feed it. When I am angry I will rage like the roaring old lion and lay down and wait for rest. But when love, freely

offered by the Hand of God through His Son is given to me, I close my eyes because I am afraid that I am not what He sees.

Then a star falls, a rainbow arcs the cloudy skies and a sunbeam softens a petal with a dew of rain still on it and I am reminded that in the small and in the larger things around me, God always is. And that means, His Love is always near too. I just need to be like the wind in the trees, the rushing of the river to the shore, the bend of a flower and the silence of the dawn, and wait. For when it comes, it is full, brilliant, powerful and stimulating my soul to sing, praises to God above all things.

Words fail. Thoughts grow weak. But when I see the world around me, I know God is Alive and His Son is holding out His Great Work for me to appreciate and love. And I do. I just hope I do it well enough.

This then is the Love of God. You and me, working together to bring unity and faith and hope alive in a world dying to know Love as it is, in Jesus Christ, through us. In the world as it is created for us to use, not abuse. To love with all our hearts minds souls and strengths, the Creator who created all things for us, because God is Love.

*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. Please submit articles no later than the 15th of the month.*

So, You Think You Know What God Is Doing Bishop Jim Morgan, OSB



On April 23, 2015 airplanes from Florida and Utah took off headed for the same destination. Unbeknownst to any of us, It was all part of a "God Scheme"

(Scheme: 1. large-scale systematic plan or arrangement for attaining some particular object or putting a particular idea into effect.)

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

As the aircraft winged their way to a common destination the visions, hopes and desires of the conferees

(Conferees: 1. persons who attend a conference.)

Were about to take on a new direction. A God direction, if you will. Each of us thought we knew the purpose of the gathering but all would be surprised as the true purpose, the 'God purpose' emerged from our collective musings.

Touch down for myself was at 12:10 AM. I had flown Delta and Salt Lake City was one of Delta's hubs yet there was but one flight from SLC a day and that arrived in New Orleans at that very early

hour. Bishop Bernard and Deacon Frank were very gracious in collecting me at the airport and so ended or, depending on your perspective, began the day.

Later that morning, scrubbed and armed with unusual doses of caffeine, the sights and sounds of this famous/infamous city began to present themselves to my somewhat bleary eyes. We gathered at Café Du Monde for one of this city's claim to fame, the 'Beignet' and more coffee. A Beignet is a piece of deep fried bread with a very large amount of powdered sugar applied to it. That most of us were dressed in clerical black was no detriment to attacking this first, of many offerings, that this city has to offer of its culinary delights.

And so began Friday, April 24, 2015, the first day of what would turn out to be a great gift from a loving God.



After journeying through New Orleans we regrouped at St. George's Episcopal Church for a liturgy to begin our time together. As a side note; I have no idea how our Episcopal brothers and sisters do it. During the Mass, Father Richard Easterling was seamless as he navigated three different prayer books and a hymnal in this celebration of their liturgy. Father Richard was a very gracious host and his church is very beautiful and my



thanks go out to him and his congregation.

After the Mass the stated purpose for our gathering began.

Bishop John Rubar, the Presiding Bishop and Diocesan Bishop of the Holy Catholic Church, began our meeting. Bishop John vision was to introduce us to his denominations' polity in an effort for us to become better acquainted and perhaps find a way to be mutually encouraging to each other.

As the minutes ticked by and we entered into discussion with Bishop John it soon became apparent that those of us, not part of Bishop Johns' jurisdiction, had without much forethought, brought our own agendas and items for discussion. God had orchestrated this gathering and His will was not to be thwarted by why we thought we were there. Many bridges were created, new friendships forged, points of clarification that brought greater understanding and an unexpected sense of renewal pervaded our time together. I was allowed to accompany Bishop Rubar in his visitations of a shut-in in his parish and so many beautiful souls at a Senior Care Facility. It was a most profound day for me. Thank you Bishop John.

During our time together others were added to our number. The conferees were: Bishop John Rubar, Bishop Bernard Sheffield,

So, You Think You Know What God Is Doing Bishop Jim Morgan, OSB Cont'd

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Deacon Frank Williams, Father Harvey Montijo and his beautiful wife Zulma (Zulma was spared, by our gracious God, the tedious necessities of our clerical forum), and Monsignor Tom Gallub. Those that joined us later were Father Theodore Fieldman, Most Rev. Jaron L. Barnes and Deacon Rory Rafferty.



What I took away from this gathering is a grati-

tude to God for the care and concern exhibited by my brothers and sister of myself and that of the parish I serve. A new appreciation of the denomination I am a part of and real hope for



its future. The graciousness and hospitality, which our traditions lead us to expect, from all things and persons of the southern persuasion. And, that God has allowed new things and people into my life, that collec-



tively we may praise His name and bring the "Good News" to more and more people. Thank you Father Harvey for your vision, heart and for listening to the Holy Spirit and then translating his voice into positive action and leading by example.



Glory to God Hosts Seminar



Seminar Name:
D.I.S.C. People

Few of us like friction in our ministries. So why is it so pervasive, so

enduring and so difficult to resolve? One of the primary reasons is that we assume that our teammates want what we want, like what we like and therefore act the way we would act. When our teammates act completely different from us, friction ensues. Can this tendency be reshaped? This seminar is designed to help you understand your own behavioral tendencies and then that of others so that you can successfully work alongside those who think and act differently from yourself. This course is designed to spark a lasting change in the way we interact with those around us.

Instructor: Janet Robertson

Janet Robertson is a native of Glasgow, Scotland and has been a seminar

speaker for over 10 years. Her speaking engagements have taken her to many different countries where she has been privileged to speak for various diverse companies and community organizations such as The Southern California Gas Co and the Beijing based Ivy Bridge Group. Janet has a B.S. in International Business from the California State University of Long Beach and a Master's of Theology from the Glasgow International Bible School. She is presently the Executive Director of Encounter Missions International an NGO, which trains, sends and supports volunteers for overseas charitable work.

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