

# Glad Tidings

Lent/Easter

April 2007

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Before I go on to talk about Easter, let me remind each of you that in order to experience Easter you must first go through Good Friday. In order to really know the joy of Easter we must travel with Jesus through Holy Week. This year we will have a service of Holy Eucharist with foot washing at 7:00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday evening. Following that service, there will be the annual Prayer Vigil where we will pray thought the night with Jesus. There are still times available, and I encourage each of you to try spending an hour in prayer as we transition from Maundy Thursday into Good Friday. Then at 7:00 p.m. on Friday night we will have the Good Friday Liturgy with communion from the reserved sacrament. Please consider participating in all of our offerings for Holy Week. You will find that Easter will be much more meaningful if you do. It is very much like childbirth. You can't experience the joy of new life unless you go through the pain that precedes it. However, after you have experienced the pain, the result is well worth everything that you have endured in order to get there.

This Easter I am very much aware of new life abounding. Everywhere I look things are turning green. Flowers are beginning to burst from their buds. When I look around the Nativity campus, I see our construction project getting nearer and nearer to completion. And on a personal note, the Carter family and the Smith family celebrate new life with the birth of our grandson, Kealy Evan Carter. We have seen the miracle of new life unfold for us in miraculous fashion.

Easter is a time of great joy for all of us. The tomb is empty! Jesus is risen! Each of us experiences Easter differently. How do you experience new life this Easter season? How is the risen Christ manifest in you life? For members of the Church of the Nativity there is the continuing excitement of the realization of the dream of finally making our facilities truly accessible to everyone. We also feel the presence of the risen Christ in our midst as we look around us at those who are taking on new ministries and offering their gifts in new and different ways.

Speaking of new ministries. I would like to thank each of you for the wonderful outpouring of support for Jessica Knowles as she prepares to enter seminary in the fall. When I asked for support to be matched by a grant from the Fund for Theological Education, you responded immediately and generously. Through your generosity, we received over \$5,000 that will be matched by the Fund.

We often come to know and feel the presence of the risen Lord through those around us. I am certain that Jessica has felt the love of Christ through each of you in the past several weeks. I know I have.

May you find new joy this Eastertide. Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed!

*Tom+*

## Wisdom Distilled from the Daily

**F**riends, I crave your indulgence: I have been re-reading the book with the above title, written by Joan Chittister, OSB. The book has the subtitle, *Living the Rule of St. Benedict Today*. Our 2002 Lenten Study Group used this book as our study guide.

Back then, although I found the book to be very instructive, I equally found it difficult to comprehend in many areas. While our discussions helped some, perhaps because it was the first reading on a subject matter that was in some ways foreign to me (living the monastic life), I felt then, yet only four years later have decided to follow up, that the book deserved a second and more readings for my full digestion of the message. Having proceeded through several chapters, randomly, and marked and re-marked the text again, I can say without reservation that I highly recommend this book to you for your first, second, third, or more helpings!

Although this is by no means a critical review, I am hopeful that the author and the publisher would not mind my use of the following few quotes from the book, which I consider profound, and I feel compelled to draw them to our attention again. If in so doing, you might be led to reading this book again and to better digest and articulate some of its teachings, then the inspiration that I received to quickly write this brief article would have been rewarded.

One of the truths that Chittister cites about the Rule (of St. Benedict) is that it is **"a set of values that transcend time but have special meaning for my own days."** The Rule is about **"bringing wisdom, not recipes"** into our responses to today's life issues and problems, including the Church's.

I was struck by Sister Joan's statement that **"Benedictine spirituality is about listening to four realities: the Gospels, the Rule, one another, and the world around us."** **"The spiritual life is achieved only by listening to all of life ..."** (my emphasis), not by **"denying one part of life for the sake of another."** What is the role of prayer in spirituality? Do we oftentimes mistake and substitute prayer for spirituality? If prayer does not transform our lives; if we pray ardently, yet do not modify our behaviors to our fellow man, to the plight of the poor, the unwashed and unloved, to the sufferings of peoples of other nations, for instance, then what good is prayer? God has always made covenants with His people, that is, He contracts with us: we must do our part, and He will do His. Is prayer alone sufficient on our part, or must we now ACT what we pray and ask of God? According to Sister Joan, **"Unless we can hear the needs of the other as well as the words of our favorite prayers, the prayer itself may be worth nothing more than hypnotic hollowness."**

I urge all of us to heed the message implicit in the Rule of St. Benedict: **Live the life you profess**. Let Benedictine spirituality convert you through **listening** to and **living** the four realities. AMEN.

Sam Dowding

## The Good Friday Offering

By Brother James Teets

**T**he Good Friday Offering is an opportunity more than anything else; it's an opportunity for Episcopalians in the church here in the United States and in the overseas dioceses to participate in the life of the church in the Middle East. The Good Friday Offering goes back to 1922 and is one of the most venerable campaigns I think the Episcopal Church has on an ongoing basis. We've been doing it every year since then; this would be the 85th year in 2007.

The funds are gathered from all the parishes, congregations, cathedrals, missions, all across the Episcopal Church and are dispersed to the dioceses and province itself [in the Middle East] as a gift of the members of the Episcopal Church. The use of the funds is as varied and as widespread as the needs. The funds are governed by the bishops and the provincial office in the Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East and the bishops decide what is the most important need or needs on their daily plate. It could be theological education, it could be putting a roof on a church building, it could be starting a new church, it could be salaries for a hospital or for a school, or any other kinds of needs.

Brother James Teets is manager of partnership services in the Episcopal Church's Office of Anglican and Global Relations. Video stream is available at [www.episcopalchurch.org/81231\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/81231_ENG_HTM.htm).

*Please pray for the Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East.*

## Easter Reflections

"The caterpillar calls it the end of the world; God calls it a butterfly."

—via Lois H. Ward  
Longmont, CO

"In the cross is salvation, in the cross is life, in the cross is joy of the spirit.

—Thomas á Kempis

"I rebel against death, yet I know that it is how I respond to death's inevitability that is going to make me less or more fully alive."

—Madeline L'Engle

"Easter is the celebration of Jesus. If Jesus truly lives inside of us, then we need to be celebrating every day. We need to let the joy of Jesus and the compassion of Jesus shine through us every day of the year."

—Joanne Lowe

## Mosaics Tell the Story of the Risen Christ Chapel of the Resurrection, Washington National Cathedral



*In this scene, Christ appears in the midst of disciples on the road to Emmaus.*

## New Life out of Death: A Message for Easter

By Katharine Jefferts Schori

I write at the close of our recent House of Bishops meeting. On the way from the airport to the meeting, we saw a few wildflowers, of one or two varieties. They stood out from the grass, just beginning to turn to the green lushness of spring. During the week we met in Texas, the trees went from mere hints of green in the topmost branches to having leaves unfolding on all their branches. And on the way back to the airport a week later, the riot of wildflowers was astounding. The new life of resurrection can be just as surreptitious—we look and things seem quite dead, we look away, and when our focus returns, we discover that God has been at work making all things new. Anyone who has grieved the death of a loved one will recognize the pattern. Those who experience the loss involved in moving away from a beloved community will know it as well. As this Lent draws to a close, take a careful look at your life. Where has God been at work during this fast? What new life can you discern?

For my own part, I will celebrate the new life that has been growing hidden in the lives of leaders in this church. We are blessed with leaders, lay and ordained, who are increasingly aware of their God-given ministries to lead this people into fuller participation in God's mission of healing the world. I celebrate the work of God expressed in the gathering of Anglican women at the United Nations in late February and early March, who were able to say to the world that attention to mission is what unites us as a Com-

munion. I celebrate the gathering of people from all across the world in South Africa, at the TEAM (Towards Effective Anglican Mission) conference, to build stronger partnerships for doing that healing work, especially around AIDS and HIV. I celebrate the gracious way in which the bishops of this Church engaged each other in discussing challenging and difficult matters in the meeting just past, and affirmed the focus of this Church on mission. I celebrate the many, many healthy and vital congregations of this Church, engaged in God's mission of healing the world. The Executive Council joined in worship at one, St. Michael and All Angels, in Portland, Oregon, recently, and saw passionate engagement in children's ministry, the work of Episcopal Relief and Development, abundant outreach in the community, and a lively life of worship.

Among my mail when I returned to the office was a generous check from a congregation in North Carolina. Members there had read about a fire in the Bronx that had killed several members of an immigrant family from Mali, and left others injured and homeless. Somehow the news of their suffering had reached across the mountains and plains to touch the hearts of people of St. James in Wilmington, and they responded. A new heart of flesh is growing in countless places across this Church.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

## Reminder for the Annual Fair

Please remember the Church Fair in your Spring Cleaning Efforts. As our renovations continue and the basement is in use with the setting up of the electrical fittings for our new lift, please do not let this deter you from bringing in your donations. Doug Knowles has kindly volunteered to have an area set aside just for your donations in the basement.

Suggestions: All household items are welcome (except plastic fast food cups), small working appliances, linens (if these items include drapes, please list the width and length and number of pieces), craft items, sewing supplies, needlework kits and supplies, china, glass, decorative items, Christmas items, toys, books (lots of books), and magazines.

Items of clothing will not be accepted, but gloves, handbags, scarves, etc., will be.

Please remember that large furniture will not be accepted, as we will not have the adequate muscle power to lift heavy items, but end or side tables and lamps are welcome.

Support your Fair by becoming a “**Fair Patron.**” Envelopes have been included in your monthly April Package. If you do not receive a monthly envelope, Pat Kimmel has kindly volunteered to collect your donations beginning on the first Sunday in May. Family and Single donations are still \$5 and \$3, respectively, but if it is your desire to give a bit more, we will be most grateful.

If anyone has a great prize to raffle off—time-share, new tools, vacation trip, gift certificate, etc.—please give me a call.

One of the past hits of the fair was the lemon candy booth. If anyone knows where we can get the plate and other items to resuscitate that booth, please give me a call or see me in church.

**If you have any questions, concerns, or tips to ensure that our Annual Fair is the success that we would all want it to be, please call me at 410-296-4577.**

**Look in next month’s *Glad Tidings* for more on our upcoming fair to be held on June 2.**

Thanking you in advance for the success of our Annual June Fair.

Margaret Dowding

## The Dressing on Our Spiritual Food: Part 10

Throughout history, there have been many instances where our precious Lord has played a critical role at directing the talents of his creation to pen indelible praise to the Creator. Such was the case of Ms. Sarah Flower Adams, who was born in Cambridge (some say Essex), England, in February of 1805. She was the second daughter of Benjamin and Eliza Flowers and grew up in a house of literary and scholarly individuals where controversy was served up daily from morning to dusk. As a young man, her father earned the title of radical editor of two Cambridge papers and, by way of his acid pen and penetrating type, even served time in prison for once criticizing the politics of the Bishop of Liandaff. His deeds were considered radical for the times but earned him the admiration of many intellectuals.

Sarah Flower, early in life, gave signs of a brilliant career as an actress for in her heart she believed that through the medium of drama, as well as from the pulpit, she could teach religious truths. This was somewhat a paradox because Sarah Flower, with her husband, belonged to a Church that denied the full divinity of Christ.

Her stage career was short lived when the early signs of tuberculosis forced her to turn her talents to writing, without the slightest knowledge that, with God’s help, she would reach her career zenith. While attending the independent church (Unitarian) of William Johnson Fox, she penned 13 hymns. One of them was “**Nearer My God to Thee,**” which was based on the story of Jacob, as recorded in Genesis 28:11–17. Immediately, this hymn resonated around the globe, and many people considered the hymn so full of trust and purpose as to be the greatest hymn ever written by a woman.

Ironically, the hymn also became a favorite at nineteenth century funerals, first in memory of President McKinley in the United States and also in England, by order of the King, as a tribute to the fallen President. It was also played as the body of assassinated President James Garfield was interred. The list of events where the hymn has been played is endless due to the preeminent message that even in times of darkness, if we believe; we can be lifted nearer to God.

Louis W. Willett

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**SMILE:** After the church service, a woman complained to the pastor: “I can’t believe this church knows only one song. Every time I come here, the only song they sing is ‘Christ the Lord Is Risen Today.’ ”

—via Lowell B. Yoder  
Holland, OH

## In Memoriam



February 14, 1926–March 12, 2007

### Poem Written and Recited in Tribute to Dr. Fred Ladd

By the moon of  
the New Year  
He studied the ruins of Rome.

Now late spring  
hangs on  
in the smell of lilacs.

In his garden  
he collected  
unusual flowers.

In summer rain  
the cosmos bloom—  
small birds dart in and out.

September moon,  
stopped by his house  
he was planting iris.

Winter evening—  
He wrote his notes  
on architecture.

In his teaching  
he kindled  
ardent students.

We all loved him.

By Dr. Eric Meyrick Miller,  
2007

## Congregation Celebration

The Young Adults Group thought it would be fun to get everyone together and just celebrate being a part of our wonderful church, Nativity. We have decided to sponsor a Congregation Celebration party. This will be a great way for us to come together as a congregation and have fun.

**Saturday, April 28th, 7–10 p.m.**

**Tickets: \$5 per person,  
\$8 per couple, and  
\$12 per family**

**To purchase tickets, see any YAC  
member or reserve ticket at  
[yacnativity@gmail.com](mailto:yacnativity@gmail.com)**

Thanks to the Baroody family, we will have a karaoke machine and great music. The YACs will provide food and beverages. Fr. Carter has agreed to provide at least one song, while our priest associate prepares to rap! Come and enjoy good fellowship, food, beverages, and more!

By Justin Dowding & Jess Knowles

## Christian Formation

The Christian Formation Council of the Diocese of Maryland is sponsoring a workshop for everyone who serves in faith education for children, youth, or adults on Saturday, **April 21, 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**, at St. James', Monkton. Cost is \$15.00 per person, with lunch.

## Baltimore Interfaith Hospitality Network Week a Success!

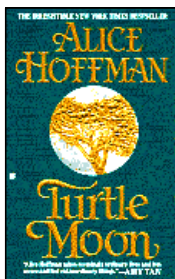
The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone from Nativity and St. Pius who provided hospitality to our BIHN guests in March. **Thanks to Nativity members:** Catherine Bishop, Pat Brain, Joan Browne, Pati & Tom Carter, Melvina Coleman, Amanda Cunningham, Margaret Dowding, Justin Dowding, Meg Elseroad, Harold & Maria Hardinger, Ted Hendricks, Linda & Tony Hollis, Jessica Knowles, Doug Knowles, Sergio Lattanzi, Roseda Marshall-Ochillo, Nancy Monti, Betsy & Lee Smith, Debby & Larry Tupper, Julia Van De Wille, Doris & Jack Webb, and Mary Beth Willett.

**Allie Pearlman's tenure as the Executive Director of BIHN** was celebrated on Saturday, March 31st, at All Saints Lutheran Church. BIHN volunteers, guests, and former guests shared their thanks to Allie for her hard work, dedication and professionalism, and most importantly her compassion and love for all. **Christine Tennies** has been hired as the **Interim Executive Director of BIHN**.

**Our next host week:  
June 10th–17th, 2007.**

By Debby Tupper

## Nativity Book Club



**Turtle Moon**  
By  
**Alice Hoffman**

**April 29, 2007**  
2:30 p.m.

New members  
welcome.

## Congratulations to the Carter Family

Patrick & Sally Carter  
are the proud parents of

**Kealy Evan Carter.**

Born on March 28, 2007, Kealy weighed 9 lb, 12 oz.

## Church Club

Speaker: "Best Kept Secret in the Episcopal Church"—Sister Catherine Grace, All Saints' Convent. **April 25, 2007, 6:30 p.m., Trinity Towson.** Contact Louise Carlson.



## THE BISHOPS' ANNUAL APPEAL



The mission of the Bishops' Annual Appeal is simple: to share the gifts with which God has blessed us in order to strengthen both our neighborhoods and our faith communities. Many parish-based programs, with the Bishops' Appeal's support, have begun to effect changes within their immediate neighborhoods and beyond. We invite you to join the community of supporters who make these programs and ministries possible.

[Grants for parish-based ministry.](#) The Bishops' Annual Appeal provides additional resources for parish-based programs that serve our entire community. They are distributed through the diocesan grant process.

[The Bishop Claggett Center.](#) Imagine a place apart where children and adults are able to be renewed in body, mind, and spirit. Since its opening in 1952, over 50,000 youth and counselors have participated in Claggett Summer Youth Programs. Your gift to the Bishops' Annual Appeal provides the resources to support this sacred place of renewal, refreshment, and peace.

[Urban Ministry.](#) Many urban Episcopal parishes work to meet the needs of their community every day. Parishioners volunteer for programs that address the social, educational, and cultural needs of children and adults. Many of the needs of our urban areas would go unmet without the support of the Bishops' Annual Appeal. Your gift goes directly to the programs our urban parishes and community partners create and maintain.

[Prison Ministry.](#) There are more than 2 million men and women in federal, state, and local prisons and jails. Your gift supports ministries inside and outside the prison walls, bringing love and hope to those who are imprisoned and their families.

[Youth Missions.](#) Your gift enables us to send our youth on domestic and international missions to grow as Christians and aid those in need.

[Ministry at Johns Hopkins Hospital.](#) The Ministry at Johns Hopkins Hospital offers spiritual support to patients, families, and members of the Johns Hopkins Hospital community. Your gift to the multid denominational chaplaincy program brings clergy and lay ministers together to offer comfort and counsel during difficult and stressful times.

Yes! I want to help the Bishops' Appeal fund ministry and mission.

- Grants for parish-based ministry
- The Bishop Claggett Center
- Urban Ministry
- Prison Ministry
- Youth Missions
- Ministry at Johns Hopkins Hospital

- Please bill my credit card
- Visa       MasterCard

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Car	Expiration Date
_____	_____
Signature	Date

*All gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*

Please make checks payable to  
"The Bishops' Appeal," 4 East University Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21218-2437.

For more information, contact the Development Office at 410-467-1399.

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$50     \$150     \$500
- \$1000     \$2500     Other

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Balance \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To be given:     monthly       quarterly

Please have someone contact me about  
planned giving opportunities.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

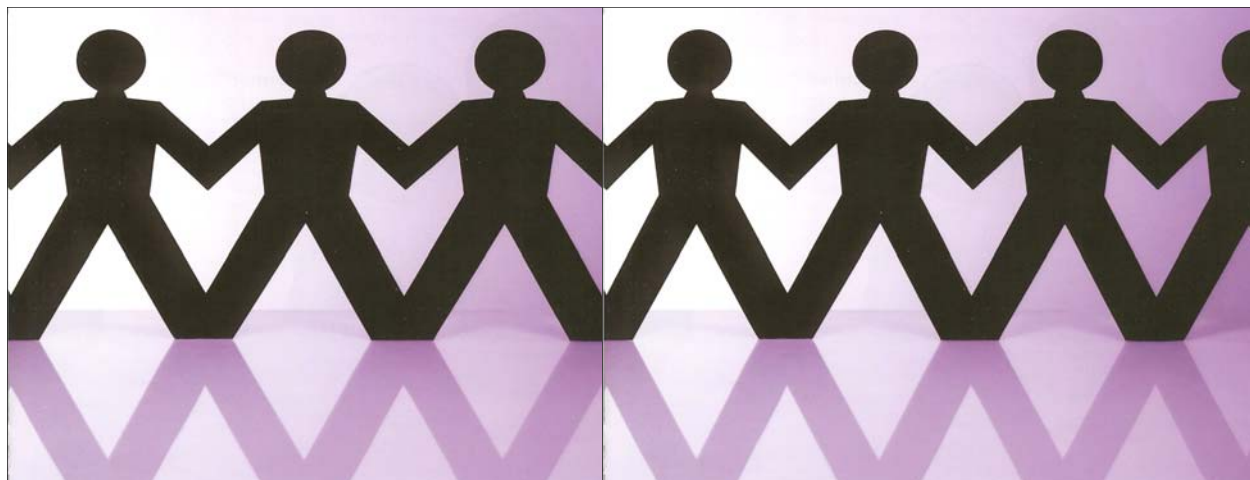
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your parish \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



### The Bishops' Annual Appeal

*The Diocese of Maryland*

4 East University Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21218-2437 • 410-467-1399 or 800-443-1399 • [www.ang-md.org](http://www.ang-md.org)

## Supplemental Questions for Voices in the Diocese of Maryland For the Search for the 14th Bishop of Maryland

*The Search Committee appreciates the responses you have provided on previous surveys. Now we are providing everyone with an additional opportunity to share your thoughts with us as we continue to collect information to assist in our process. Thank you!*

### *A Collect for the Search Committee*

*Almighty God, whose gentle hands shaped the shores of the Chesapeake and molded the hills of the Alleghanies: guide and direct your people as we seek a chief pastor for the Diocese of Maryland. Give us clear eyes and wise minds to see beyond our desires so that we might choose a bishop who loves and serves you. Support those who hear your call to discernment and surround their families with your care. Lead us by your grace to a greater understanding of your mission and ministry so that together we might grow more and more into Christ-likeness; through Him who died and rose for us and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.*

- 1. From your perspective, what are the strengths of mission and ministry in the Diocese of Maryland?**

- 2. From your perspective, what are the challenges facing the mission and ministry in the Diocese of Maryland?**

- 3. Guided by the Holy Spirit, what are your hopes for the future of the Diocese of Maryland?**

- 4. What else do you want to share with the Search Committee as we prepare to write the profile for the next Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland?**

Please help us know something about you.

City, Parish, or Region

Age

Sex

Race

Clergy

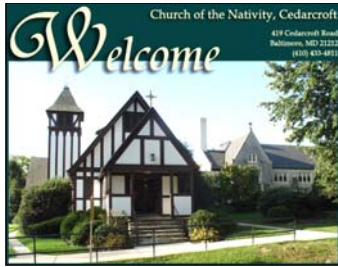
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**You may e-mail your responses to [bishopsearchmd@comcast.net](mailto:bishopsearchmd@comcast.net)**

**Or print and mail to Search Committee, 6800 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21045**

**Or go online to [http://www.ang-md.org/bishop\\_search/supplemental\\_questions\\_pub\\_0001.pdf](http://www.ang-md.org/bishop_search/supplemental_questions_pub_0001.pdf) where you may submit your responses electronically.**

**Deadline for submission is April 21, 2007**



**T**he mission of the Church of the Nativity is to faithfully love and serve Jesus Christ by embracing all people through worship, outreach, and fellowship in His name.

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### ***Forward in Faith***

*Gracious heavenly Father,*

*You welcome all who come to you, and you have called us to welcome all people of this community in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.*

*Guide us with your Holy Spirit in this campaign to renovate and expand our facilities so that all may have equal access, and that no one may feel outside the embrace of your love.*

*Grant us the joy of hearts that are ever generous and a spirit of love and self-sacrifice that reflects your love for us.*

*Instill in us the will and the courage to move Forward in Faith to your honor and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**Lent/Easter  
April 2007**

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