



# The Sheaf

A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota  
Resurrection [Easter Season] ~ 2023  
(April and May 2023)

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## Will You Be Strong and Stand With Jesus?

*An Easter Reflection*

*Submitted by: Bishop Thomas Ely*

Several years ago, Episcopal Priest, Danielle Elizabeth Tumminio, offered a reflection on the Broadway musical *Les Misérables* that caught my attention and spoke to me as an Easter story.<sup>1</sup> I have seen *Les Mis* in the theatre and on the screen, and I even auditioned once for the role of the bishop. Sadly, I did not get the part, even though I indicated that I had the costume already.

In her reflection, Danielle points to the question the cast of *Les Misérables* asks viewers at the end of the film as they stand along a barricade: *“Will you be strong and stand with me.”* It is also the question the bishop asks early in the movie. As she points out, that question has radical implications for all of us who want to see our world transformed by hope.



Here is the story line in case you are not familiar with it. The bishop meets the main character, Jean Valjean, after he’s released from serving nearly two decades in prison. With no job prospects and lifelong parole haunting his name, Valjean cannot find employment, a home, or financial stability. Then he stumbles upon the bishop, who invites him into his home, feeds him dinner, offers him a bed. That night, a desperate Valjean flouts the bishop’s kindness by stealing his silver, but the next morning, when he’s caught and returned to the bishop’s home for

condemnation, the bishop says something quite curious: *“But my friend, you left so early, surely something slipped your mind.”* He hands Valjean two silver candlesticks. *“You forgot I gave these also. Would you leave the best behind?”*

Danielle notes that the bishop’s act is a radical exercise of the Christian command to turn the other cheek, and it has a profound effect on Valjean. Stunned by the bishop’s forgiveness and the faith placed in him, Valjean sings, *“One word from him, and I’d be back beneath the lash, upon the rack. Instead, he offers me my freedom. I feel shame inside me like a knife. He told me that I have a soul. How does he know? What spirit came to move my life? Is there another way to go?”*

*Continued on page 2*

A few moments later, Valjean answers his own question: Yes, there is another way. He commits to a complete change in that moment: to change his name, his values, to become someone whose soul is God's. And he follows through in an epic way.

During the movie, Valjean adopts a dying woman's child, raises that child, and saves the life of the man she loves by putting his own at risk. As Danielle points out, "it would seem that the bishop had extraordinary wisdom (or at least extraordinary faith). Valjean was a man who would accept the offer of redemption. He just needed to be asked." His life is just not redeemed, it is resurrected, and a new life unfolds.

At the end of *Les Misérables*, members of the cast sing this line: "Take my love, for love is everlasting. And remember the truth that once was spoken: To love another person is to see the face of God." Danielle writes, "the bishop in *Les Mis* offered Valjean a set of candlesticks, and in so doing, he offered him a message that would change his life – I see God in your soul, and I claim that soul for God, for goodness, for love, for hope."

Danielle's reflection on *Les Mis* led me to appreciate that the Risen Christ offers this same gift to Mary Magdalene at the tomb that first Easter morning, as she becomes the first witness to the resurrection. The Risen Christ offers this same gift to the disciples hiding out in fear in that upper room and they are strengthened for a life as resurrection witnesses. The Risen Christ offers this same gift to the travelers on the Road to Emmaus and they return to Jerusalem with Good News. The Risen Christ offers this same gift to Peter in the post-resurrection encounter by the sea, focused on the question, "Do you love me," and he responds with amazing gratitude and witness. And on and on, in resurrection story after resurrection story, the gift of a new and profound orientation of love and hope is offered by the Risen Christ.

In Baptism, we have been offered this same gift and called to live the Easter life of love, hope, mercy, forgiveness, justice, and peace. Danielle ends her reflection by suggesting that we can live like the bishop in *Les Mis*. "We can be beacons – candlesticks, if you will – of hope. But this will only happen if we try. And so, I now ask you what the cast of *Les Misérables* asks viewers: Will you be that beacon? Will you be strong and stand with me?"

And I ask, will we be strong and stand with the Risen Christ in love this Easter and beyond?

In God's amazing Easter love,

+ Thomas

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<https://religion.blogs.cnn.com/2012/12/27/my-take-the-challenge-of-hope-in-les-miserables/>



# Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

*Submitted by: The Rev. Steve Godfrey, Diocesan Minister*

When the clergy of the Diocese of North Dakota gathered at the beginning of Lent, Bishop Ely invited us each to share one Lenten practice we intended to adopt this year. My special Lenten practice this year was a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with [Episcopal Relief & Development](#). It was a commitment that Dave and I made about a year ago, a major commitment of time and resources borne out of our longstanding appreciation for Episcopal Relief and Development and interest in deepening our connection to our faith through experiencing some of the places where Jesus and our ancestors in faith lived. I knew it would be a tremendous effort and was anxious about it. And, while it was exhausting and I am still recovering, especially after travel delays ensnared us briefly in civil unrest in Israel, it truly felt like a way to deepen my relationship with Christ and fellow children of God and experience a sense of resurrection hope.



The pilgrimage began in Jordan, with an exploration of the Nabatean city of Petra and tours of the ruins of the Greco-Roman Decapolis cities of Philadelphia (now Amman), Gerasa (Jerash), and Gadara (now Umm Qais), offering context for what ancient cities were like, which would be helpful later in Jerusalem, which has a much more Medieval look now due to constant settlement over the ages. The spiritual work of the pilgrimage really began at Mount Nebo, where God showed Moses the Promised Land, and Bethany Beyond the Jordan, where Jesus was baptized and we renewed our Baptismal vows.



From the point of Jesus's Baptism, the structure of the pilgrimage led us to Galilee, to remember Jesus's upbringing and ministry; to Bethlehem, to honor the story of his birth; and to Bethany, the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, and Jerusalem, to walk on the Temple Mount and the Way of the Cross, and to celebrate Resurrection.



In Galilee, we went to the Mount of the Beatitudes and the shores of the Sea of Galilee, to remember Jesus's ministry among fishermen, gathering them to be fishers of people, and sharing the Good News of God's abundance in proclaiming blessing and providing sustenance. We celebrated the Eucharist at the lakeshore near the Church of the Loaves and Fishes, went for a windy ride in a historic boat, and stood on the top of the mountain believed to be the site of the



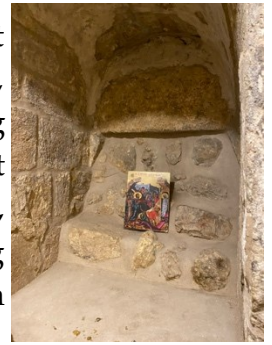
Transfiguration. We also visited Nazareth: the tiny village where Jesus grew up has become a vibrant Arab city of 100,00 people, most Muslims, and some Christians.

*Continued on page 4*





We had hoped to travel through the heart of the West Bank and stop at Jacob’s Well in what is now Nablus, but recent violent struggles there caused us a long detour, as ancient Jews used to do to avoid conflict with Samaritans. We headed straight for Bethlehem, a Palestinian city in the shadows of the towering security wall. We visited the site where tradition holds that Jesus was born, and the nearby town of Bethany, the home of Mary and Martha and their brother Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from death. We even went into his tomb. In that area we learned that many Palestinian Christians put an image of St. George over their doors.



Later we journeyed to Jericho, the oldest city in the world, and the Masada, Herod’s cliffside palace, before driving back up the steep canyon surrounded by towering, treeless desert hills, where the Good Samaritan showed mercy to a traveler in need. In our travels I was struck by the dramatic hills and valleys and considerable elevation changes, and reminded of Psalm 121: “I lift my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord.”



The pilgrimage culminated with several days in Jerusalem, beginning on the Mount of Olives, where Jesus viewed the city and mounted a donkey to enter the city humbly, while Pontius Pilate was entering triumphantly on a horse from the other direction. We stopped at the Garden of Gethsemane, near the small Kidron Valley separating the Mount of Olives from the old city and prayed and stayed for a while. We prayed at the site of the palace where Jesus was interrogated and imprisoned and walked through a room believed to be the site of the Last Supper.



We also prayed at the Western Wall of the Temple Mount with faithful Jews from all walks of life and then walked on that platform that once held the Temple and for many centuries now has had an important mosque and the stunning Dome of the Rock shrine, sites sacred to Muslims. That day, interestingly, was the first of Ramadan.



Visitors are now forbidden from praying publicly on the Mount, out of respect for the strongly held different views about that place. From there we went to the Via Dolorosa, the road of sorrow, and prayed the Stations of the Cross, ending at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, a towering structure sheltering the sites where Jesus is believed to have been crucified, buried, and resurrected. It is a cacophony of Christians from many denominations and languages!

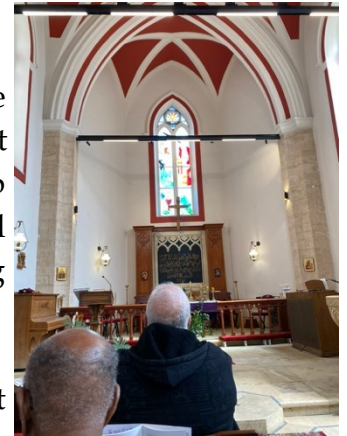
It is a cacophony of Christians from many denominations and languages!

While it was obviously powerful to visit the places where Jesus lived, prayed, ministered, preached, and died and rose, I felt a clearer sense of Resurrection hope in our encounters with faithful people gathering and doing the work of ministry and reconciliation today.



In Jordan we visited two sites of the [Holy Land Institute for the Deaf and Deafblind](#), an important ministry of the [Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem](#), and an Episcopal Relief & Development partner. The HLID works with deaf and deaf-blind children in Salt and Jofeh, Jordan, and in Syrian refugee camps. Seeing the loving care and nurturing of the devoted staff, many of them deaf themselves, and engaging with the hopeful children who are dealing courageously with significant challenges was truly inspiring.

In Nazareth we worshiped on the Fourth Sunday in Lent with the congregation of Christ Church, in a bilingual Arabic-English service. We met members of that church, learned about what it is like to be a Christian Arab citizen of Israel, and heard about familiar challenges of congregational decline, striving for greater accessibility in a historic building, and sustaining a faithful presence, including through the work of running a local school.



In Bethlehem we met with Rami Elhanan and Bassam Aramin, who are part of [The Parents Circle – Families Forum](#), a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization of people who have lost loved ones to violence; Rami and Bassam have become best friends and been featured in books, videos, and news articles about their healing work. It was an inspiring conversation of hope.



After praying our way from the Jordan River to Galilee, Bethlehem, Bethany, and Jerusalem, remembering Jesus's baptism, ministry, preaching, suffering and death, our pilgrimage concluded with a Resurrection celebration at St. George's Cathedral, followed by a visit with the Archbishop of Jerusalem, Hosam Naoum, when he shared with us about the joys and challenges of ministry with congregations, hospitals and schools throughout Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

We were led in prayer throughout the pilgrimage by Bishop Barry Beisner, who has just been elected Bishop Provisional for the Episcopal Church in Navajoland. He and I talked quite a bit about ministry support and development in Native American contexts and we look forward to working together. He also invited the deacon in our group, the Rev. Lillian Davis Wilson, of the Diocese of Western New York, to assist in the Eucharists, and he invited me to preside by the Sea of Galilee, which was a great honor.

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Lillian also shared with me her enthusiasm for the new partnership between the dioceses of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York, especially its facilitation of more effective racial reconciliation efforts in both dioceses. That partnership is one of the models our New Season of Ministry Task Force is considering for inspiration as they explore possibilities for the future of the Diocese of North Dakota.

Episcopal Relief and Development has a reputation for building connections and supporting people engaged in transformational and hopeful work in their contexts. Going as a pilgrim to the sites of our Lord's life and death and resurrection while experiencing the very real and present work of resurrection and hope happening in that part of the world was a powerful experience that will sustain my faith and hope for the rest of my life.

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## All Saints Episcopal Church: Vista, CA

*Submitted by: The Rev. Deacon Barb Olson*

While in California I attended my parents home church in Vista. I was told the Rector was taken ill Saturday but a Priest would be Officiating the service. As I entered the church, here stands Rev Mike Horn! He is residing in Oceanside, CA a few block from my Sister Judy and her husband Pastor Dave. Over fellowship time, we caught up on details since he left Bismarck. He sends greetings to all!



# Calendar

## Bishop Ely's Schedule

### April 2023

- 18th-25th: Bishop Ely in North Dakota
- 23rd: Bishop's Visitation at All Saint's in Minot

### May 2023

- 9th-16th: Bishop Ely in North Dakota
- 14th: Bishop's Visitation at Standing Rock

## Diocesan Events and Dates to Note

### April 2023

- 4th: Clergy/Congregation Leaders Meeting (Zoom); 6:30pm
- 4th: Province VI Small Church Gathering (Zoom); 7:30pm
- 6th: Lectio Divina (Zoom); 7:00pm
- 6th: dMST & Finance Check-In (Zoom); 8:30am
- 9th: Easter Sunday!
- 10th: Diocesan Office Closed—Easter Monday
- 11th: School for Ministry, Ministry track (Zoom); 7:00pm
- 14th-15th: Reconciliation Committee Retreat; Bismarck
- 20th: dMST & Finance Check-In (Zoom); 8:30am
- 20th: School for Ministry, Scripture track (Zoom); 7:00pm
- 21st: dMST Meeting (Minot); 9:30am
- 21st-22nd: Diocesan Council Meeting (Minot)
- 28th-30th: School for Ministry (Maryvale)

### May 2023

- 2nd: Clergy/Congregation Leaders Meeting (Zoom); 6:30pm
- 2nd: Province VI Small Church Gathering (Zoom); 7:30pm
- 4th: Lectio Divina (Zoom); 7:00pm
- 4th: dMST & Finance Check-In (Zoom); 8:30am
- 10th: dMST Meeting (Cannon Ball); 9:30am
- 18th: dMST & Finance Check-In (Zoom); 8:30am
- 23rd: Diocesan Council Meeting (Zoom); 7:00pm
- 29th: Diocesan Office Closed—Memorial Day
- **May 29th: *Sheaf* articles are due—Pentecost edition**

Father Harvey Henderson submitted a sonnet by John Donne (Anglican priest and poet, 1572-1631) because it has long been a favorite of his.

Holy Sonnets:  
*Death, be not proud*  
By: John Donne

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee  
**Mighty** and dreadful, for thou art not so;  
**For** those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow  
**Die** not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me  
**From** rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,  
**Much** pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,  
**And** soonest our best (folks) with thee do go,  
**Rest** of their bones, and soul's delivery.  
**Thou** art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,  
**And** dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,  
**And** poppy or charms can make us sleep as well  
**And** better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?  
**One** short sleep past, we wake eternally  
**And** death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.

Bishop Tom Ely submitted a hymn by The Rev Ally Barret because he enjoys it very much. *The Reverend Ally Barrett – Tune is Praise my Soul/Lauda Anima – Hymn #410 in the 1982 Hymnal*

Early, while the world was sleeping,  
to the garden Mary came;  
lost in lonely grief, still weeping  
till in love you spoke her name.  
Alleluia, alleluia  
Nothing now can be the same.

See, the sunlight, slowly dawning  
overwhelms the shades of night,  
welcoming this glorious morning,  
rising with the Light of Light.  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Death and darkness put to flight.

Trusted as the first apostle,  
Mary swiftly made her way;  
bearing this, the Easter gospel  
to a world in disarray.  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Good news for the earth today.

Risen Jesus, come and greet us:  
Speak our name, we are your own;  
In your generous love you meet us:  
in our lives that love is shown.  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Resurrection life made known.



# Resurrection Greetings from the Northwest

*Submitted by: The Reverend Kim Becker*

Dear Beloved in Christ,

As I write this from Minot it is 8 above zero, -2 with wind—not too bad by comparison to some days! Snow is on the ground and fog is in the air. It doesn't feel much like spring, despite the recent vernal equinox. I think back to my many years serving in the Diocese of Washington (DC) and remember waiting for the profusion of cherry blossoms to bloom at the Tidal Basin. It was a cherished Washington tradition to go see them and the way the white and pink blooms would carpet the ground was reminiscent of snow.

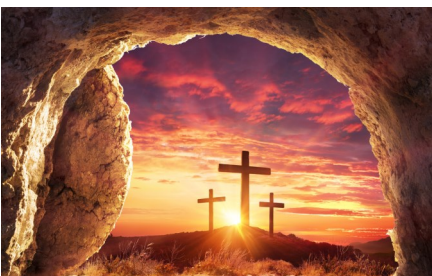


We are familiar with seasons (which in North Dakota seem to be winter and road construction!) and with climate change worsening, we have seen distortions from what used to be the norm. We certainly need to take stock of our impact on climate change and remember we are called to "serve and preserve," rather than "have dominion over" this created world.

Just as there are natural seasons, there are of course seasons of our lives, as the preacher Ecclesiastes reminds us: "a time to be born, a time to die." Our liturgies from Lent through Easter remind us of the same: remember you are dust and to dust you shall return before the Alleluia, Christ is risen of Easter.

Just as there are seasons in nature and in our lives and faith journeys, there are also seasons of life and death in the church's history. Phyllis Tickle wrote that every 500 years there would be a major change, when the old had to die in order for the new to be born. Being church invites us to creativity and flexibility and to remember that church is not a building, but a people called.

There is death and resurrection in every life. We can embrace or fight changes. What needs to die in your life in order to make room for new life?



As Easter people, we see, as the hymn says, "in resurrection light." That is, we see with eyes of hope and faith. We believe that in our baptism we are called to serve a Lord who always sided with the oppressed and calls us to do the same, even as we are called to new life in Christ and not just life, but life abundant.

In Christ's peace, power, and love,  
Kim

# Resurrection of St. Peter's, Walhalla

*Submitted by: The Reverend Deacon Elsie Magnus*

St. Peter's Walhalla was "rebirthed" in 1958 when the current building was moved from its original home in Bathgate ND to its new home in Walhalla where a small congregation was meeting in the city library under the Rev. Sam Glasgow. It was the start of something new! St. Peter's was the first in the community to celebrate Shrove Tuesday and hosted many pancake and sausage meals, both at noon and evening. Their annual soup meal and bake sale included homemade hush puppies, made out the church's back door inside a pickup camper. Those hush puppies were the talk of the town! St. Peter's also introduced the first Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols to Walhalla, beginning in the early 1960s and occurring annually, rarely missing. While preparing pews and benches for a fresh coat of varnish, one of the prayer benches revealed the notation "Bathgate, Dakota Territory, 1887." We gave our building a 100-year birthday party in 1987 inviting former parishioners and clergy.

Over the years members came and went, but the core remained as their children grew up and moved away for education, opportunity, and employment. From the late seventies to December 2007, St. Peter's was served by a Canadian priest for services the first and third Sunday of the month, with lay readers leading services the other Sundays. The plan was for a Team Ministry of three seeking to be ordained to the diaconate, with two of the three as permanent deacons and the third a transitional deacon. St. Peter's continued to meet regularly under the leadership of the remaining deacon, even though natural attrition brought membership to below 5. Then came Covid and we feared the worst. Our Candlelight Service in December 2020 was conducted on Zoom, with members contributing lovely Christmas music under the long-distance leadership of a "grown up and gone" music teacher. Being able to use Zoom allowed us to meet regularly without heating the church in the winter, continuing services in the building through the summer.

In February 2022, Fr. Steve Godfrey came to our local library where we planned a "pop-up" service in person and via Zoom. One of the individuals that attended had been baptized at St. Peter's and took the message home that St. Peter's needed support from their family who were no longer active in the church. **This indeed is the resurrection story of the St. Peter's congregation.** Since June of 2022, we have worshipped together each week and have been able to afford to heat and conduct services in the church all winter. There have been six baptisms and a funeral and several visits by a priest. Our Lessons and Carols service was attended by 35 in person and seven on Zoom. Christmas Eve in miserable weather was a deacon mass attended by 24 in person and 14 via Zoom. This past Sunday our local ELCA congregation was not able to find a substitute, and two responded to the invitation to join us for service. Our weekly attendance is about nine in person and three via Zoom. From September through May services are at 1 PM each Sunday. Summer services will be in the morning, time to be determined. We hope to have at least two baptisms, a reception and a couple of confirmations when Bishop Ely visits in July.

*This picture was taken recently when Fr. Toby Rowe visited.*

*Front, from the left: Ross Blair, Zooley Lafferty, and Fr. Toby Rowe  
Back: Susan Saylor, Bruce Magnus, Nikita Mendiola, Mary Lafferty, and  
Deacon Elsie Magnus [Not pictured T] Lafferty]*



# Safe Church, Safe Communities

*Submitted by: Sandy Holbrook, Safe Church Co-Chair*

Our safe church ministry revival is progressing. The Diocesan Council recently adopted two Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota safe church, safe communities policies. These are our diocesan versions of the model policies adopted earlier by our General Convention for all dioceses in the Episcopal Church. As soon as the appendices that deal with training requirements and other relevant details are finalized, the policies will be distributed across the diocese.

A safe church, safe communities web page is also being developed and will become part of our diocesan web page. Our two policies and a variety of resources/information related to this safe church ministry will be available there including information about the Praesidium Academy online training. This recently developed training is quite different from the previous online training; it draws on our baptismal covenant and addresses more broadly than the earlier training our responsibility as Christians to create safe churches and communities. How to access the training and which courses are required for which ministries will be found on the web page, too. Please note that the online training will be available to everyone in our diocese as a means to help all of us play a role in maintaining safe church, safe communities.



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## St. George's, Bismarck: Interim Pastor

*Submitted by: Keith Henderson, Senior Warden*



The St. George's community in Bismarck is happy to introduce Pastor Steve Sathre as the new Interim Pastor at St. George's. Steve is a familiar and friendly face, as he was pastor at our neighboring church, Trinity Lutheran, for 30 years. Pr. Sathre is a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Pastor Steve will be our interim pastor as we proceed with the process of hiring a full-time Rector.

The Reverend Steven Godfrey of the North Dakota Episcopal Diocese was instrumental in guiding us through the work of identifying and getting to know Pastor Sathre. We are excited and grateful to welcome Pastor Sathre into our church, especially as we experience the Easter season. Blessings to all from Bismarck!

Keith Henderson

Senior Warden  
St. George's Episcopal Church



# New Season of Ministry Task Force Retreat Update

*Submitted by: John Baird, co-chair of NSM TF*

The New Season of Ministry Task Force met on Friday and Saturday, March 24-25, in Bismarck. We reviewed what we have learned from our visits to congregations and from the surveys. There was a good sense of how our family feels connected and wishes to stay a part of each other. We are challenged by our geography and small numbers but have a shared history that is very important to all of us. Our task force still has more congregations to visit, and we value everyone's input. Despite the stress of COVID, much has happened over the past few years. Congregations have done much to reach out and to welcome others. The diocese has greatly enjoyed the coaching and leadership of Bishop Ely and the whole diocesan ministry support team.

Our task force has identified models of structure and organization and is looking for ways to partner with other dioceses with whom we might share and learn. Members will be in discussion with our neighboring dioceses of Minnesota and South Dakota as well as our companion diocese of Texas and Northern Michigan which has a unique model of mutual ministry. Other possibilities exist and we are very open to hearing about them.

It felt clear that we work with the shape and size of our diocese and that important concepts are our history, connectiveness, and reconciliation. We must have a bishop to lead us as an Episcopal diocese and to represent us to the wider church. Bishop Ely will be with us until the end of 2023 and we must find the right way to fill that position. A strong administration and ministry to local congregations is very important to continue. There is a good feeling of inclusivity and welcoming of everyone including Native Americans and those who identify as LGBTQ. There is a desire to include young people in our life and to encourage new leaders. We honor and encourage the ministry of all the baptized and continue to find ways to hear each other's stories and understand our diversity.

We still have much to do and look forward to hearing from others as we continue into our future. We will meet via Zoom each month and again will meet in-person in July. We will give our report to the Diocesan Council to prepare for decisions and discussions at the October 27-28 Diocesan Convention in Mandan. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers.



# New Season of Ministry Task Force

*Submitted by: John Baird, co-chair of NSM TF*

As a task force considering the future of our diocese, we need your help. We are currently looking at other models of diocesan operation and organization as well as the finances we have available. A survey has been included with this article that we hope everyone will complete. Over the course of the next few months, task force members will be visiting all of our congregations. Watch for announcements in your church about our visit and come talk with task force members. We hope to hear from all of you.

Working with Bishop Ely and the rest of the diocesan Ministry Support Team has been great. We are still in transition and there is more work to be done. We need to make decisions and recommendations about our future at this coming Diocesan Convention which will be held in Mandan, in October 2023. There are good things happening at our congregations and we want to encourage and continue our ministry.

To fill out our survey you may get to it in one of three ways - scan the QR code, click on the shortened URL, or go to the diocesan website. At the diocesan website hover over the Ministry menu, hover over New Season of Ministry, then click on New Season of Ministry. We encourage everyone to fill out the survey.

Keep the task force and our diocese in your prayers.

## [New Season of Ministry](#)

### Survey QR Code



<https://bit.ly/3Wn3T2g>  
[https://www.ndepiscopal.org/](https://www.ndepiscopal.org/Ministry)  
Ministry > NSMTF > NSMTF

# St. Vincent's, Haiti

*Article Submitted by: Andrea Stomberg*

Here is an excerpt from St. Vincent's Center's recent newsletter. This article was published on March 10, 2023 and references the work that the Episcopal Foundation helped fund to build new rooms at the clinic. We are making a difference to children every day in that fraught country.



*Solar panels provide power and shade for the retrofitted containers at the St. Vincent's Medical Center in downtown Port-au-Prince.*



*Technicians fit a young boy with braces.*

## **Downtown Medical Center Now Open Five Days a Week**

Because of intense gang violence around the Medical Center, its hours were shortened to three days each week and less during October and November of 2022. Beginning in November, the Center was able to stay open for more days and in December, five days a week. Visits to the Center increased from 39 in October to 309 in December. Currently, it remains open five days a week.

One of the Center's doctors noted that all major hospitals in Port-au-Prince are now closed due to gang activity. "Patients need the Center more than ever," she said. Also, many professionals are leaving the country for safety, underscoring the need for the Medical Center to remain viable and open.

At a recent Medical Committee meeting, Drs. Moise, Woolley, and Zennie, confirmed their commitment to remain in the country and serve their community – "to see it through."

Meanwhile, the retrofitting of two containers at the Center, creating a new, large room for physical therapy and a room for a pharmacy continues.



# Sunday Collects

*The collect is a short prayer, especially one assigned to a particular day or season.*

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## *April 9: Easter Sunday*

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## *April 16: Second Sunday of Easter*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## *April 23: Third Sunday of Easter*

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## *April 30: Fourth Sunday of Easter*

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## *May 7: Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## *May 14: Sixth Sunday of Easter*

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## *May 21: Seventh Sunday of Easter*

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

## *May 28: Day of Pentecost*

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.





***The Sheaf***

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