

November 04, 2007



Katharine Jefferts Schori (ENS photo by Alex Dyer)

Reflections on one-year as Presiding Bishop

By the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori

I think I have the best job in the Church! One of my responsibilities as Presiding Bishop is to visit all of the 110 dioceses of the Episcopal Church. I make several kinds of visits – to consecrate new bishops; for clergy conferences or diocesan conventions; or for major events and anniversaries. These are often opportunities to spend a couple of days in a diocese, to have conversations with clergy and lay leaders, and to worship with a congregation on Sunday. I learn something of the particular mission and ministry in a diocese, hear the joys and

concerns of members, and make connections with ministries and people in other dioceses. In this first year, I have visited more than 30 dioceses in this way, and have touched several more in ways that are less than the full visit I would hope eventually to make.

I also have responsibilities in relation to the larger Anglican Communion, and aside from gathering with the other primates in Tanzania last winter, I have gone to South Africa for a conference on Anglican mission; and to Brazil to meet leaders from all over that province, to learn from their experience, and to give thanks for our long covenant partnership. In November, I will travel to China to meet with post-denominational Christian leaders, to North and South Korea for peace and reconciliation efforts, and stop in Guam on the way back to celebrate Thanksgiving with the Episcopal Church there. In all my travels around this church, both within and beyond the Episcopal Church, I am moved by the way in which congregations are increasingly focused on God's mission to heal the world – a mission summed up by Anglicans as Five Marks of Mission: to spread the good news of God in Christ; to teach, nurture, and baptize new believers; to alleviate human suffering; to work to transform the unjust structures of society; and to care for the earth.

How are you and your congregation serving God's mission?

Resources

Presiding Bishop's webpage: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/presiding-bishop.htm>

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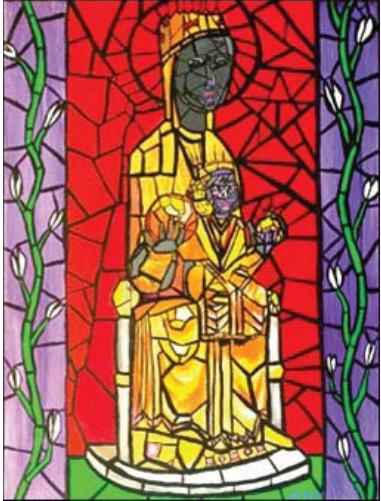
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All Saints Day: Remembering the saints of God



Gerard DiFalco (Black Madonna of Catalonia)

November 1 is the observance of the feast of All Saints, and we celebrate it on the Sunday after November 1, this year November 4.

In the Episcopal Church, saints are those who are shining examples of good Christians. Truly all those who are baptized are saints of God.

In our prayers, we pray for the Communion of Saints, who both the living and the dead.

In the All Saints gospel, Our Lord talks about shining examples and the kingdom of heaven from the Sermon on the Mount.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Resources

Saints and Family, a gallery prepared in collaboration with Episcopal Church VisualArts:http://www.episcopalchurch.org/68518_ENG_HTM.htm

Collect for All Saints

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

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