

**CHRIST CHURCH PARISH**  
**ANGLICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**SAN MATEO CALIFORNIA**  
**ANNUAL PARISH CORPORATION MEETING**  
**JANUARY 25, 2009**

**RECTOR'S PASTORAL REPORT - JEA+**

Annual Parish Meetings are something of a blurry memory for most of us...that is to say; we have been involved in lots of them. While an endemic and necessary component in orderly governance of the parish, they are much like filing a tax return...we all feel better once accomplished. Having mentioned this week to my sister, Jane, that ours occurs today she said, "The thing I always remember best is that the food was really good! Apropos of that we recalled the Annual Meeting – perhaps fifty years ago - which does stand out vividly...

An enduring discussion was taking place about elements of the proposed budget...then, rising to his feet, not generally known for saying much at all...Roy Hiler addressed the parish in his gravelly voice "You know, I've been coming to these meetings for decades and every year it's the same thing...*Old Tight* and his brother law *Twice Tight* (pointing to two well known people) have to pick at pennies...it just makes the food get cold...let's get on with this...and we did...!

Mindful of Roy's counsel for brevity...not unduly delaying our awaiting Coffee Hour...

For a few minutes let's concentrate on three broad areas...**PAROCHIAL STATE, PAROCHIAL PURPOSE, PAROCHIAL PATH...**

Our **PAROCHIAL STATE** and presence is a rewarding legacy of more than three decades of commitment...established by many no longer here but carried forward by those present and many at a distance. It is rewarding to note that in 2008 we increased church attendance of 4%...preceded by a 2% increase the year prior. Participation in Lenten Studies and Sunday Discussion Group notably increased in 2008. Church attendance was notably strong during Advent and Christmas (+~20%) and the trend continues. Our asset base remains credible...spiritually, liturgically, educationally, physically, and financially.

Our **PAROCHIAL PURPOSE**...our reason for being...simply this..."Feed my sheep" said Jesus...we are called to this purpose. Each of us is involved...'the sheep'...each other, the larger community of people known plus those not yet known...some of whom we may never meet, yet still serve. This is the calling of the Church. Doing anything in its place is derelict.

Our **PAROCHIAL PATH**...consistent with the dramatic changes observed and felt in the twelve months since our last Annual Meeting it would be difficult not to include 'challenge' in our assessment. At the same time this is not a matter from which we have been known to shrink, for we and the entire Church have seen these throughout history...indeed in our 32 year parochial history we have faced and overcome challenges for that is the nature of life itself.

Reiterating matters in a global context let us be mindful that...

This Wednesday, 28 January, marks the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Preservation of the American Episcopate...the continuation of the catholic faith Jesus placed in the care of the Apostles...brought to English speaking people by St Augustine of Canterbury, preserved by Archbishop Thomas

Cranmer, restored by the Oxford Movement of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, rescued from the apostasy of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and placed, then and currently, in our parochial and jurisdictional trust.

While this is the Annual Meeting of Christ Church Parish, I speak to the larger body, the entire Church. In 2003 Archbishop Haverland told us, "The Church requires a decade of peace in order to attain stability." Thanks to your collective wisdom, that decade of peace has been parochially attained. Peace has been, for the most part, reached by the rest of the Anglican Catholic Church. Assuredly there remain details that beset institutions but if the sane, steady mind that characterizes parochial governance persists beyond the parish, I submit that the Church will be well served and impelled to continue fulfilling its mission. Our parochial future will be sustained by...

Continued conflict avoidance and distraction...bickering over non-essentials cannot be emblematic...including with or about...

- Anglican Continuum
- Anglicanism at large
- Other religious bodies
- Secular politics and 'causes'

Preservation of established strengths

- Traditional Anglo Catholicism
- Fiscal soundness
- Parochial governance

In closing, a note of personal thanks to and admiration for each you. As we commenced this journey a more than twelve Annual Meetings ago it was assuredly an uncertain launching into the wilderness. You have marked our journey together always with joys and rewards. On behalf of (and to) Father Hobbs, Father Looney and Father Erickson thanks for your trust, your prayers; your individual and collective perseverance. Particular thanks extend to retiring vestry members for their consistent quiet, faithful and diligent contribution.

Finally, profound thanks to retiring Vestry Members Dawn Cutler, Ginger Dahlberg and Barbara Wullschlegel...to Carlynn Hobbs, Sally Bernstein, Cora Jean Kleppe, Rebekah Sahpiro, Julie Krutchnitt for their Altar Guild service...the 'Kitchen Cabinet', Marie Adams and Elaine Secrest for making certain we are never hungry...To Al Schick for making our entire physical operation function while happily singing...to Georgia Allen for unseen and untold hours of administrative support.

Respectfully,

Father John Altberg, Rector