



From the Rector...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Saturday, January 20, The Very Reverend Canon Scott Ruthven, Dean of the Southwest Deanery led our Vestry and Leadership Retreat. Dean Ruthven spoke about leadership. I would like to share one of his inspirational writings about leadership, written when he was a Chaplain in the Air Force Reserve, with all of you.

“Influential Leadership”

Chaplain, Colonel Scott A. Ruthven

IMA to the Command Chaplain, USSTRATCOM

I only have a few months before I reach 30 years in the Air Force Reserve. One of the things I’ve been doing is reflecting on the crucial role of mentoring in our Air Force culture. There have been so many people who have left a positive imprint on me during my career. However, the big question for me is who has been the one mentor that influenced me the most? It is not an easy question to answer. If I were to pick just one person, I’d have to say it was Chaplain Colonel Tom Vail (USA). He was the Command Chaplain of North American Aerospace Defense Command and United State Northern Command - my first Army boss at my first Co-Command job.

Tom Vail was an incredible officer and chaplain. He expected the best out of every one of us. Our Chapel Office was turning the military and non-governmental agencies (NGO) upside down. In other words, we were helping the military and civilian agencies work more closely together when responding to disasters. He did this by having us rethink how to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with every project we were given. Chaplain Vail believed that anything was possible even in the military; I’d never been around somebody so positive. We definitely made a difference in how people were cared for in natural and manmade disasters. And he never let us forget what we had done and what we’re going to do. The mission was never fuzzy; it was always crystal clear.

So a mentor-leader provides influential leadership by starting with a clear articulation of the mission followed by continuous reminders why we’re doing what we’re doing. For example, one of our projects was to research the religious practices of Mexican cartels to empower the Border Patrol in their work all along the Border States. Tom firmly believed that more cultural awareness might save lives on both sides of the border. In fact, he never let us forget that our mission was to save lives. Vail was the visionary leader who invited us to share in a vision greater than ourselves— we were saving lives.

A good mentor-leader will also impact character and develop those they lead. Leadership expert Tom Peters wrote, “Leadership is a sacred trust.” In other words, with the responsibility to lead, is the charge to be responsible for the growth and development of others. John Maxwell, reflecting on leadership, wrote, “It is about one life influencing another.” Tom Vail was that dynamic mentor-leader in my life who motivated me to think so far outside the box that I never wanted to crawl back into that box. He influenced me to press forward pushing with new ideas.

There was a point in my career that I had no desire to pursue the rank of O6. I was a happy Lieutenant Colonel. It was Tom Vail who looked me in the eye and told me, “Scott, we have a message that has to get out; you can give the message as an O5, but

the higher your leadership position, the more effective you become in influencing, motivating, and setting people in motion.” Tom taught me that with rank comes the opportunity to influence others to accomplish the mission for which you have been called.

As I conclude my career in the Reserve, may I pass on to you a challenge that came to me later in my career. Don't shy away from the opportunities that come your way to be an influential leader. Don't run from the invitation to influence, motivate, and press people forward to accomplish things greater than they thought possible. This is the kind of mentor-leadership I am grateful to have been exposed to through Chaplain Vail and it is, in my opinion, the right model for Air Force leadership today. You must always lead from the rank you have; but also shoot higher to gain the maximum influence you can. All I ask is that from your upper leadership position you make sure you are mentoring others to influence, motivate, and set people in motion to accomplish a mission greater than they can imagine. That is called influential leadership.

*Blessings,
Fr. Bernal +*

From Padre Miguel

LENT AND CARNIVAL

This year we start Lent on February 14th. Three days before this date in several countries Carnival is celebrated. The church does not recognize this festival as a religious festival and in fact it is not, but historically they have a close relationship. I will try to explain this relationship so that you and I understand the festive meaning of this Carnival event and remember the great meaning of Lent.

The Carnival combines elements such as costumes, groups that sing couplets, parades and street parties, their common characteristic is that of being a period of permissiveness and a certain lack of control. From its beginnings it was a parade in which the participants wore costumes and wore masks.

The Wikipedia page gives us this information "The origin of its celebration seems likely to be in the pagan festivals, such as those held in honor of Bacchus, the Roman god of wine, Saturnalia and the Roman lupercaux, or those that performed in honor of the Apis bull in Egypt. According to some historians, the origins of this festivity would go back to ancient Sumeria and Egypt, more than 5000 years ago, with very similar celebrations at the time of the Roman Empire, from where the custom spread throughout Europe, being taken to America by the Spanish and Portuguese navigators starting at the end of the 15th century".

We all know that Christianity with the passage of time expanded in many parts of the world and the Roman Catholic Church influenced the people and cultures with its doctrine and liturgical celebrations.

To celebrate and remember the resurrection of Jesus a time that called Holy Week was set aside, which begins as we know with Palm Sunday, then Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Resurrection Sunday, and then follows the 50 days of Easter. This is a sacred time to remember the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a time of joy and celebration to remember that Jesus overcame death and gives us Eternal Life.

But I think that before celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus with Holy Week and the 50 days of Easter, the church has the celebration of Lent (forty days) as a time for spiritual preparation to celebrate the Resurrection. Throughout the entire Lenten season, Christians are called to strengthen our faith through various acts of penance and reflection, conversion, repentance of sin, and by doing penance and asking for forgiveness. It is a time of silence and meditation.

The popular mentality must have reacted, I imagine, in this way: If the church during this time forbids me parties and the fun, pleasure and joy, let's have a great party, let's make a Carnival ... and let the music sound ... wine and masks for everyone, and if we have something to regret let it be of the excesses of the pleasure of the flesh. Long live life.

Carnival is followed by Lent, I think, that those who celebrate Carnival relate it to the deep meaning of the Lent, and those of us who only celebrate Lent do so this year with its profound meaning of preparation to celebrate the Risen Jesus.

*Peace and goodness,
Padre Miguel Ramirez Centeno +*

LA CUARESMA Y EL CARNAVAL

Este año inciamos la cuaresma el 14 de febrero. Tres días antes de esta fecha en varios países se celebra el Carnaval. La iglesia no reconoce esta fiesta como fiesta religiosa y de hecho no lo es, pero historicamente tienen una estrecha relación. Trataré de explicar esta relación para que usted y yo valoremos el sentido festivo de este acontecimiento carnavalezco y recordemos el gran significado de la Cuaresma.

El carnaval combina elementos tales como disfraces, grupos que cantan coplas, desfiles y fiestas en la calle, su característica común es la de ser un período de permisividad y cierto descontrol. Desde sus inicios era un desfile en que los participantes vestían disfraces y usaban máscaras.

La página de wikipedia nos da este dato “El origen de su celebración parece probable que esté en las fiestas paganas, como las que se realizaban en honor a Baco, el dios romano del vino, las saturnales y las luperciales romanas, o las que se realizaban en honor del toro Apis en Egipto. Según algunos historiadores, los orígenes de esta festividad se remontarían a la Sumeria y el Egipto antiguos, hace más de 5000 años, con celebraciones muy parecidas en la época del Imperio Romano, desde donde se expandió la costumbre por Europa, siendo llevado a América por los navegantes españoles y portugueses a partir de fines del siglo XV”.

Todos sabemos que el cristianismo con el paso del tiempo se expandió por muchas partes del mundo y ya llamada Iglesia Católica Romana influyó en los pueblos y culturas con su doctrina y celebraciones litúrgicas.

Para celebrar y recordar la resurrección de Jesús apartó un tiempo que llamó Semana Santa, que inicia como sabemos con el Domingo de Ramos, luego Lunes Santo, Martes Santo, Miércoles Santo, Jueves Santo, Viernes Santo, Sábado de Gloria y Domingo de Resurrección. Semana a la que sigue la cincuenta pasacual. Tiempo sagrado para recordar la pasión, muerte y resurrección del Jesús. Tiempo de alegría y fiesta al recordar que Jesús venció a la muerte y nos promete la Vida Eterna.

Pero pensó que antes de celebrar la Resurrección de Jesús con la Semana Santa y la Cincuenta Pascual inventó (por así decirlo) la celebración de la Cuaresma (cuarenta días) como un tiempo destinado a la preparación espiritual para celebrar la Pascua (la Resurrección). A lo largo de todo el tiempo de Cuaresma, los cristianos somos llamados a reforzar nuestra fe mediante diversos actos de penitencia y reflexión, conversión, arrepentimiento del pecado, hacer penitencia y pedir perdón. Tiempo de silencio y meditación.

La mentalidad popular ha de haber reaccionado, me imagino, de esta manera: Si la iglesia durante esta tiempo me prohíbe la fiesta y la diversión, el placer y la alegría, hagamos una gran fiesta, hagamos un carnaval... y que suene la música... vino y máscaras para todos, fuera la ropa, si de algo tenemos que arrepentirnos que sea de los excesos del placer de la carne. Viva la vida.

Al Carnaval le sigue la Cuaresma, pienso, que los que celebran el Carnaval lo relacionen con el profundo significado de la Cuaresma, y los que sólo celebramos la Cuaresma lo hagamos este año con su profundo significado de preparación para celebrar a Jesús Resucitado.

*Paz y Bien,
Padre Miguel Ramirez Centeno +*

February at St. Christopher's

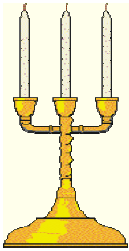
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

9:00 a.m.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S MEN'S GROUP
For all men and young adult men age 15 and up

11:00 a.m.

VESTRY MEETING

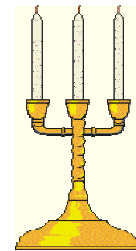


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

10:00 a.m.

THE EUCHARIST OF CANDLEMAS

*The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
Candlight Procession ~ Litany for Candemas ~ Blessing of Candles
Bring your new household candles to be blessed*



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

11:15 a.m.

TELLER TRAINING MEETING
in the Founders' Room

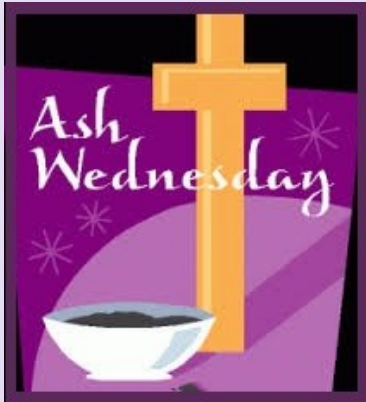


TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER
Donations gratefully accepted
Invite your family, friends, and neighbors





Season of Lent Begins

on

Ash Wednesday

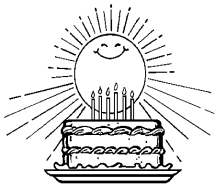
12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m.

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Stations of the Cross

6:00 p.m. every Friday in Lent

Beginning on Friday, February 16



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

*Jean Paul Bishop 2 Delilah Steele 5
Gabby Palacios 11 Joe Maldonado 14
Betty Holley 20 Luis Garcia 21
Patty Lane 22*

CERTIFICATION REMINDER

All employees, clergy, staff, Vestry members, and any who work with children or teens in any capacity must be certified in *Safeguarding Our Children*. Certification is required by the Diocese of the Rio Grande, the National Church, and the Church Insurance Company.

If you are not sure if your certification is current, or you are new to a lay ministry and need to be certified, please check with me as soon as possible. The course is free, is done online, and is offered in both English and Spanish.

Thank you!

-Holly Truesdale, Administrator

MEETINGS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

9:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

FINANCIAL WORKSHOP

at the Bosque Center, Albuquerque

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

9:00 a.m.

MEN'S GROUP

11:00 a.m.

VESTRY MEETING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

9:30 a.m.

SW DEANERY MEETING

at St. James', Mesilla

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

11:15 a.m.

TELLER TRAINING MEETING

BIBLE STUDY

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 13 & 27



FEBRUARY PRAYER LIST

Please keep these members and friends of St. Christopher's in your daily prayers...

Mary Hernandez (Member), The Martinez family, Betty and Jim Holley (Members), Luis Garcia (Member), Dorothy Muller (Member), Mary Reyes (Cano), Ray Vega (Vega), Nora Butler (Gilbreath), Gary Welsh, Benjamin Gonzalez (Perez), The Schofill Family (Truesdale) Kevin Salcedo, Joe Heidrick (Shinn), Christie Lechuga (Perez), Fernando Peña, Max & Levi Moreno (Moreno), Christy Darling, Leo Luevano (Maldonado), Jerry Brown (Shinn), Flor Alvarado (Bernal), Ruby Carr (Brooks), Tamara Banda (Brooks), Octaviano Tavares (Rodriguez), Donna Hvizdos (Hudak), Maria Morgan (Anderson), Irma Lopez (Mowad), John Hudak (Hudak), Keni Langberg (Brooks), Mary Jensen (Brooks), David White (Brooks), Amanda Vallejo (Brooks), Skip Bambrook, Nancy Loiselle (Borrett), James Mowad (Mowad), Jo Ann Orr (Brooks), Bill Fields (Fields), Heather (Navidomskis), Merle Ipson (Brooks)

Almighty God, we commend to your care and keeping all of the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad:

Sgt. Charles Barden, Matthew Barnes, Jerry Carreon, Sgt. Jean-Louis Bishop, Army, Adam Garcia, Navy, Magie Gonzalez, Lt. Jody M. Daniels, Navy, Roberto Salgado, Mark Logan, USAF, PFC Jose Gonzalez, Oscar I. Gonzalez, Comd. Darren Rich, SP Woody Needler, SST. Tim Hayes and the families and friends of all who are serving at home and abroad

*We are updating our Prayer List for the new year.
Please contact Holly to add or delete names*

OUR MINISTRIES

GOOD SAMARITAN/SOUP KITCHEN OUTREACH

St. Christopher's has been awarded a grant of \$1,000 from Jubilee Ministries for our Soup Kitchen Outreach, and also a Poverty and Outreach Grant of \$5,000 from the Diocese of the Rio Grande for our Good Samaritan Outreach Program!

FEBRUARY AT SOUP KITCHEN

Saturday, February 10

Martha Cano and Carlisle Navidomskis

Menu: Lentil Soup and Cheese Quesadillas

Saturday, February 17

Diana Marquez and Gloria Rodriguez

Menu: Habas Soup and Capirotada

Thanks to Rosario Bernal and the Kitchen Crew for all of the wonderful menus, and to our four dedicated Soup Kitchen Teams!



AN INVITATION TO SERVE ON THE ALTAR GUILD

The St. Christopher's Altar Guild members serve in a vital ministry. We prepare the Altar and church for Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer, weddings, funerals, Baptism, Confirmation, and Quinceañeras. Additionally, we care for linens and vessels, order wafers, wine, and other items needed for worship, and as a group, prepare for festive Holy Eucharist at Easter and Christmas. The current members of the Altar Guild are Carlisle Navidomskis, Katie Hudak, Julie Fuller, Tony Moreno, and Bruce Truesdale.

New members are always welcome! If you would like to come and learn to serve in the Altar Guild, please let me know!

- Carlisle Navidomskis, Altar Guild Leader

**CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE AND
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

300 Riverside Drive El Paso, Texas 79915

Church Office: 915 859-9329

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

Email:

stchristopherselpaso@gmail.com

Website:

www.stchristopherelpaso.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

Thursday

Eucharist & Healing 10:30 a.m.



St. Christopher's

Soup Kitchen

Outreach

at 11:00 a.m.

2nd and 3rd Saturday of each month

CLERGY AND STAFF

**The Reverend Canon José J. Bernal
Rector**

**The Reverend Miguel Ramirez
Associate Priest**

**The Reverend Kenneth Anderson
Deacon (Ret.)**

**Holly Truesdale
Parish Administrator**



VESTRY

**Tony Moreno - Senior Warden
Joe Maldonado - Junior Warden**

**Katie Hudak
Carlisle Navidomskis**

**Alex Reyes
Virgie Shinn**

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Rector

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday

**Fr. Bernal will be also available
on Saturdays by appointment.**



**Administrator
and Church Office**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday

**Administrator in Office at
home on**

Monday and Wednesday

852-3954 or 252-2475

Church Offices Closed on Friday

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S MISSION STATEMENT

*Our Mission, as vessels indwelt
by the Holy Spirit, is to proclaim
the Gospel and teach the Faith;
to bring Christ's healing power to
those who are wounded and hurting;
to share our blessings with those in
need; to administer the Holy
Sacraments; and to live our lives to
God's glory, sharing the love of
Jesus Christ with all people.*

