ANNUAL MEETING

The 20th Annual Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting is being planned for Sat., April 13, 1991, at St. Thomas Church in St. Petersburg, FL. Committees are working hard to make this a special day for all Altar Guild members, priests and guests. This is the one time in the year when we gather together for worship, fellowship, learning and sharing. It would be wonderful to have every parish or mission represented at this meeting. Details are enclosed with this Newsletter - please pay attention to the deadline for reservations. It will be helpful to those preparing the lunch and I must tell you, St. Thomas is known for their good cooks!

Do encourage your clergy (and spouses) to attend as guests of your Altar Guild.

The program that day will be given by The Rev. Robert Young, Chaplain to the Diocesan Altar Guild and Rector of St. Clement’s, Tampa. He will speak on the history and development of vestments. Those of you who heard Fr. Young’s homily at St. John’s, Clearwater, two years ago will remember his inspiring message to Altar Guilds, and won’t want to miss this informative program on vestments.

VESTMENTS ON VIEW

We shall also have vestments made by lay people on display at this meeting. With the rising cost of vestments purchased from Supply Houses, making our own may be the answer for some parishes or missions. We hope this display will be a source of ideas and suggestions for making vestments. It’s not as mysterious as you might think. If you have any vestments to display, please call Jan Wisdom (813)525-7943.

EXCHANGE TABLE

And finally, we will have an Exchange Table at our meeting for vestments or any altar appointments that you have no further use for but might be just what some other parish or mission could use. Go through your storage spaces and see what you can find, but be sure to get your Rector’s permission for any items you wish to bring for the Exchange Table. PLEASE make sure everything is clean and in good repair.

ANNUAL DUES NOW PAYABLE

Parish: $10.00  Mission: $5.00

Checks payable to: Altar Guild, Diocese of Southwest Florida

Send to:
Mrs. John Knowlton, Treasurer
411 Cordova Blvd., N.E.
St. Petersburg, FL 33704

Your dues are the only regular source of income for the Diocesan Altar Guild. The money is used for postage and printing, operating expenses, small altar linens for new missions, and to provide vestments as needed for the Bishop. This past summer we were able to purchase communion ware for the Diocese to be used for Convention or any other large Diocesan service not held in a church. We thank you for your support of our ministry throughout the Diocese.

A LITTLE GIRL’S PRAYER

Kneeling beside her bed she prayed, as usual, that God would take care of her family and herself during the night.

Then she added a new and unexpected petition. “Dear God, please take care of yourself, for I don’t know what would become of all of us down here if anything happened to you. Amen.”
PROVINCE IV ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guilds of 19 dioceses are included in the PROVINCE IV Altar Guild Association. The PROVINCE Guild is an intermediary step between Diocesan and National Altar Guild. Meetings are held each year of Synod, and workshops in the years between. Plans for this year include a two day meeting June 3-5, 1991, at Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, N.C. The tentatively scheduled workshops will be "Organization and Scheduling" by Miriam Pratt, Diocese of S.E. Florida; "Weddings and Funerals" by Cannon Allen of the Diocese of West Texas; and a workshop conducted by Sally Brown of the Diocese of Central Gulf Coast regarding preparation for a new frontal and paraments for the altars at Kanuga.

- Alice Kuppinger, Chairman
  Province IV Altar Guild

GOD’S HOUSEKEEPERS

There are a faithful few who work unseen and unobtrusively give of their best; Who spend their lives perfecting little things which often pass unnoticed by the rest.

Their hands that dust the altar rails and change the flowers and keep the linen fair;

They sweep the aisle with cheerful reverence and polish silver with a murmured prayer.

They are the quiet ones who freely give thir time and thought and love with glad accord;

Who softly tread the byways of resolve, and share the peace of God for their reward.

- Unknown

NATIONAL ALTAR GUILD

The National Altar Guild Association will hold its meeting concurrently with the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Phoenix, AZ, from July 11-20, 1991. Once again they will have an Ecclesiastical Art Exhibit during this time, "a traditional gift from all Altar Guilds to General Convention." This exhibit includes vestments, altar and other hangings, needlepoint, banners, linens, ikons, sculpture, communion vessels (no gold, silver or gem stones) and antiques of interest. If you plan to attend General Convention, be sure to look for the exhibit.

Does your parish have anything they might like to put on display? If so, please contact Jan Wisdom (813)523-7943 and necessary forms and instructions will be sent to you.

In the interest of exhibiting only the best of ecclesiastical art and workmanship, they request that no glued-on banners be submitted.

LENT - A TIME OF FASTING AND FEASTING

FAST - from discontent, anger, bitterness, self-concern, discouragement, laziness, suspicion and guilt.

FEAST - on gratitude, patience, forgiveness, compassion for others, hope, commitment, truth and the mercy of God.

- The Anglican Digest

National Altar Guild Association
NEWSLETTER Subscription ONLY
4 issues, U.S. and Canada: $10.00
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