DIOCESAN ANNUAL MEETING

The 1996 Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting will be on March 23rd at All Souls Church in North Fort Myers. This is a week later than originally scheduled to allow both Bishop Harris and Bishop-elect Lipscomb to join us. Bishop Harris will be our celebrant and Fr. Lipscomb will present our program. His topic is the role of the Diocese in the coming years.

The meeting was originally scheduled to be at St. Hilary’s, but the necessary change in date was impossible for them. We thank them for their willingness to be our host and we thank All Souls for coming to our rescue.

Details, registration forms and maps will be along mid-February, but MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW and make sure all your sacristans and clergy mark theirs! We are honored to have both Bishops of the Diocese with us and we do want a good turnout.

DEANERY DIRECTRESS

Have you ever wondered what a Deanery Directress does? Just as the Deanery is set up as a liaison between the Diocese and the individual parishes, the Deanery Altar Guild Directress keeps the Diocesan Board, of which she is a member, in touch with the needs and concerns of the parish Altar Guilds and vice versa.

If a mission Altar Guild needs linens, vestments, or vessels they need only to get in touch with their Deanery Directress and she will relay this to the Diocesan Board who in turn will attempt to find suitable ones for them either as a loan or a gift. (See the Supply Closet article on this page.)

If an Altar Guild needs help in any facet of its operation, the Deanery Directress is there to help solve the problem or get Diocesan aid. This is the reason we hope the Directresses within a Deanery will get together at least once a year to help each other.

The other function of a Deanery Directress is to assist the Diocesan Directress when her Deanery is hosting any Diocesan function.

SUPPLY CLOSET

Hooray! Hooray! We now actually have a closet! Well really it’s better than a closet. The Diocese is letting us use one of the fourth floor rooms in the new building in St. Petersburg.

Now that we have a place to store those linens, vestments, and vessels that you no longer use PLEASE clean out your sacristies and fill our closet.

We are delighted to be able to keep everything in one place. Now we will know what’s available when a mission needs help. Please when you replace vestments, linens, or vessels let us have your discards. We can mend if necessary, and a fair linen stained in one place can become smaller linen pieces.

Help us help others.

NOTE

This issue of ALTARGRAM is being mailed to ALL Deanery and Parish Directresses. If possible please ask your church office to make a copy for each of your members. If this is impossible please post it in the Sacristy so that all may read the changes in the Propers to be voted on in March.
PROPOSED PROPER CHANGES

All the recent illness of members of the Diocesan Board has pointed out that we are not as indestructible as we might like to think. Having admitted this, your Board and Bishop Harris feel that two major changes are necessary. First is the addition of an Assistant Directress who will automatically succeed as Directress. Second is the reduction of the term of office to two years with the right to continue for another term if a member feels she can continue to serve. Everyone on your Board feels that the shorter term will make it easier for Deanery members to make a commitment.

To accomplish this, the Board has approved the following changes in the propers (by-laws).

Article IV - Board
Now reads: "The Board shall consist of the Clergy Advisor, Diocesan Directress, Secretary, Treasurer, all Deanery Directresses, a Sewing Chairman, a Supply Chairman and the immediate Past Diocesan Directress."
Change to read: "The Board shall consist of the Clergy Advisor, Diocesan Directress, [Assistant Diocesan Directress], Secretary, Treasurer, all Deanery Directresses, a Sewing Chairman, a Supply Chairman and the immediate Past Diocesan Directress."

Article V - Duties
Now reads: "The Diocesan Directress shall preside at all meetings and have general supervision of all matters pertaining to the organization. She shall make a report at the Annual Meeting. In the event the Diocesan Directress cannot attend the Annual Meeting she shall appoint a Deanery Directress to preside in her absence."
Change last sentence to read: "In the event the Diocesan Directress cannot attend the Annual Meeting [the Assistant Directress will preside in her absence]."

Add Section 2-A
"The Assistant Directress shall assist the Directress in all her duties. She will preside at any meeting the Directress cannot attend and will assume all her duties if the Directress is incapacitated. At the end of the Directress' term the Assistant Directress will be the next Directress."

Article VI - Appointments and Terms of Office
Section 2
Now Reads: "The term of office shall be for three years. A rotation system shall be used whereby three new Board Members shall be appointed each year."
Proposed change: "The term of office shall be for two years. A rotation system shall be used whereby three Deanery Directresses shall be appointed each year. At the end of her term the Assistant Directress will automatically become the Directress and a new assistant will be appointed by the Bishop."

Section 3
Now reads: "Any member serving one year or less of an unexpired term shall be eligible for appointment to a full three year term."
Proposed change: "Any Board Member, except for the Directress and Assistant Directress, shall be eligible for a second term if she so elects."

DEANERY DIRECTRESSES - If you have not sent a current Roster of your Altar Guild Directresses and their addresses, PLEASE DO SO ASAP!!

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TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR ALTAR GUILDS
by Bishop Stevens

1. If it's metal, polish it.
2. If it's floral, arrange it.
3. If it stands still, dust it.
4. If it's cloth, iron it.
5. If in doubt, wash it.
6. If it has been taken care of by one person for more than ten years, avoid it.
7. If it's a memorial, revere it or try to work around it.
8. If it's been done only one way for more than five years, don't try to change it.
9. If a new rector, vicar or curate gets a bright idea, indulge him. He'll soon learn better.
10. If a bishop wants all the vestments and hangings changed ten minutes before the service, smile sweetly and ask him to pray for a speedy recovery from your hearing loss, and leave him to his prayers in the solitude of the sacristy.

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O God of beauty, love and peace; Make us thankful for the privilege of adding beauty to Thy sanctuary, growing in love through Thy service, and gaining peace from Thy presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

HOW TO DESIGN AND MAKE BANNERS FOR SACRED AND SECULAR FESTIVALS

Reviewed by Carol Fenley, Altar Guild Directress, Diocese of Atlanta

How to design and make Banners for Sacred and Secular Festivals is designed for the novice or inexperienced banner makers. It packs a tremendous amount of information and clearly designed instruction with its 64 pages. The format is a good one; the authors, Griselda Banbury and Angela Dewar, design four banners, using a different technique for each, taking the reader step-by-step from idea to design; to implementation and completion. The reader can use the instruction "as is" or adapt them to something more suited to an individual parish. Once the basic techniques have been mastered, more complicated projects are suggested.

This book is well-illustrated with color pictures of banners (mostly English where they are a feature of every self-respecting parish), and black and white diagrams of the sewing and finishing steps. There are complete lists of materials needed as well as lettering and symbol charts to assist the beginner. The text presupposes some sewing knowledge ("The seam allowances are turned to the back and fixed to the interfacing with herringbone stitches") but does include a glossary of terms and illustrations of stitches. Also included is a short history of the use of banners in churches.

I should have no hesitation in recommending this book. It is paper bound and retails for $12.95, available from Morehouse Publishing, 871 Ethan Allen Highway, Suite 204, Ridgefield, CT 06877. It would make a useful addition to the library of any church or other organization interested in beginning a banner-making project.

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