The Practical Sacristy

Often fellow altar guild members ask questions pertaining to the care of our linens. These problems are never unique to one church! We have been entrusted with the washing and ironing of linen in an era when many people no longer even own an iron. This article will give you several practical tips using some newer products.

Our biggest problem is removing red wine. Obviously, the sooner it is rinsed out of a purificator or any other linen, the better. Every sacristy and home should keep a box of BIZ handy to add to the soaking water. Be generous with the powder and you can safely soak linen literally for days and the stain will disappear. BIZ does not dissolve the natural fiber. It is really a wonderful product. See www.bizstainfighter.com.

Lipstick is another demon. We have had very good luck with a product called Stain Devils from the Carbona Company. Purchase bottle #6 which is for make-up and grass. This is excellent for the newer lipsticks that really stain, and it works on ladies’ liquid foundation which can be very hard to remove. All you need is a couple of drops. Carbona has a full line of stain removal products. Try them all! Go to www.carbona.com for information on their products and where you can purchase them – we get ours at JoAnn’s Fabrics.

Another newer product to try is Goo-Gone spray gel on soot from candle wicks. If you get a big streak across the fair linen, spray it and it really will go away. You may want to rub it gently with your fingernail, but it does work. For wax, first use an ice cube or put linen in freezer and then scrape off with your fingernail. Any residual stain can be removed with liquid Goo-Gone (and it was recently discovered that this product would remove lily pollen from not only from a fair linen but also from a white marble altar). Go to www.magicamerican.com for information on these and other products by the same company.

An old “tried-and-true” product is Fels Naptha soap -- a time-tested stain remover and pre-treater working especially well on oil-based stains. Just rub the stain with a wet bar of Fels-Naptha® soap. Let it sit for a few minutes and wash as usual. www.felsnaptha.com.

Nothing is more satisfying than a sparkling white, well-ironed piece of linen. Surely, this is one of our best offerings to the Glory of God.

-- Sarah Hill

PROVINCE IV WANTS YOU . . .

Altar Guild members from throughout the Diocese are encouraged to join the Province IV Altar Guild. Dues are $15 for an individual and include a subscription to the Province IV Altar Guild Newsletter, an interesting and informative publication. To join, send a check to Ms. Betsy Luke, Treasurer, 112 Knight Lane, Summerville, SC 29483-4325.

You are especially invited to attend an annual conference. If you ever go once, you’ll want to go back every year! In addition to the pleasure of spending a few days in the mountains of NC, you’ll make new friends from our Province (Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Florida) and there is always a good program. The dates for next year’s conference are June 5-8, 2011.

The four-fold purpose of the Province IV Altar Guild:

- To encourage and assist in the organization of Diocesan altar guilds and to strengthen the work of parish and mission altar guilds within Province IV.
- To bring into communion the altar guilds of Province IV, encouraging and deepening the spiritual life of their members in order that their public worship to Almighty God in His church may be offered in the beauty of holiness for the extension of His kingdom.
- To foster education programs throughout Province IV and to sponsor an annual conference and workshop.
- To serve as a communicator between the National Altar Guild Association and the membership of the Province IV Altar Guilds.
ALTAR GUILD SONG
(To the tune of “Onward Christian Soldiers”)

Altar Guilds stand ready
As changes come and go.

Liturgies have options
This your Rector knows.

Will we vest the chalice
Or leave the altar bare?

Wash and iron linens, too,
That we will fold with care.

We are ever ready to serve
With joy behind the scene.

Always to God’s glory
Working as a team.

Polish brass and silver
Until it shines like gold.

Candles we will care for
How many we’ll be told.

Frontals matching seasons
Or perhaps unique.

Flowers add their beauty
Below the cross they peek.

We are ever ready to serve
With joy behind the scene.

Always to God’s glory
Working as a team.

--- Lynn Hendricks (2009)---

FROM THE DESK OF CAROL ANN . . .

By the time this goes to press, five representatives from the Diocese of Southwest Florida will have attended the Province IV Altar Guild Conference at Kanuga (see report on P. 3). The names of Altar Guild members who died in the past year were read in the Prayers of the People during the Closing Eucharist.

The Naples Deanery Altar Guild had their annual meeting on June 28th at Nancy Shields’ home. Seven AG Directors were present, and a lot of good ideas were exchanged. I was delighted to attend this meeting again.

If you have would like to share any information within the Diocese, “The Scoop” is an electronic communication from the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida. Send items to share to Jim DeLa, director of communications, at jdela@episcopalswfl.org. This is sent out every two weeks. Send an e-mail to Jim if you want to be added to his distribution list.

REMINDER – Diocesan Convention is Oct. 8-9, 2010, in Punta Gorda. The highly successful “Free Market” will occur once again (see “From the Desk of Sarah”) immediately below my column.

For the first time since 1999, there will be a JOINT (North & South) meeting of the Diocesan Altar Guild. This will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2011, at the Church of the Nativity, 5900 North Lockwood Ridge, Sarasota 34243-2523. Starting time and other information will be provided in a later issue. MARK YOUR CALENDARS and plan to get your members to this meeting! Nativity is one block south of University Parkway and approximately 3 miles west of I-75 (Exit 40), east of 301.

Hope that you all enjoy your summer.

Yours in Christ, Carol Ann Brumbach, President

FROM THE DESK OF SARAH . . .

HOLY RECYCLING: The DAG will once again sponsor a “Free Market” at the Diocesan Convention in October. This is an opportunity to purge your Sacristy and share gently used items with other churches within the Diocese. There is no cost to the receiving party – it is simply an opportunity to let someone else enjoy something that you no longer use. Suggestions: bells, books, and candles; frontals, banners, and hangings; vestments and clergy clothes (has a priest or deacon retired or lost or gained weight?); any other items of use to another church. All donations are happily accepted; however, due to limited space and the logistics of moving things from one place to another, we ask that you bring the items to Convention rather than asking us to store them. If an item is extremely large or heavy, take a picture (or several pictures from different angles), write down the dimensions, and bring that information with you. If you absolutely must get rid of something right away, please call me or Carol Ann and we will try to come up with a solution. Please pass this information on to your clergy and encourage them to participate in this worthwhile endeavor!

Yours in Christ, Sarah Hill, President-North

BREKKFAST BLESSING:
For ham and eggs and buttered toast,
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen

LUNCH BLESSING:
Lord, Bless this bunch,
While we munch our lunch.
Amen.

EVENING BLESSING:
Bless us, O Lord, You who are the peace of all things calm the place to hide from harm the light that shines in dark the heart’s eternal spark the door that’s open wide welcoming all to come inside. We ask this blessing upon us and our food. God be willing.
The Diocese of Southwest Florida was represented by Betty Modys from St. Michaels and All Angels, Sanibel; Emily Williams (workshop presenter), Fran Parsons, and Sarah Hill from The Cathedral Church of St. Peter, St. Petersburg; and Peggy Curlin from St. John’s, Tampa. Sarah was Hospitality Chair and did a great job getting “provisions” for the Social Hour on Sunday and Monday evenings. The rest of us played a minor role in setting things out and putting them away.

At 7:30 on Monday morning, a service of Morning Prayer and Disposition of Sacred Linens was held at the Lakeside Chapel. Father Batkin decommissioned linens that were beyond repair (sent from churches all over the Province) and then they were burned in the “holy cooker”. The ashes were scattered on Kanuga property.

Confession: I must admit that I wasn’t sure whether I would relate to the program “Enhancing the Eucharist: Is Music in Worship Important to You?” I am an early service (7:45 AM) Rite I person, and at St. John’s there is no music at that Eucharist. I’m not anti-music, but it is not a part of my usual worship. I do love a chanted Eucharist. I have a CD called “Great Hymns of the Faith” and love to listen and sing along with old hymns like “Come Thou Almighty King,” “Amazing Grace,” and others I remember from my childhood. I am not much for “praise” or “renewal” music.

So ... I was pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed Sue Carmichael’s program! She is the first person I had ever heard play the harp as an accompaniment to praise music. Sue is full of energy, extremely talented, compassionate, lives the Gospel through her ministry to an inner city community, and exudes joy. Her program sessions got us singing, helped us to look within, raised our awareness of scripture dealing with song and hymn and musical instruments and praise, and led us to want to go where the Lord leads us.

Other highlights:
- The prayers of Father Jeff Batkin
- Maureen Hamilton teaching us to Sign hymns – a whole room full of women moving their hands in unison (or at least trying to do so) was beautiful and brought a whole new dimension to music in worship
- Emily Williams giving us the condensed version of making rose petal beads (a several day process) and showing us how to make an Anglican rosary
- Marguerite Batkin’s presentation on Meditation Gardens
- “Show and Tell” – standing in awe of the design and sewing talent of so many Altar Guild members
- The beauty of Kanuga

Lakeside Chapel in early morning

The Southwest Florida “Girls” – Peggy Curlin, Betty Modys, Fran Parsons, Emily Williams, and Sarah Hill
DATES TO REMEMBER:
Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9, 2010
42nd Annual Convention of the
Diocese of Southwest Florida
Convention Center
Punta Gorda, FL

Saturday, March 5, 2011
Joint Meeting of Diocesan Altar Guilds
(North and South)
Church of the Nativity
5900 North Lockwood Ridge
Sarasota, FL 34243-2523

PLEASE POST A COPY OF THE ‘ALTARGRAM’
IN YOUR
ALTAR GUILD SACRISTY

ALTARGRAM

ONE copy of the ‘Altargram’ is mailed to the Altar Guild of each parish in the Diocese for posting in the Altar Guild Sacristy. We also e-mail a copy to at least one AG representative from each parish with the request that they then e-mail it to as many members of their Altar Guild as possible. If you would like to receive a copy by e-mail, send your request by e-mail to pcurlin@verizon.net. SUBMIT ARTICLES by e-mail to any Board member, or mail submissions to: Altargram, Post Office Box 18938, Tampa, FL 33679-8938

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