ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN! THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA.

An excerpt from *Christian Primer* by Louis Cassels:

The existence of the Christian Church is the most convincing evidence that something very extraordinary took place in and near the city of Jerusalem in the spring of the year 30 A.D. The disciples of Jesus had followed him during his itinerant ministry because they believed he was sent by God. They had seen him arrested, tried, and put to death in a most disgraceful fashion. The disciples had fled from the scene of the crucifixion in panic and despair, their hopes crushed, their own lives in peril. If the story had ended there, the world would never have heard of Jesus of Nazareth. He would have been just another religious fanatic executed in a remote corner of the Roman Empire.

But the story didn’t end there. Within three days, Jesus had returned to them. They were as startled to see him alive as you would be if you met on the street today a friend whose funeral you attended a few days ago. No person hearing the story of the Resurrection today can possibly be any more skeptical of it than were the Apostles when they first heard about it. The record shows that Jesus had to go to great lengths to overcome their incredulity. Once he ate an impromptu meal of cold fish and honeycomb – the only food at hand – to demonstrate to one die-hard doubter that he wasn’t a ghost.

Once the disciples got over their surprise, they were totally convinced. There is in all history no example of a group of human beings who were more absolutely, unflinchingly certain of a fact than the early Church was of the reality of the Resurrection. Any suggestion that their conviction was feigned quickly founders on the crosses of the Christian martyrs which soon sprang up from Jerusalem to Rome. Men do not die joyously to perpetuate a hoax.

Christian theology did not begin with belief that Jesus was the son of God and work forward to the Resurrection as a logical sequence. It began with the startling, unexpected fact of the Resurrection, and worked backward to figure out what manner of person this was that had walked among men.

The Christian Church has endured for twenty centuries because the risen Christ has kept the promise he made to the disciples: “I will not leave you comfortless . . . I will be with you always, even to the end of time.”
Ecclesiastical Vocabulary

Continuation of “C” words from January issue . . .

Corporal: A square, white linen cloth used upon the altar at Communion under the sacred vessels.  
Cotta: A white garment similar to a surplice, but shorter and without a cross on the front. Worn by choir and acolytes over the cassock, it is not as long or as full as the surplice.  
Credence: A shelf or table at the epistle side of the sanctuary upon which the Elements of the Holy Communion are placed until carried to the Altar.  
Crozier: The staff of a bishop.  
Crucifer: The one who carries the cross.  
Cruet: The receptacle for wine and for water. Also known as an Ampulla.  
Crucifix: The cross with the figure of our Lord upon it.  
Curate: Usually indicates a clergyman who assists the rector in a parish church.  

“D” words . . .

Dalmatic: The colored silk Eucharistic vestment worn by the deacon at a solemn celebration of the Holy Communion.  
Deacon: The lowest of the three orders of the sacred ministry; also the minister who reads the gospel at a solemn celebration of the Holy Communion; whether he be a bishop, priest or deacon.  
Dean: The chief of the clergy on the staff of a cathedral; also the clerical head of a seminary.  
Diocese: The see or jurisdiction of a bishop.  
Dossal: A tapestry or curtain which hangs behind the altar.  

FROM THE DESK OF CAROL ANN . . .

I know all our Altar Guild members were very busy during the Lenten season. Everyone can now take a deep breath and enjoy the blessings of this Easter Season.

Thanks to Marcia Simington and Ellie (parish secretary) and all Altar Guild members of the Church of the Nativity in Sarasota for the great job they did with the DAG annual meeting. Mark your calendars now for next year – March 3, 2012, at St. Peter’s Cathedral in St. Petersburg. Hope to see you there.

I would like to thank the Deanery Directresses of the South for the wonderful job they all do: Elizabeth Mody’s – Fort Myers; Katie Altmann – Manasota; and Nancy Shield – Naples.

And now it is my delight to introduce our new Directress for the Venice area: Elizabeth Ann Lawlor, a member of St. Mark’s, Venice, and a retired Registered Nurse. Elizabeth Ann was widowed in 1975. In 1979 she married Thomas Martin Lawlor and moved to Venice. They have been members of St. Mark’s since 1980. She was school nurse at Venice Elementary School for 17 years, and has been happily retired since January 2000.

Effective May 1st, Joanne Heiland will take over from Jennifer Walker and become the new AG Director for St. Boniface in Sarasota.

Yours in Christ, Carol Ann Brumbach, President-South

FROM THE DESK OF SARAH . . .

My first order of 6 beautiful linen purificators has arrived from Living Threads in Haiti and I am heartily recommending these for each of your churches. They have a nice website which will get you started. It is www.livingthreadshaiti.com. You can download an order form. These are marketed through a lady in New Mexico so you are dealing directly with her and can send her a check. I ordered the Jerusalem cross design and it is stunning. Each purificator is also hemstitched by hand. They sell for $20.00 each and are pure profit for these ladies in Haiti. Living Threads also offers corporals and lavabo towels. I am going to order more pieces.

The Bishop recently spoke to me about upgrading our Diocesan supplies for use at DaySpring as the new Diocesan offices are built and more worship will take place there. He has asked for a new Altar Missal and new Gospel book as well as other standard reference books for a sacristy. He is suggesting better candle sticks and we agreed that using oil filled candles would be safer and easier. We will need new fair linens to use on the various altars. And the altars themselves need an upgrade. We can certainly order some new small linens from Haiti. We are now a line item on the Diocesan budget!

The Bishop now has a magnificent new gold/cream cope with handsome gold orphreys. He also has a new red cope and a new gold mitre which can be worn with either of these copes. A lovely gift for him and you will be impressed.

Yours in Christ, Sarah Hill, President-North
IDEA FOR A DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD PROJECT

Karen Carroll, a nurse who has worked in the Dominican Republic for six years, contacted Sarah Hill by email some time ago, stating that there is a dire need in the DR for altar linens, particularly corporals and purificators. Karen was a mission leader for the Cathedral of Southwest Florida when she caught the missionary bug. She was the first administrator for the Bishop Isaac Home for Senior Citizens in Boca Chica. Karen is now affiliated with the Cathedral in Santo Domingo, DR. While Karen was in St. Petersburg for Easter, Sarah had an opportunity to explore with her ways that the DAG might be able to assist.

1) Living Threads – Purchasing linens from Haiti might be a win-win situation, benefitting both the Haitian ladies who make the linens and the churches in the Dominican Republic. Instead of placing the order through the lady in New Mexico, it is hoped that items could be purchased directly, possibly more economically, and shipped across the border from Haiti to the DR more quickly.

2) Perhaps some AG members in the Diocese are proficient in making corporals and purificators and would like to organize a “sewing bee” to create linens for the DR.

3) Financial contributions to assist with either of the above are welcomed from individual AG members or from parish Altar Guilds. Make checks payable to Altar Guild, Diocese of Southwest Florida, put “Linens for DR” on the memo line, and mail to the DAG Treasurer at P. O. Box 18938, Tampa, FL 33679-8938.

If anyone has any additional ideas on ways we can assist Altar Guilds in the Dominican Republic, please contact Sarah Hill (sarah_hill@hotmail.com or 727-525-8340.

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MINISTRY TO HAITIANS IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

The Rev. Panel Guerrier has been in the Diocese of Southwest Florida since 2004, working among our brother and sister Haitians trying to enhance their quality of life. The Haitian Episcopal Church of the Holy Name of Jesus celebrates Eucharist every Sunday at 5:00 p.m. at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Naples. Attendance ranges from 30 to 50 people.

During the week Father Guerrier performs social services such as: translation, referral services to various agencies, helps people with job applications, and anything else that will assist with the integration of Haitians into the American society. He partners with the Shelter for Abused Women, food distribution agencies, hurricane preparedness, rides for work, and various clinics and hospitals. The Diocese provides some assistance to Father Guerrier, but his dreams surpass his funding.

Father Guerrier states: “I am working so hard with others leaders in the Community to open a Welcome Center in Naples as soon as possible to meet the needs of Haitian people. We are looking now for an initiative grant or other source of funding in order to open our doors. Please let me know if you can help us to find a way to get it. Our needs are great and our resources are few.”

Anyone who is interested in helping Father Guerrier, please feel free to call him at 239-692-7344 or write to him at 3901 Davis Boulevard, Naples, FL 34104.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT KANUGA:

- LITURGICAL ARTS XIV: Artistic Expressions of Your Faith
  Discover or develop your personal creative abilities with expert instruction in canvaswork, sewing church linens, quilting, photography, flower arranging, making art from found objects and choral singing and direction. Coordinators: Lark Howell, Anniston, Ala., and Jan Hindsley, Washington, N.C. Chaplain: The Rev. Kevin Johnson, Washington, N.C. REGISTER BY MAY 1 TO RECEIVE 10 PERCENT OFF!

- ICON WRITING: A Glimpse of the Kingdom
  Use acrylic paint and prayer to recreate an icon. For beginners and experienced iconographers alike. Led by Teresa Harrison, Coronado, Calif.

For additional information, call 828- 692-9136 or go to http://www.kanuga.org/contactus.asp.
DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday June 5 to Wednesday June 8, 2011
Province IV AG Conference & Workshop
Kanuga Conference Center
Hendersonville, North Carolina

Sunday August 21 to Friday August 26, 2011
Liturgical Arts XIV: Artistic Expressions of Your Faith
Kanuga Conference Center
Hendersonville, North Carolina

Saturday November 12 to Friday November 18, 2011
Icon Writing: A Glimpse of the Kingdom
Kanuga Conference Center
Hendersonville, North Carolina

Saturday, March 3, 2012
Joint Meeting of Diocesan Altar Guilds (North and South)
Cathedral Church of St. Peter
140 Fourth Street
St. Petersburg, Florida 33711-3836

HELP WANTED:  Deanery Director for the Clearwater area.  Use the phone and/or email to facilitate communication.  If you love Altar Guild and enjoy sharing ideas and meeting new people who also love Altar Guild, sign up!

Call Sarah at 727-525-8340.

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Call Sarah at 727-525-8340.

‘ALTARGRAM’
The ‘Altargram’ is emailed to the Altar Guild Director of each parish in the Diocese (or to Church Office or Rector if no email address available for AG Director).  PLEASE PRINT A COPY OF THE ‘ALTARGRAM’ AND POST IT IN YOUR AG SACRISTY, and forward an electronic copy by email to as many members of your Altar Guild as possible.  Send any changes in email addresses to Pcurlin@verizon.net.  SUBMIT ARTICLES by email to any Board member, or mail submissions to:

Altargram, Post Office Box 18938, Tampa, FL 33679-8938