A Collect for Easter Day

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life; Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord’s resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reins with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, p. 222

THANK YOU to all Altar Guild members at all our churches for the many hours you spend, day after day, week after week, year after year, to ensure that our houses of worship are beautiful, serene, and provide a holy welcome to all who enter their doors. After the busy-ness of Holy Week, we hope you will each take a little time to refresh your souls, rest your bodies, and enjoy the beauty found everywhere in the Diocese of Southwest Florida.

The DAG Board
FROM THE DESK OF SARAH . . .

Our annual Diocesan Altar Guild meeting on March 3, 2012, was a wonderful success. The Cathedral Flower Guild put together a program that certainly showed the Glory of God’s flowers. Many of you made a long journey to attend and our parish hall was filled with people and flowers. Approximately 150 people attended. Our collection for the day was just over $800.00 and we will let the Bishop choose how that is spent. Thank you to everyone who came. I know you went home inspired.

Many of you were interested in buying a National Altar Guild sterling silver cross. These crosses are beautiful and feature an altar with little candles and a cross worked into the silver cross. Beth Jett is in charge of the Sacristy Shop for NAGA and you may contact her at bjettsett@aol.com or phone her at 859-229-8187. Beth lives in Lexington, KY and winters here.

I hope you are planning to attend the Province IV Altar Guild Conference at Kanuga from June 3-6. Our keynote speaker is Sister Suzanne Elizabeth, an Episcopal nun from the Community of St. John in Mendham NJ. Don’t miss the chance to meet her and learn from her. You will be enriched and inspired by Sister Suzanne.

We have had excellent response to our call for collecting worn sacramental linens. Many of you brought them to the spring meeting and we will continue to collect them at the cathedral until Convention in October. In November, they will be deconsecrated and burned at DaySpring and the ashes will be scattered in that beautiful place. If you have any need to help ordering new linens, please contact me. I have several new sources.

Are there any who would like to attend the National Convention in Indianapolis July 5-11? We have scholarship money available for both Kanuga and the NAGA meeting. We can help you plan.

I trust you all had a Blessed Eastertide. It began with making palm crosses and suddenly, it was Easter morning. How many of you still make your own crosses? Aren’t we lucky to have the real thing right in our own Florida backyards?

Blessings to each of you,

Sarah Hill, President-North

The next DAG Board Meeting is on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at DaySpring Diocesan Conference Center. To bring a topic before the Board, please contact Carolann Brumbach or Sarah Hill (see contact information on Page 4).

FROM THE DESK OF CAROLANN . . .

We regret that there is no submission this issue from Carolann Brumbach, President-South. She was ill for over a month, but reports that she is finally feeling better and intends to resume her newsy column in the July 2012 issue.

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Ecclesiastical Vocabulary - “H” and “I” words . . .

**Hassock:** A stuffed cushion on which to kneel when praying.

**High Altar:** The chief altar in a church, raised on an elevated plane in the sanctuary, where it may be seen simultaneously by all the faithful in the body of the church.

**Hood:** The short cape or shield at the back of the cope.

**Host:** The bread or wafer consecrated at the Holy Communion. The priest’s host is larger than those used to communicate the people.

**Ichthys (Fish), Symbolism of the** - The symbol itself may have been suggested by the miraculous multiplication of the loaves and fishes or the repast of the seven Disciples, after the Resurrection, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Its popularity among Christians was due principally to the famous acrostic consisting of the initial letters of five Greek words forming the word for fish (Ichthys), which words briefly but clearly described the character of Christ and His claim to the worship of believers: Iesous Christos Theou Yios Soter, i.e. Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour.

**IHS:** The Sacred Monogram. The first three letters of the name JESUS in Greek. Sometimes said to mean “In His Service.”

**Incense:** A mixture of spices for ceremonial burning, symbolizing prayer.
IN MEMORIAM

Mary Ellen Smith, beloved wife of Bishop Dabney Smith, entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, March 20, 2012. Services were held on March 31 at St. Peter’s Cathedral in St. Petersburg. Please keep Bishop Smith and their children and grandchildren in your prayers.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS CHURCH?

ST. JOHN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Tampa, Florida

This yellow brick church in a quiet residential area near downtown Tampa was founded on Whitsunday in 1912 as “St. John’s By the Sea” (the “sea” referring to Old Tampa Bay). The Rev. Dorsey Smith, father of our own Bishop Dabney Smith, was Rector of St. John’s from 1963 to 1968. Naturally, young Dabney was active at St. John’s Church and as a child, served as an acolyte, and sang in the choir. He also attended St. John’s Parish Day School.

Saint John’s Episcopal Church is a vibrant, growing parish located in the heart of Hyde Park in South Tampa. Our mission is to proclaim, by word and example, the Good News of God in Christ, and to build a spiritual community forming Christians of all ages through worship, education, and outreach. St. John’s has a renowned music ministry under the direction of Simon Morley, organist and choirmaster. St. John’s Episcopal Parish Day School provides students in grades Pre-K-4 - 8 with a superior educational experience that prepares students in a nurturing Christian environment for lifelong intellectual and spiritual growth. Planning for our centennial anniversary is a time of reflection and growth for our church family as we look to the past, celebrate in the present, and anticipate the future with great Christian joy. We embrace the traditions of the Church and our Anglican heritage. We also look to our present congregation to help shape new traditions. This is an exciting time to be a parishioner as we all help to chart a course for our next one hundred years.

The Rev. Douglas Remer, Rector

Share your home church (or an interesting church you have visited) in this Altargram feature! Email picture and article to pcurlin@verizon.net. Include the name and location of the church and any other interesting information, along with your name and church home. The next issue of the Altargram will come out in July 2012. What church will be featured in July?
DAG WEBPAGE?

For some time, the DAG Board has been discussing the possibility of having a DAG webpage where information about the Diocesan Altar Guild could be available on a “24-7” basis. Garland Pollard, Diocesan Director of Communications, has offered to help us in this endeavor and make it accessible via the Diocesan webpage. Possible content: a link to past issues of the Altargram; list of current DAG Board members; hopefully a directory of all AG directors for all the churches in the Diocese; and making the “Free Market” a year-round exchange rather than just a Convention event (create a way for churches to post pictures and descriptions of available items, along with whom to contact). Peggy Curlin has copies of the following “old” annual issues of the Altargram: 1991, 1992, 1993, (missing 1994 & 1995), 1996, (missing 1997 through 2005), 2006, 2007, 2008, and October 2009 (when it became quarterly) to present. If you have copies of any of the missing years, please contact Peggy so she can make arrangements to scan them. Please email or call any DAG Board member with additional ideas of things you would like to see on a DAG webpage.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday, May 9 at 10:00 AM
Diocesan Altar Guild Board Meeting
DaySpring Conference Center
8411 – 25th Street East
Parrish, Florida

Sunday June 3 to Wednesday June 6, 2012
Province IV Altar Guild Conference
Kanuga Conference Center
Hendersonville, North Carolina

Thursday July 5 to Wednesday July 11, 2012
Join NAGA at the Triennial Convention
Indianapolis, Indiana

Friday October 19 to Saturday October 20, 2012
The 44th Annual Diocesan Convention
Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center
75 Taylor Street
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

UPCOMING EVENTS AT KANUGA:

- **LITURGICAL ARTS CONFERENCE**
  **August 19-24, 2012**
  **2012 Classes:** Fair Linens & Embroidery; Flower Arranging; Celebrate! Banners & Vestments; Sacred Stitching; Easter Eggs; Rejuvenating the Choir; Image & Word.

- **ICON WRITING: A Glimpse of the Kingdom**
  **November 10-16, 2012**
  Led by Teresa Harrison of Coronado, CA.

For additional information, call 828-692-9136 or go to [http://www.kanuga.org](http://www.kanuga.org)

HELP WANTED: Deanery Directors for the Venice and Clearwater areas.

If you love Altar Guild and enjoy sharing ideas, this is the (unpaid) job for you! Primary responsibility is to maintain phone or email contact with the altar guilds of the churches in your Deanery to let each other know what is going on. Deanery Directors are members of the DAG Board and are encouraged to attend the quarterly Board meetings at DaySpring.

If interested, call Carolann at 239-481-5410 (for Venice) or Sarah at 727-525-8340 (for Clearwater).