

EXTRA!

The Thomist

...without a doubt

St. Thomas Traditional Anglican Church

Established December 12, 1992—in Sargentville, Maine.

373 Bangor Road, P.O. Box 365, Ellsworth, ME 04605-0365

Advent 2016

This issue of The Thomist is an Advent Extra, sent only by E-Mail.

****Do you know someone who would like to receive The Thomist via e-mail? **Please send any new or corrected e-mail addresses to patania@roadrunner.com**

Coming Events

- Every Wednesday Evening at St. Thomas
Evening Prayer at 5:00
Brown Bag Supper at 5:30
Bible Study at 6:00
- First Sunday of the month at St. Thomas
A Healing Service in the Sanctuary
Starting Dec. 4, after church
- Saturday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve), 4:00pm
A Service of Lessons and Carols
- Sunday, Dec. 25 (Christmas Day), 10:00am
Holy Communion

Just a Reminder---

Maine Seacoast Mission

As part of our outreach to the community, we are once again planning to donate new, wrapped Christmas gifts to the Maine Seacoast Mission. Each year the Mission provides an opportunity for hundreds of people up and down the Maine coast,

making Christmas a special time for children, families, and adults. A list of requested gift items can be picked up at the church or by emailing to mnickson@seacoastmission.org

A Gift of Joy

Surprise family and friends this Christmas with the new Anglican Church in America (ACA) edition of the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, with a foreword by Bishop Brian Marsh—just in time for Advent worship and Christmas giving.

You can order by calling 207-475-7803 or by going to www.1928prayerbookalliance.org/SHOP

Synod, 2016—As Recounted by Fr. Ed Kalish



Emerging out of the wilderness-bound, danger-fraught, unknown and perilous tracts of the Great Northeast was a grinning, laughing, quipping

carload of St. Thomas clergy and lay folk, making its merry way to the yearly Synod, Diocese of the Northeast, Anglican Church in America.

The company included Fr. Frank & Ada, Ann Geary (a synod delegate of a dozen years), Dcn. Kelly, and Linda and me.

We managed to squeeze our entirety into a rented van, a process which was duly repeated with every necessary stop on the six hour trip to Groton, CT. But all were good sports. Not a frown nor a complaint.

We arrived in good stead at Groton, and were treated to a wonderful time, from start to finish: renewal of old friendships, fine meals, the synod itself, and a few surprises. Chief among them was a fine lecture by a Vermont Baptist minister whom Bishop Marsh has befriended. "Pastor Jim" is an ardent student of history, and has focused much on Anglicanism. He really encouraged all of us along in our Anglo-Catholic journey, and it was especially meaningful, coming from someone outside of the tradition.

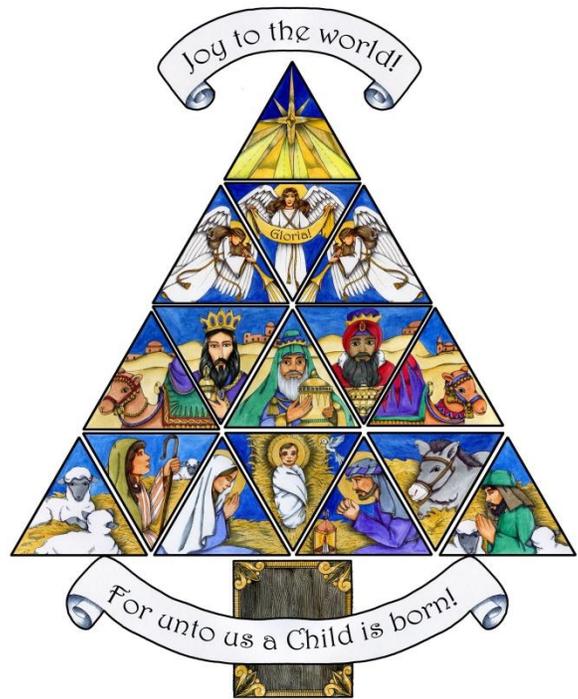
Fr. Merrill Perkins was the outstanding organizer of the event, and hosted us at the village chapel in Mystic for Holy Communion. In attendance was Bishop Scarlett of the Anglican Catholic Church, who gave a very practical, down to earth sermon on finding and working out one's "spiritual gifts" (1 Corinthians 12:4 ff. The readings were from the second service of Whitsunday, Book of Common Prayer pp. 182-183).

After such a full and lovely couple of days, we re-entered the van (well-practiced, by now), and steered our way northward. Linda observed that virtually all of us were asleep much of the time, as she drove.

We are thankful for such a treat. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

Our best to one and all.

Fr. Ed



*Merry Christmas
and a Happy New
Year to All!*