

Awakenings

June 2010

"A vision without a task is but a dream,
A task without a vision is drudgery,
A vision and a task is the hope of the World"

- from a church in Sussex, England, 1730

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Once again I would like to remind you that on the Seventh Sunday of Easter, the Sunday after the Ascension, we read the Gospel of John in which Jesus says, "I am not asking you to take them [his followers] out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one" (John 17:18). In this 'high priestly prayer' Jesus is preparing his followers for an uncertain and perilous future, a future in which he would not be physically present with them to protect them, but one in which the very Spirit of God would both guide and enable them to recognize and embrace the divine vision for the whole world. This vision arises out of the labors of spiritual discernment by the whole Body of Christ whereby the faithful in every age are challenged to understand and to remain steadfast to God's Word in Christ. The task the disciples have is certainly first to remain faithful to the teachings and example set forth by their Lord, Jesus. They are to be in a very real and tangible way living signs of Christ's life evident in and through their own fragile mundane lives. Genuine Christian life is lived-out in this world and not reserved for a hoped for world to come, therefore Christians, and uniquely Anglicans, rely on solely on the power and authority of the Holy Spirit discerned and interpreted in Holy Scripture, Tradition, Reason and, as I always add, Experience. Experience is a form of knowledge. Nevertheless, it can be difficult to live in an 'in-between period' as we do before the fullness of revelation at the end of time.

I find it interesting that there is a 12-day interval between the feast of the Ascension and the Day of Pentecost. Consider the spiritual importance and implications of this symbolic liturgical period. Most of our own lives, as well as the life of the world and the life of the Church, is lived out in an 'in-between' period of time. We are born and live in-between life and death. During this time we remain in a posture of waiting, anticipating and looking forward towards what becomes the next stage and development. Every day is new and different. All this we experience in uncertainty and in trusting to a power greater than ourselves. Life is lived in stages of growth and change. Many saints, spiritual teachers and psychologists

observe this phenomenon. We yearn and hope for the "not-there-yet" time to come and live in the challenges of relying on the very grace of a loving and engaged God, the protection of God and the very will of God to be made clear. This is what the disciples must have felt at the moment of seeing their Lord taken up into the heavens. They felt alone, unprotected and abandoned. Everything had changed and nothing now was familiar. They were uncomfortable to say the least. Yet, at Pentecost God's own intrusive and bold Presence moved them to be able to see (a Godly vision) what their task and purpose was. It was and is the present mission of the Church to carry out the proclamation of the 'deeds of God', the Gospel news of salvation and hope in Jesus Christ Risen and Alive. God's redemptive love is for all the peoples of the world and not just for a few. We must also note that Jesus says in the Gospel of John, "Sanctify them in the Truth, your Word is Truth" (John 17:19). As a result of Jesus' departure the missionary task of the apostles is inaugurated. Christ's prayer looks forward to the life-giving gift of Pentecost and beyond, to the missionary witness of the Body of Christ, the Church. To this all the baptized are consecrated and for this the heavenly vision is realized and made evident in our lives to a fractured broken world.

It is good for us to remember that we are in the interval time of salvation history, the 'in-between time' of our Lord's resurrection and the second coming we await at the end of time. The Church's vision is not a dream nor a drudgery but rather the very hope of our loving God for the whole world. The message displayed on that Church in Sussex England since 1730 is as valid and real now as it was for those disciples in the early Church. Ours is a heritage of hope, of grace, of believing and of living in a faithful "not there yet" spirituality, creatively moving us towards that heavenly vision in which one day our entire global family of our Creator will see God face to face. Amen.

A happy and holy Pentecostal season to all.

Blessings,

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Padre Michele+

The mission of St. Paul's is to bear witness in Rome to a dynamic and living Christian faith, open to all and rejecting none.

Awakening **MISSION**

Vestry

The Vestry met on 2nd May in the Parish Hall with the Rector presiding.

The Vestry:

- Formally elected Gretchen Hood as Clerk;
- Heard that Bishop Pierre will be with us on 30th May to begin outlining the transition process, and the informational document from the Convocation's website was distributed;
- Discussed the arrangements for Africa Day (also 30th May);
- Heard an update from Roberto Di Mattei on the lottery booth situation: all parties concerned have come to an agreement and we are awaiting the final version of the contract;
- Heard updates on: the mission in Orvieto; the arrangements for repairing the fire damage to the Parish Hall; Mercedes' studies at the seminary in Ecuador; and the Youth Across Europe gathering in Paris.

There will be a special meeting on Sunday 30th May 2010, with the Bishop and the Latin American Advisory Committee at which the Bishop will outline in person the transition process and answer questions. Time set for the meeting is approximately 1 pm in the Parish Hall.

*Gretchen Hood
Clerk to the Vestry*

Church of the Resurrection

The members and friends of this mission are celebrating the election of Father Michael as Bishop of the Diocese of Rio Grande. He and the people of the Diocese are in our prayers, especially at the Sunday Holy Eucharist.

Bishop Whalon invited Father Russ to come to Paris to discuss the health of the mission and its future. Bishop Whalon expressed his personal commitment to the mission, and he and Father Russ talked frankly about the work ahead.

On 11 May, members of the congregation held a lunch meeting, chaired by Cynthia Selfridge, to discuss ideas and plans to reach out to the English-speaking people in the Orvieto area, such as, advertisement in local, national and international English language publications and guide books; contact with area tourist agencies and real estate offices; organizing monthly events; e.g., a book club and children's activities.

The study group has been scheduled to meet on Thursday mornings during June. Prayer will be the topic for consideration: the definition of prayer in the Book of Common Prayer; a reflection on each verse of the Our Father; the Holy Eucharist as the perfect prayer.

Through the summer the Holy Eucharist will continue to be

celebrated on Sunday at 9 am. (Father Russ will be taking some time off in August.)

Some have described the Sunday service in our warm and attractive church as worship in the serenity and prayerfulness of the catacombs. Come visit us.

Fr. Russ+

JNRC

When I first started volunteering I was nervous about how I would be received by the people at the Center. Being an American I was expecting to be exposed to the anti-American sentiment that has been in ascendancy the last decade in particular. I was however surprised at the warm greeting I received from the people from lands as diverse as Senegal, Guinea, Nigeria and especially Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. All of the people I met were warm, welcoming and above all as curious as I was. They asked me a host of questions ranging from what foods I ate, what I studies and even my political opinion. While the latter question troubled me at first, lest I should incite an international incident, I soon realized they deserved, and I owed, an American opinion. I tried to frame my responses as diplomatically as possible and like all political discussions some agreed and some dissented. What I soon learned was how educated and natively intelligent these people were. They followed the news just as I, and they formed educated opinions on things. As I found things to be illuminated when looking at them from another perspective I hope they too felt their horizons were broadened. My time at the JNRC has taught me that we must constantly challenge our preconceptions. The world cannot be defined by 30 second news clips but should be defined by our relations and interactions with individuals. Cultural identity is not a 'one size fits all' definition. Rather, cultural identity is composed of varied shades of grey.



John Nelson



Mercedes in Ecuador

Awakening **SOCIAL CONSCIENCE**

I'm Mad As Hell

Those of you who live in Rome may have noticed the giant "I'm MAD as HELL" megabanners and tram advertising appearing around town. You may have seen

the television commercial with British actor Jeremy Irons shouting that he's "MAD as HELL". It's all part of a global communication campaign by FAO – the UN Food and Agriculture Organization – which has its headquarters here in Rome.

Most people in well-off countries (Italy, the UK, USA, for example) are unaware of the massive scale of hunger in the 21st century. By FAO's calculations, the number now stands at close to one billion, and when food prices spike upwards, the number can rise even higher.

St. Paul's, like the entire American Episcopal Church, supports the drive to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. It's one of the many things I liked about the church when I first started attending regularly a few years ago. Millennium Development Goal number one is the eradication of hunger and extreme poverty, with an interim target of reducing hunger by half by 2015. Unfortunately, we are not on track to meet that target, and will probably miss it by a long shot.

But chronic hunger does not have to be a permanent feature of human society. We already know what works against hunger: peace and stability, intelligent national policies, decent infrastructure, gender equity, improved seeds, training in modern farming techniques, fair trade, and so on. The problem is that most political leaders have just never made it their top priority to resolve the hunger problem. That goes for poor countries that need to change their policies, and rich countries that need to deliver on their promises of assistance.

I am not an economist or an agronomist or a policy expert – I am a communication specialist. What we are trying to do with the "I'm MAD as HELL" campaign is to inform people – especially young people – about the scale of the problem and stir them to action. The action we want them to begin with is simple: signing a petition calling for an end to hunger.

This worldwide petition drive is conducted almost entirely online – at www.1billionhungry.org. It relies on people to

spread the word – asking their friends, families and professional contacts to sign the petition too, and in turn to recruit THEIR friends. We're using a clever bit of software that allows you to visualize and track your impact on a Google map. This "viral impact mapping" software was developed for us by a young professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, USA.

Our objective is to gather at least 1 million signatures by October, and to present the results to world leaders at the United Nations in New York. In effect, we are trying to create a global movement of people who are no longer willing to accept the status quo. We want to put pressure on politicians to do what needs to be done.

I would be personally grateful if everyone in the St. Paul's community could take a few minutes to go online and sign the petition. You can go to the general website, or use my personal link so that you connect as part of my network of friends adhering to the petition: www.1billionhungry.org/sharonlee. From there, please keep the word moving – post the link on Facebook, or use Twitter, email or blogs – and ask others to join.

It's a small gesture. It costs nothing. But together we can make a noise that politicians will have to listen to.

*in love & service,
Sharon Lee Cowan*

**1.000.000.000
PEOPLE
LIVE IN CHRONIC
HUNGER AND
I'M
MAD
AS HELL
WWW.1BILLIONHUNGRY.ORG
SIGN THE PETITION TO END HUNGER**

Stewardship

We have now received formal pledges of €23,657.18 of which (fx €1 = \$1.3) we have so far received €14,715.66, or 62%. More pledge envelopes are available at the back of the church, and Andrea and Robina are always happy to talk to you if you have any questions about Stewardship.

**ARE YOU UP TO DATE
WITH YOUR PLEDGE?**

Awakening **MUSIC**

Dear Friends,

Normally, the month of June marks a gradual decrease in the number of concerts and events taking place in our church, but this year, on the contrary, we are going to offer even more concerts than before: literally 26 concerts within 30 days!

The usual Enchanting Opera Arias and the Sunday afternoon concerts alongside a new group of musicians, led by the violinist and conductor Francesco Cipriani who will perform music by the great Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla (notably The Four Seasons of the harbour – flavour of Buenos Aires).

We will also be receive 2 guest choirs offering their music for our Sunday Eucharist: Union Avenue Christian Church from St. Louis on Sunday 6th and Grace Church from New York on Sunday 20th. I am always very happy when we can worship together with choirs or musicians from abroad (and our guests are always keen to learn our hymns and service music and to share their talent with us). Not that our church choir is not enough (absolutely!) but it is always inspiring to see and listen to other ways of making music for God.

Speaking of our choir, Sunday 20th will in fact be its last sung service before the summer recess. Also, in the afternoon, there will be our last concert for the season 2009-10. Let me spend a few words of gratitude for them and also make a short summary of the season that is coming to end.

The church choir has sung every Sunday from September 14th (at that time Marco Silvi was my substitute organist and my daughter Sofia was 6 days old...). The choir has also sung Lessons and Carols in Orvieto and has performed 7 concerts from November through June. It has been an intense season indeed and I do need to thank each and every one of “my” singers: a special word of gratitude to Terese Lisieux, Danish pianist and singer, who has been with us for many months and will soon go back to Denmark.

Luminaria has presented 22 concerts from November 1st through Palm Sunday, March 28th. Among the artists who have been participating, I like to recall the conductor David Riddell who led us in the performance of the opening concert of the season; the piano duo Kirsten and Rebecca Capova from Ireland; the closing concert of the international organ competition “Valentino Bucchi” ; the first Roman performance of Arvo Paert’s Passion according to John, and, last but not least our full forces together for J. S. Bach’s Passion of Jesus according to St. Matthew.

Our last concert, Sunday the 20th as I said, is going to be a very special one: thanks to a collaboration and friendship dating back to 2006 between us and the music director of the German school of Rome, we have the privilege of hosting a full orchestra from Germany and present together a spectacular work such as Anton Bruckner’s Te Deum (would there be a better way of closing the season?). The program will also include Richard Wagner’s Overture from “The

Master Singers from Nuremberg” (is this the first time that Wagner is being performed in our church? I believe so..) Rheinberger’s 2^o Concerto for organ and orchestra (guess who’s the organist..) and 3 motets for choir a cappella by A. Bruckner.

Stefano Vasselli
Organist & Director of Music

Concerts in June

Wed 2nd 20.30; Music by **Astor Piazzolla**.

Thurs 3rd 19.30; Fundraising concert for JNRC given by the students of the “**Scuola Mommsen**.” *

Sun 6th 18.30; Nova Amadeus orchestra. Music by **L. van Beethoven, F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy**.

Mon 7th 20.30; **Center Grove High School concert group**. *

Wed 9th 20.30; Music by **Astor Piazzolla**.

Thurs 10th 20.30; **Piano-Voice recital**. *

Fri 11th 17.00; **Glenbard High School concert band**. *

Sun 13th 18.30; Nova Amadeus, **A. Vivaldi** “*The Four Seasons*”

Wed 16th 20.30; Music by **Astor Piazzolla**.

Thurs 17th 20.30; Music by **Astor Piazzolla**.

Mon 21st 18.00; **Chamber music**. *

Sun 20th 18.30; St. Paul’s Choir and Christian-Ernst-Gymnasium Orchestra Erlangen (Germany). **A. Bruckner** “Te Deum” and music by **R. Wagner, J. Rheinberger**.

Wed 23rd 17.30; **Broadneck concert ensemble**. *
20.30; Music by **Astor Piazzolla**.

Thurs 24th 20.30; Music by **Astor Piazzolla**.

Sunday 27th 20.30 Music by **Astor Piazzolla**.

All concerts marked with an asterisk are free. All other concerts are ticketed.

Musica&Musica:

Enchanting Opera Arias:
every Tuesday and Friday at 20.30

La Traviata:
every Saturday at 20.30

Awakening **MEDITATION**

Corpus Domini

The Feast Day of “Corpus Domini” is celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday--this year on 3 June. It was in Orvieto seven centuries ago that this Feast Day was established by the Church, and this day to commemorate the institution of the Holy Eucharist is celebrated here with historic and glorious pageantry. In the Episcopal Church, as our Book of Common Prayer decrees, the Holy Eucharist is “the principal act of Christian worship on the Lord’s Day”. The Holy Eucharist, more than anything else we do, identifies us as followers of Jesus the Christ. The celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the most important thing we do together as Christians, and my presiding at the Holy Eucharist is the most important thing I do. Why? What is the Holy Eucharist all about that makes it so important?

To approach the answer to this question, let’s ask another question. What makes the Holy Eucharist the Holy Eucharist, or what is the most significant part of our celebration of the Holy Eucharist? It is not the reading of the Sacred Scriptures. It is not the sermon. It is not the recitation of the Creed. The Words of Institution, when the priest says over the bread and wine “this is my body” and “this is my blood”, surely that has to be the most significant part. Significant, yes, but these words do not make the Holy Eucharist the Holy Eucharist. Is the most important part our receiving Holy Communion? This might be called the second most important part, but this also is not THE essential element.

The Book of Common Prayer reveals the answer. The most important part of our celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the part that makes the Holy Eucharist what it is, truly is one word, AMEN. In the whole Book of Common Prayer it is the only AMEN that is printed in capital letters. This AMEN is the GREAT AMEN. Our AMEN at that moment in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist represents our union with the self-offering of Jesus the Christ. The Holy Eucharist is first of all and most of all our worship and thanksgiving--Eucharist means thanksgiving--and it is by our AMEN that the celebration becomes our worship and our thanksgiving. As I stand at the altar, I am not re-enacting the Last Supper. I say the words “this is my body” and “this is my blood”, but I am not addressing these words to you, the congregation. These words are part of the Eucharistic Prayer, our Prayer addressed to God in thanksgiving for what God did for us and for what God does for us in Jesus the Christ. I conclude the Eucharistic Prayer, “Through him and with him and in him all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever”. Then the moment comes. AMEN, the people respond. In this AMEN we unite ourselves to Jesus’ life and love, or better, God unites us to Jesus’ life and love. We are no longer limited by time and space. We are in God’s ever present and in God’s ever now. Jesus living, loving, suffering, dying and rising are there and then 2000 years ago and Jesus living, loving, suffering, dying and rising are here and now. We are united to Jesus’ self-offering. The Holy Eucharist is first of all worship. In the Holy Eucharist Jesus’ worship becomes our worship. Jesus’ perfect adoration and praise become our adoration and

praise. Jesus’ perfect thanksgiving becomes our thanksgiving. Jesus’ perfect forgiveness and healing become our repentance. Jesus’ perfect intercession becomes our petition for all our needs and hopes and dreams. AMEN to that we say. AMEN to that. This is what makes the Holy Eucharist the Holy Eucharist. We offer to God not the sacrifice of lambs and sheep and bulls and grain and fruit as in days of old. We offer to God the perfect life and the perfect love of Jesus the Christ, and this is our perfect worship. This is the Holy Eucharist! With Jesus the Christ present among us, all that he was and all that he is, together, even together with the angels and multitudes of heaven and with all those who have gone before us and with all those who will come after us, we offer his life and his love to God as our perfect worship, and we offer ourselves, our souls and bodies to God through Christ and with Christ and in Christ. AMEN. Without the GREAT AMEN, without our uniting ourselves to Jesus’ life and love and suffering and death and rising, there is no offering, and there is no worship, and there is no Holy Eucharist. AMEN. SO BE IT. THE EVER THANKFUL YES to the work of God in Jesus the Christ. Our AMEN loosens the Spirit and power of God into our here and now, into our lives and into our world. One Holy Eucharist is more wonder-full and more power-full than any and all worship ever offered and any and all prayers ever said, or ever will be offered or ever will be said.

Then in Holy Communion Jesus the Christ, living, loving, suffering, dying and rising, really and truly present to us, or better, we really and truly present to him, touches us. He really and truly touches us, and stirs up within us the same Spirit who dwelled in him, and the Spirit renews us and raises us to Jesus’ way of living and to Jesus’ way of loving. In Holy Communion more than anywhere else the Spirit of God is transforming us into Jesus the Christ so that we can become everything we should be for ourselves, for others and for the world.

Let us celebrate every Eucharist as if it were our first Eucharist. Let us celebrate every Eucharist as if it were our last Eucharist. Let us celebrate every Eucharist as if it were our only Eucharist.

This year the pageant to commemorate the institution of the Holy Eucharist will be held here in Orvieto on Sunday, 6 June. Come and join us. You’ll be happy you did.

Fr. Russ +

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Awakening **YOUTH**



One of the most memorable activities was the Great Scavenger Hunt: we recorded videos of us representing scenes from the New and Old Testament, assaulted tourists and took random pictures, in order to win. On our second last night there was a gospel concert at the church where we were staying; it was full of people and we truly enjoyed singing famous songs such as "This Little Light of Mine" and "Amazing Grace". (I also invite you to visit the choir's site www.gospeldream.com)

This, incredibly, was my fifth year traveling around Europe with my fellow Christians and I'd like to thank our group leader Pia Johansen, our administrator/superhero Andrea D'Agosto and Father Michael, who has always been such an extraordinary presence in St. Paul's, for making this possible.

Youth Across Europe

Paris: 12-16 May 2010

At 6.30 pm we arrived at the American Church of Paris.

St. Paul's youth, a small but motivated group, attended the Youth Across Europe event with extreme enthusiasm.

After the warm welcoming by our old friends, we played games and I proudly say that our group won Swiss chocolate!

The following days we had Bible study in the morning, after "Nutella-baguette" breakfasts which were incredibly delightful. We also visited some famous sites in the city, such as the Triumph Arch, Louvre and the Eiffel Tower.

Although we meet once a year, I see the whole youth community as a family and I'm already packing mentally for next year's gathering that could be in Florence.

I invite you all to be more involved in our activities so that the youth group shall bloom faster. And it's fundamental, considering that youth can seriously make the difference. I promise you won't regret it!

Last but not least, I have to admit how much YAE has changed my life, my view of it and overall my way of living it.

Vanessa Sauls



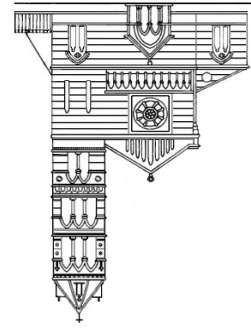
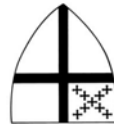
Baby Harrison's response to Uncle Michael's election as Bishop:

"Yeah Michael! Zzzzzzz!!!"

Did You Know...?

- **That** Bishop Pierre joined us on Africa Day for the festivities and to talk to the Vestry and leadership about the transition process?
- **That** in June the Board's architect David Yager will be visiting?
- **That** the last day you can visit the Pre-Raphaelite exhibition in Ravenna is 6th June?
- **That** Fr. Michael and Fr. Bill will be leading the clergy retreat in Palazzola from 31st May to 4th June?
- **That** 50 students from two universities came to visit the JNRC in May, one from Canada and one from the US?
- **That** renovation works will begin on the fire-damaged parish hall at the beginning of June?

St Paul's Within the Walls
Awakenings
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	<u>June 13</u>	<u>June 20</u>	<u>June 27</u>	<u>July 4</u>
Lectors	Evangeline Gayagay Ben Oduwole	Andrea D'Agosto Fred Kafeero	Domenico Venditti Rosemarie Valentine	Laura Dryjanska Mauro Battocchi
Prayers	Maria Grazia Rizzo	Vincenzo Racana	Dominic Ballayan	Pia Johansen
Ministers of Communion	Robina Kawungu Ben Oduwole	Dominic Ballayan Rosemarie Valentine	Maria Grazia Rizzo Ben Oduwole	Andrea D'Agosto Dominic Ballayan
Candle Bearers	Ben Oduwole Domenico Venditti	Dominic Ballayan Gabriele Linguanti	Maria Grazia Rizzo Domenico Venditti	Andrea D'Agosto Gabriele Linguanti
Crucifer	Rosemarie Valentine	Domenico Venditti	Dominic Ballayan	Ben Oduwole
Liturgical Assistant	Dominic Ballayan	Ben Oduwole	Dominic Ballayan	Ben Oduwole
Altar	Aurea Ayubo	Esther Gayagay	Pia Johansen	Aurea Ayubo
Ushers	Juliet Ilori, Marian Sesay & Victoria Onuawuchi			
Coffee Hour	Nancy Kiragu Sabeti Muhavi	Evangeline Gayagay Lea Tunac	Lourdes Selga Catherine Davis	Julie Kang-Owan Gilbert Peregrin
Welcome Table	Ben Oduwole	Adeline De-Ayes	Juliet Ilori	Manuela Sauls