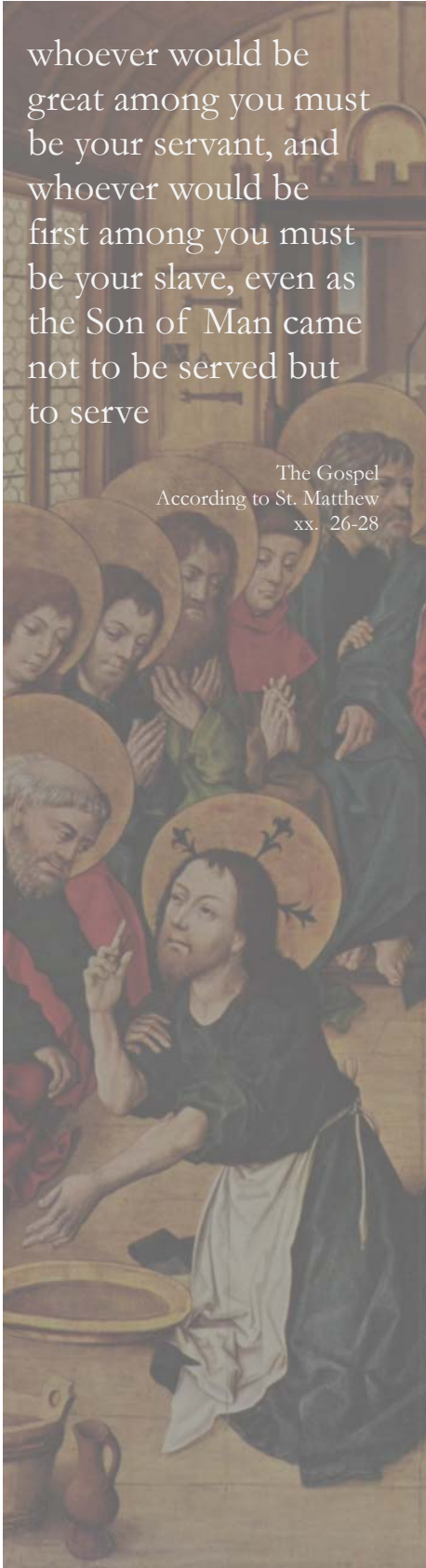


THE ORTHODOX ANGLICAN CHURCH

whoever would be
great among you must
be your servant, and
whoever would be
first among you must
be your slave, even as
the Son of Man came
not to be served but
to serve

The Gospel
According to St. Matthew
xx. 26-28



When I hear someone characterize Christianity as being full of hypocrites, I recognize it usually is an attempt to avoid a serious review of its claims, and the implications of those claims in their own life. There is certainly no shortage of hypocrisy, but as traditional Anglicans we may be less hypocritical than most. I say this with some trepidation, but when we gather together we don't typically point our finger at others and their sins. We point the finger of guilt at ourselves and "acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, ... provoking most justly [the] wrath and indignation [of Almighty God]."

I suspect that most Christians have been disappointed in the words or actions of a clergyman. When shepherds of the flock fall it can be disappointing. It can hinder the faith of some, and others it can make angry. I know this because I have experienced it. I have also witnessed the damage such actions have caused in others, even very recently. The damning grand jury report out of my home state of Pennsylvania, detailing the sexual abuse of over a thousand children by hundreds of Roman Catholic priests is scarring. Corruption, conspiracy, and negligence of church leaders in response to the criminal sexual abuse of the most innocent and vulnerable in their care is a fundamental betrayal of all that is decent. In this fallen world we comprehend that there will be hypocrites, and people will make mistakes, but in this case predators were enabled to victimize again and again because they were not stopped.

I cite this problem in the Roman Catholic Church not to be merely one more person piling on and condemning them. Instead, I want us to be vigilant. When a brother or sister sins the New Testament provides much instruction on what you are to do. If you haven't studied those passages in some time I would encourage you to do so. For issues of a very serious nature in which there is a refusal to repent, the canons of our church set forth a template on how to proceed. And finally, criminal acts must not be allowed to be covered up. If the bishops with oversight had reported accusations of criminal behavior to civil authorities there would be much less heartache and pain today.

Let us be vigilant, and be faithful in praying for our church leaders here and abroad. Let us be in prayer for all of those in the Roman Catholic Church that are angry, hurting, or shaken. And to my fellow clergymen, I would encourage you to wear your clericals now more than ever.

May God bless you,

‡ *Thomas E. Gordon*



Above: Dn Brad Davis, Dn Bill Barrow, Archbishop Gordon, Mr John Kincaid, and Mr John Williams at the Liturgical Seminar for Deacons.

Below: St Luke's Orthodox Anglican Church in Bowling Green Kentucky celebrated it's 10th Anniversary 8/26/2018.



Our Fall Clericus and the Ordination of Priests will take place on October 5-6. AD 2018 at St Andrew's Anglican Church in Richmond Virginia.



Good Shepherd, Myrtle Beach, SC, 7/29/2018



Above: Dn Shannon Ramey, Archbishop Gordon, Dn David Kapley, and Dn Bill Barrow at the Liturgical Seminar for Priests.

Prayer Book Vocabulary

Oblation- from the late Latin *oblatio*, (from *offerre*, *oblatum*, to offer), offering. e.g. "alms and oblations", "his one oblation of himself once offered."

Prevent- go before. e.g. "Prevent us O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favour."

Sabaoth- in Hebrew, "hosts" or "armies." e.g. "To thee Cherubim and Seraphim : continually do cry, Holy, Holy, Holy : Lord God of Sabaoth."

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