

# The Parish of St. Edmund, King and Martyr

Waterloo, Ontario  
www.stedmund.ca

## UPDATE

The Anglican Catholic Church of Canada / The Traditional Anglican Communion

May 19, 2009 - **St. Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury** - died 988

### June Schedule

June 7	Sunday	Trinity Sunday / The Octave Day of Pentecost
June 11	Thursday	Corpus Christi
June 13	Saturday	St. Barnabas the Apostle
June 14	Sunday	The First Sunday after Trinity
June 21	Sunday	The Second Sunday after Trinity
June 24	Wednesday	The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
June 28	Sunday	The Third Sunday after Trinity
June 29	Monday	St. Peter and St. Paul the Apostles

### Service Times and Location

- (1) All Services are held in the Chapel at Luther Village on the Park - 139 Father David Bauer Drive in Waterloo.
- (2) On Sundays, Matins is sung at 10:00 a.m. (The Litany on the first Sunday of the month), and the Holy Eucharist is celebrated (sung) at 10:30 a.m.
- (3) On weekdays - Major Holy Days - the Holy Eucharist is usually celebrated at 7:00 p.m., 10:00 a.m. on Saturday.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

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- 1) The key to the AIDS problem? See - **THE POPE, THE RABBI AND CONDOMS** - this page.
- 2) **Brugge - ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS** - page 3.
- 3) Report on **THE AFRICA APPEAL OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL: EASTER 2009** - page 4. The second part of the *Summary of the Law* (Prayer Book page 69) says "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." The Parish of St. Peter & St. Paul, Vancouver, BC, has taken this to heart and in cooperation with the Canada Revenue Agency (so that Canadian contributions to the Appeal are tax deductible), has arranged to support four of our fledgling churches in Africa. If you or your Parish are looking for a 'mission' to support, (and no amount is too small!) look no further! - please read this report and then contact Father Marriott for more information, and how to contribute (too many of us leave 'mission' to someone else!) - **604-551-4660**, or **drm274@hotmail.com**.
- 4) **What we did "mission-wise" - OUTREACH FOR 2008** - page 7.
- 5) An amusing piece - **RECALL NOTICE** - page 8.
- 6) Bell ringing - **LIFE IN ZIMBABWE** - page 9.
- 7) **BELIEVE IT OR NOT** - "Abortion is a blessing" - page 9.

## THE POPE, THE RABBI AND CONDOMS

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During his recent African trip, Pope Benedict XVI said that the distribution of condoms would not resolve the AIDS problem. The Pope has made it clear that abstinence is going to be the best way to fight AIDS.

Google "Pope" and "condoms," and you'll never run out of reading material excoriating the man for his observation and opinion. Many health advocates have gone ballistic in their criticism of his comments. They feel it is one thing to promote abstinence as part of the Catholic religion, but that it is an entirely different thing to preach it to the world.

On a person-by-person basis, wearing a condom does, of course, offer some protection against contracting various venereal diseases and (of course) unwanted pregnancy. It is also true that condoms sometimes break, slip, or are put on incorrectly (taut to the very end). Everything has its limitations . . . except abstinence.

I remember listening to a rabbi describing a situation that occurred to his kosher family. His 7 year old child was invited to a birthday party for a classmate at one of those fast-food hamburger establishments. When he came to pick up his child at the end of the party, one of the mothers - clearly annoyed - chastised him for the pain he caused his son. "All the children had hamburgers, chicken nuggets, french fries and dessert, and your little boy had to sit there and eat none of it. Imagine how terrible your son must have felt? How could you do this to him? Food is food. There is nothing sinful about food. What you are doing to him is just cruel." Just about

at the end of her tirade, his son bounded up to him, gave him a huge hug around the waist, and said "I had a great time. This was a fun party."

The woman blanched and walked away. The rabbi followed her and gently told her the following: animals will eat whatever is around, even if it will make them unhealthy. Humans are to rise above animals and become masters of their urges. Imagine my son in a dorm room where harmful illicit drugs are being passed about. We already know that peer pressure and urges will not force him to relent and give in to the impulse. Learning at his early age to control impulse and desire is not a harmful trait - many times, it might be a life-saving one. Look at him. He enjoyed the company of your son and the rest of the children without giving up his values. He looks happy and satisfied. We really need to bring up our children to be masters of their instincts, not slaves to them, don't you think? The woman scowled, but listened to him.

Yes, in any one instance, a condom could protect, but in the overall scheme of humanity, why do so many people wish to push away the enormous protective power of moral values?

When the Pope suggests that human beings are best off saving their sexual passion for the stability of a covenant of marriage, he is making a statement that the act of sexuality is elevated by the context, and ultimately protects both man and woman from a myriad of hurtful consequences from venereal diseases to unwanted pregnancies (complete with abortions, abandonment, single-parenthood, and

homelessness to name a few).

The naysayers all have one thing in common: they refuse to want, believe or accept that human beings can commit to a higher spiritual state of thought and behavior. The Pope believes in us more than that.

I am not Catholic, so this is no knee-jerk defense of my spiritual leader. The truth is that he is simply

correct and too many people don't want to hear it, because they want to live lives unfettered by rules. It is sad that they don't realize that this makes them a slave to animal impulse versus a master of human potential.

By **Dr. Laura Schlessinger** - March 25, 2009 - [www.catholiceducation.org](http://www.catholiceducation.org)

## ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

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### Brugge

Though Belgium is small it is a federal country.

The province of Wallonia has its own government. Its citizens are Walloons and speak French. In France they say that Belgians have a distinctive accent. One of its famous sons was Cesar Franck, the composer and organist. Another was the fictional character Hercules Poirot whom fans of Agatha Christie know well from who dun its and from TV. The saxophone was invented in Belgium by Adolph Sax.

The province of Flanders has its own government. Its citizens are Flemings and speak Flemish, which is actually Dutch. In Holland they say that Belgians speak a purer language than they themselves do, less contaminated by foreign words. In North America talk is of *French fries*. In Britain talk is of *chips*. But in Holland talk is of *Vlaamse frites*. In all countries fried potatoes are, alas, alleged to be bad for us especially if taken with much salt.

The two groups of Belgians don't necessarily get on well. The federal government sits in the federal capital, Brussels, where the king resides. Brussels is also the important administrative centre of the European Community and of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Brussels is therefore not only bilingual but also multi lingual, and is awash with bureaucrats from many countries. Antwerp is another large city with a port important for all Europe, and famous in the diamond trade.

Some places have both French and Flemish names. Such is medieval Bruges or Brugge, much loved by tourists and students of art. Another is Malines or Mechelen, the seat of the Cardinal Primate. Between 1921 and 1925 conversations were held in this city about Anglo Roman rapprochement, under the chairmanship of Archbishop Mercier, a man famous for his resistance to German occupation during the First World War, "gallant little Belgium".

Anglican participants were Viscount Halifax, a layman, Bishop Charles Gore CR, Bishop Walter Frere CR, Dr J B Kidd of Oxford university and Dean Armitage Robinson of Wells cathedral. Afterwards Lord Halifax published *The Conversations at Malines* and Fr Frere published *Recollections of Malines*. From this dialogue came the proverb, "United but not absorbed". More recently a Scotsman, Bernard Barlow, published a history of these talks which he called *A Brother Knocking at the Door*. It is incorrect to suggest that rapprochement is a novelty invented by Archbishop Hepworth. 252 bishops at the Lambeth Conference of 1920 issued an appeal for unity *To All Christian People* and addressed part of their appeal to what they called "the great Latin church of the West". Two Cardinal Archbishops of Malines, Suenens and Daneels, have visited Mirfield, one of whom celebrated a eucharist for unity at our high altar in choir, at which of course the Anglicans did not receive holy communion.

Belgium is famous for handmade lace and embroidery. Anglicans sometimes nip across the channel to see what bargains they can pick up for their parishes, especially if antique. Belgium is famous for chocolate. Above all, Belgium is famous for beer. If Holland makes four varieties, Belgium makes four thousand, some of them pretty potent. On a recent holiday in Brugge in company with a Dutch friend, we found a historic little pub in the narrowest of alleys where I had to admit about the selection on offer, "I haven't a clue where to begin. You choose something for me".

In the Middle Ages Brugge was the economic power house of Europe, with a great deal of democracy or people power. The stock exchange was founded in eleven something. Its building was erected in twelve something and is still standing, though I regret to report that it now serves as a museum about fried potatoes. Wherever you look you see medieval

buildings, while those which were put up during the Gothic revival of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century are such perfect imitations that you are easily taken in. In any medieval city there are many churches. The two largest in Brugge are the cathedral of Saint Salvator (Holy Saviour) and Onze Lieve Vrouwekerk (our Lady). Where there is money there are patrons to commission art, much of it intended for these very same churches. In the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries Brugge was the art capital of Europe. Since their work was for God, artists didn't necessarily sign their pictures. Two of the most famous painters were Jan van Eyck (died 1441) and Hans Memling (1479). In the church of our Lady is a small but famous Madonna and Child commissioned from Michelangelo by two parishioners of that church. But in the end most tourists, myself included, get art indigestion and feel, "Enough, enough, what I need now is more beer".

During the Second Crusade (1147) a nobleman was given by the Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem a drop of what the latter claimed was the Precious Blood of our Lord. The nobleman gave the drop to Brugge where a church was built in 1150 to house it. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century a second storey was added to the church. The drop is kept in a golden reliquary of stunning workmanship made in 1617. Inevitably, large numbers of people go to pray in the church every day. Each year on Ascension Day the drop is carried in procession round the city.

Inevitably, one reflects that this drop is unlikely to be

authentic. And then one realizes that historicity is not the issue in this place. The issue is the Saviour Himself. "Glory be to Jesus/Who in bitter pains/Poured for me the life blood/From His sacred veins" (blue Canadian hymnal 138). One is honoured to kneel in thanksgiving. And one goes on to recall some of the places in the Canadian Prayer Book where the Precious Blood is mentioned. For example:

"Whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy most Precious Blood" (Litany p. 30).

"Fed us with the most Precious Blood" (Communion p. 85).

"By His Precious Blood - shedding" (Long Exhortation p. 89).

"Did shed out of His most precious side both water and Blood" (Baptism p. 528).

One goes on to recall that in Jewish imagery blood is the symbol of life. People bleed to death. Jews could eat the bodies of animals but not the blood. Life belonged to God alone. "The life of all flesh is in the blood thereof" (*Leviticus* 17,14).

One gives thanks that by the Wine of the eucharist Jesus fills us with His very own life.

Brugge therefore turns out to be not only a kulture vulture and beery interlude but also something of a pilgrimage.

**+Robert Mercer CR**

## **THE AFRICA APPEAL OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL: EASTER 2009**

***Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked*** (Psalm 82.3-4)

Two things impacted the appeal fund: (1) the economic situation in Canada, and (2) the distribution of the minutes of the Diocesan Council of the ACCC from November 2008, which included incorrect information. Result: a major reduction in moneys received from across Canada, but increased support from the four lower mainland BC parishes. These changes mean that the fund is on a shoestring budget: not able to ensure new programme development, or completion of buildings without roofs. We have maintained fundamental programmes for the support of the church, and handled some emergencies.

**Zimbabwe:** adoption of US currency for daily transactions helped control inflation - but you need US cash to buy anything! The economy is stabilized somewhat, with some improvement in life for our

people there. Kevin Murinda has written, 'We are ok. There is peace at least except in a few farms. We continue to pray for the stability of the economy.' The situation remains fragile, needing prayer and continued intercessions. Pray also that as we progress with the appeal, we shall find the means to help this church to build on the land they have in Harare and Mutare.

**L'Église Catholique Anglicane du Congo:** We have done little more than continue to pay the \$100 per month salary for the three priests in Uvira, Fizi/Malinde and Baraka. The church in Baraka is still roofless: one 'emergency demand' was payment of compensation to families for the deaths of two children when a wall collapsed. Rentals are coming due soon: the International Anglican Fellowship (IAF) has in prior years paid for the rent

of Fr. Steven's home - we have taken care of the rent for the office and chapel: but this year, the IAF has nothing to spare, and cannot meet this payment: the Parish of St. Peter & St. Paul is ensuring that for this year, the annual rent of US\$1800 can be paid. Due to the economic situation in the USA, one of the Anglican Church in America parishes has been unable to pay college fees for two ordinands: their year of study has been rescued by the actions of one very generous donor in the USA (US\$2000).

Good news: the church in Congo will celebrate 5 years of existence in 2009. Invitations to the celebration are planned for a number of local and national dignitaries. The church started with 1 priest and 250 people who left the Canterbury communion: there are now 78 chapels in villages and urban centres: 13 parishes with 3,250 members, adults and children. The Vicar General is assisted by three ordained priests, 12 ordinands, and 78 lay catechists. With support of the IAF and the ACA Diocese of the North-East, the church has purchased land for each parish and chapel, excepting Holy Trinity parish in Bukavu where land prices are high.

Bad news: Fr. Ayule-Milenge writes that two militias are fighting in the 'Monts Mitumba' west of Lake Tanganyika. 4 parishes are affected (Saint Jacques, Saint Thomas, Saint Marc and Saint Joseph - 21 chapels and 1,047 members). Some are refugees in the parish of Saint Paul, Fizi. Others are in the forest with no assistance and have lost everything. The Catechist of Saint Jacques was seriously hurt.

These people need assistance and prayer: the 3 chapels that accommodate them cannot feed them.

**The Continuing Anglican Communion in Zambia** (CACZ) continues to build the church. Work continues on the church of St. John the Evangelist in Chawama: Fr. Andrew Mukuyamba has promised photographs of the progress being made. If we cannot send funds, we keep in touch by e-mail and Fr. Andrew reports to his people that we keep them in our prayers.

**Cameroon:** tragedy struck on Lent III, Eugénie Léma, wife of Fr. Alphonse Ndual, Vicar General, was killed in a car accident, as they returned from Mass. Two catechists were hospitalized. We had enough funding to take care of immediate needs, for his wife's funeral and for the hospital fees for the catechists. But this means that we are now concerned about money for the seminary, and for the rent of the chapel and office in Yaoundé - due in the next few months. At Easter, Fr. Alphonse suffered a 'home invasion': a catechist was injured and hospitalized: all Fr. Alphonse's furniture, including his bed, was stolen. The TAC Cameroon is fully dependent on the St. Peter & St. Paul Africa Appeal for funding, receiving no support from the IAF or TAC. We cannot help the parish church in Bachenga at present.

***'But he (the lawyer), willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?'***  
(Luke 10.29)

In Christ,  
**Fr. David Marriott**

## FROM HERE AND THERE

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### 1) Under the shadow of thy wings

An article which appeared in National Geographic several years ago provided a penetrating picture of God's Wings.

"After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he gently struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to

abandon her babies. Then the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body. The mother had remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live."

"With His shoulders will He overshadow thee, and under His wings shalt thou have hope." (Psalm 90:4)

Thanks to **The Reverend Robert S.H. Mansfield, SSC**

2) Thinking about our **rapprochement with Rome**, Father Whitney's 'tribute' to Bishop Mercer came to mind - here's the relevant part: . . . On the way back from St Andrews, I asked the Bishop a question which interested me from several standpoints: the answer to the question itself and the attitude of the Bishop. So I tried the question: "Bishop Mercer,

what do you see as the future of the ACCC?" There was a brief pause and then: "It has no future." "How do you mean that?" I shot back. "Our Church is like the extra bed in the garden. The main borders get crowded but there are plants that shouldn't be lost, so you heel them in in the spare bed until the time comes when you can restore them to their rightful places." It was a marvellous answer. **The Reverend Lee Whitney**, Kierstead Mountain, New Brunswick (From the May, 2007 UPDATE)

3) [www.newliturgicalmovement.org](http://www.newliturgicalmovement.org) - one of my favourite sites!



**St. Victor's, West Hollywood, California**

4) Christian denominations have to unite; how can they realistically do so except under **the presidency of the Bishop of Rome**? Pope Benedict XVI has a vision of today's denominations retaining their gifts and insights, of today's denominations bringing their treasures into a united whole.

5) Some good news for a change - **Anti-Israel boycott motion defeated by Co-op members** - Vancouver, BC - May 1, 2009 - *B'nai Brith Canada* (active in Canada since 1875 as the Jewish community's foremost human rights agency) has applauded the membership of the *Mountain Equipment Co-op* [a clothing, hiking equipment co-op] for voting down a proposed resolution that sought to boycott Israeli products.

"We applaud the resolve and determination by *Mountain Equipment Co-op* members whose vote yesterday carried the day to defeat an anti-Israel resolution to boycott Israeli products," said Frank Dimant, *B'nai Brith Canada's* Executive Vice President. "We are pleased that these members rightly recognized that this slanderous resolution at its core was about delegitimizing the Jewish State.

"The anti-Israel boycott campaign is part and parcel of an international propagandist effort aimed at vilifying Israel. Here in Canada, this destructive campaign is being spearheaded at the union level, with its reach extending to college and university campuses. The targeting of the *Mountain Equipment Co-op* is the latest manifestation of this campaign of hate.

"We take this opportunity to applaud the *Mountain Equipment Co-op* leadership for its responsible handling of this situation and for its decision to continue its policy of ethical sourcing to all countries that meet its stringent criteria - including Israel." From [news@jewishcanada.ca](mailto:news@jewishcanada.ca)

6) **Cheaster** (n.) A person who attends their place of worship only on major holidays, such as Christmas and Easter.

7) **Catholic Social Teaching** largely rests on the following six principles:

- i) Every human person possesses a basic dignity that comes from God.
- ii) Each person has rights and responsibilities that flow from his or her God-given dignity.
- iii) Each person has been called to support the family, to form community and to participate in the life of society.
- iv) Work is part of the human condition; there is a dignity to work, and workers have rights.
- v) In all cases, people are to be guided by a fundamental obligation for the poor and vulnerable.
- vi) As a goal, Catholics are to work for solidarity with the human family in search for world peace, global development, environmental protection, and safeguarding international human rights.

*USCC Administrative Board*, 1991 - Thanks to **The Reverend Raymond Ball**

8) Washington, DC (LifeNews.com) - posted May 4, 2009 - Last week, supermodel and author **Kathy Ireland** won kudos from the pro-life community for speaking out in a new interview about her pro-life views on abortion. Here is what she had to tell *Fox News*:

"My entire life I was pro-choice - who was I to tell another woman what she could or couldn't do with her body? But when I was 18, I became a Christian and I dove into the medical books, I dove into science. What I read was astounding and I learned that at the moment of conception a new life comes into being. The complete genetic blueprint is there, the DNA is determined, the blood type is determined, the sex is determined,

the unique set of fingerprints that nobody has had or ever will have is already there.

"I called *Planned Parenthood* and begged them to give me their best argument and all they could come up with that it is really just a clump of cells and if you get it early enough it doesn't even look like a baby. Well, we're all clumps of cells and the unborn does not look like a baby the same way the baby does not look like a teenager, a teenager does not look like a senior citizen. That unborn baby looks exactly the way human beings are supposed to look at that stage of development. It doesn't suddenly become a human being at a certain point in time. I've also asked leading scientists across our country to please show me

some shred of evidence that the unborn is not a human being. I didn't want to be pro-life, but this is not a woman's rights issue but a human rights issue. If I see someone abusing a child I am going to stand up against that, and that's how I feel about abortion. Women are not given all the facts, they're told it is a harmless procedure and now it has turned into such a political football."

9) If there is **renewed interest in Christianity** in Western Europe, it is perhaps because a continent that has driven itself to the brink of voluntary self-extinction through the nihilism of leftist secular humanism is finally seeing that it must change direction. **John Tors**

## OUTREACH FOR 2008

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As of 2009, St. Edmund's has dedicated 30% of its income to fund local charities as well as to provide support for the St. Peter and St. Paul Africa Appeal. The local charities that received our support for the year 2008 included Marillac Place (\$1,000.), Mary's Place (\$1,000.), Women's Crisis Services (\$500.), R.O.O.F. - Reaching Our Outdoor Friends (\$500.), and the Food Bank (approximately 500 pounds).

**Marillac Place** was named for Louise de Marillac, a follower of St. Vincent de Paul, who served the sick and the poor in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Marillac Place offers temporary housing to young, independent mothers in need of support. They provide basic life skills training, childcare guidance, and educational opportunities in an attempt to give these mothers the tools to become effective parents and self-supporting, responsible members of the community.

**Mary's Place** is a YWCA Emergency Shelter for homeless women and single fathers with their children, as well as two-parent families. They provide crisis intervention and support as well as basic necessities such as food, clothing and toiletries. In addition, they partner with other agencies to provide further opportunities for their residents.

**Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region** operates two shelters for abused women and their children: Anselma House in Kitchener and Haven House in Cambridge. In addition to shelter, they provide education and outreach services to connect the women with other local agencies providing support. They also strive to empower each woman to make her own choices and develop new family patterns based on trust and openness, and free from

abuse.

**R.O.O.F. (Reaching Our Outdoor Friends)** is an organization committed to providing for the safety, support, and overall well-being of homeless youth and youth at risk, from 12 to 25 years of age, in the Waterloo Region. They provide resources and services that allow them to make positive choices to end the cycle of homelessness. These include such things as skills training, counselling, family mediation, food, clothing, access to medical care and prescription funding, recreational opportunities and public education on homelessness.

**The Food Bank of Waterloo Region** obtains and distributes approximately three million pounds of emergency food each year. Food is acquired from residents and the food industry and distributed to member agencies and programs, shelters and residences, meal and hamper programs, and residents.

**The Africa Appeal:** Through the efforts of the Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul, a TAC community in Vancouver, B.C. (see related article elsewhere in this UPDATE), we contributed \$9,000 in 2008 toward support for four young TAC churches in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Cameroon, and Congo. The Africa Appeal is committed to efforts central to the life of the church: training of ordinands and catechists, financial support for living expenses for clergy, and provision of adequate church buildings.

In addition, through the generosity of our own Chloe and Cassidy Speek, four boxes of children's clothes were donated to an orphanage in Zambia.

By **Wendy Saleh**

## RECALL NOTICE

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The Maker of all human beings (GOD) is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart.

This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code-named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed "Subsequential Internal Non-morality," or more commonly known as S.I.N., as it is primarily expressed.

Some other symptoms include:

1. Loss of direction
2. Foul vocal emissions
3. Amnesia of origin
4. Lack of peace and joy
5. Selfish or violent behavior
6. Depression or confusion in the mental component
7. Fearfulness
8. Idolatry
9. Rebellion

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this defect.

The Repair Technician, Jesus, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required.

The number to call for repair in all areas is: P-R-A-Y-E-R. Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure. Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component.

No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self control

Please see the operating manual, the B.I.B.L.E. (Believers' Instruction Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

**WARNING:** Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on Jesus.

**DANGER:** The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility.

Thank you for your attention!

GOD

P.S. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact the Father any time by "Knee mail".

Thanks to **Jeff Speek**

## LIFE IN ZIMBABWE

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### **News from Harare Cathedral**

I am the Tower Captain at Harare Cathedral and would be glad if you would give publicity to this report of what has happened to my Deputy, an African. I am writing with his approval, but think it wise not to publish his name.

The background, which has had a lot of publicity in the National Press as well as the *Church Times*, is that in August 2007, the then Bishop, Nolbert Kunonga, decided without due authority to remove

the Diocese of Harare from the Province of Central Africa, which comprises Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The result of this was that Kunonga was sacked and later excommunicated, by the then acting Dean of the Province. A retired Bishop, Sebastian Bakare, was appointed to act in his place.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008, Bishop Bakare was installed at the Sports Stadium. This venue was chosen because the numbers of people who wanted to



attend would have overwhelmed the Cathedral. It was planned that he should subsequently be enthroned in the Cathedral. As February 3<sup>rd</sup> was also the AGM weekend of the Zimbabwe Guild of Bell Ringers, a team of ringers was waiting to ring for the arrival of the new Bishop. This was not to be as the former Bishop, Kunonga, together with his wife and a group of thugs, locked the Cathedral, invading the tower and driving out the ringers. The Cathedral has remained locked ever since. The bells, including the tenor, had to be left up, and some ringers did not have time to collect their things. Amongst these was the Deputy Tower Captain, who left his jacket. In the pocket was his *Ringing World* diary, his ID, and US\$250, which he had managed to get hold of for a new Passport. He is a cross border trader, for whom these documents are essential.

In April he decided to try and ask for these documents to be returned. He approached one of the Kunonga priests still attached to the Cathedral, who passed him on to others, all of whom put him off with excuses, such as we do not have the keys to the tower. (This was untrue as Mrs. Kunonga had taken the keys on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, and they had in fact already broken in to the tower and removed all the ringing documents.) Finally on the fourth or fifth attempt they said he could come in. He was sat down on a concrete seat, and four thugs appeared. He was then questioned with the ex Bishop watching, being asked why he had a diary from

England, why he was a ringer, and what was his relationship to Ruth Hutchinson, who was known to support Bishop Bakare. Then they started to hit him and kick him after he had been knocked to the ground. They threatened to kill him if he ever came near the Cathedral again, or saw me. When they let him go he managed to stagger to report to the police, who so far have taken no action.

This young man spent the next two weeks at home in bed, unable to see with his left eye and convinced he was going to be blind. He had multiple bruising and a grossly swollen hand which had been trodden on. His wife sold their refrigerator in order to have money to go to a doctor about his eyes. The doctor charged very little and with this medical care his sight is now back to normal. But he has been unable to carry on his business for three months.

### **Ruth Hutchison**

Tower Captain Harare Cathedral  
Zimbabwe

From *The Ringing World* - July 25, 2008 (*It is the international magazine of those (mostly Anglican and English though not exclusively so) who enjoy ringing peals of church bells, Triple Bob Majors, Nine Taylors, and so on. There are only two such sets of bells in Zimbabwe, one of them at the Cathedral of St Mary & All Saints in Harare, the capital city. +RM CR*)

## **BELIEVE IT OR NOT!**

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### **From the New President of Episcopal Divinity School: "Abortion is a Blessing"**

The announcement on Monday, March 30 that The Rev. Dr. Katherine Ragsdale was appointed as the sixth and newest president of Episcopal Divinity School (EDS) in Cambridge, MA, has orthodox and pro-life Episcopalians shaking their heads.

Ragsdale, who is an outspoken advocate of abortion and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender) rights, was the unanimous choice of the Board of Trustees and will begin her duties on July 1, 2009.

In addition to the press release and public letter concerning the appointment, the EDS website also has a link to Rev. Ragsdale's sermon blog. There, the first sermon is entitled, "Our Work is Not Done." The content has been cited and circulated on a large number of pro-life and conservative Christian blogs. An excerpt follows:

"When a woman wants a child but can't afford one because she hasn't the education necessary for a sustainable job, or access to health care, or day care, or adequate food, it is the abysmal priorities of our nation, the lack of social supports, the absence of justice that are the tragedies; the abortion is a blessing.

"And when a woman becomes pregnant within a loving, supportive, respectful relationship; has every option open to her; decides she does not wish to bear a child; and has access to a safe, affordable abortion - there is not a tragedy in sight - only blessing. The ability to enjoy God's good gift of sexuality without compromising one's education, life's work, or ability to put to use God's gifts and call is simply blessing.

"These are the two things I want you, please, to remember - abortion is a blessing and our work is

not done. Let me hear you say it: abortion is a blessing and our work is not done. Abortion is a blessing and our work is not done. Abortion is a blessing and our work is not done."

Currently, Ragsdale serves as Rector of St. David's Episcopal Church in Pepperell, MA. She is also President and Executive Director of Political Research Associates, that describes itself as "a progressive think tank devoted to supporting movements that are building a more just and inclusive democratic society."

The organization's website also indicates that one of their missions is to "expose movements, institutions, and ideologies that undermine human rights," particularly regarding the Christian and political right.

She has previously served on the boards of NARAL, Pro-Choice America and the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

Ragsdale, who is openly gay, was profiled by Rich Barlow of the *Boston Globe* in their March 5 edition. During that interview she stated, "I've experienced far more resistance and discrimination in the progressive community for being a Christian than I do in the Christian community for being a lesbian."

In his article, Barlow also stated that "she recalled that three women, spying her collar, once tried to keep her out of a meeting room for the National Abortion Rights Action League - even though she was a member of the league's board."

EDS trustee, The Rt. Rev. M. Thomas Shaw stated in a press release, "I am thrilled with the appointment of Katharine Ragsdale as the president and dean of EDS. She brings a wealth of small

parish ministry to her new position and it is critical that the new president and dean be able to train and form parish priests for the growth of progressive parishes across the country. She brings a wealth of experience, talent and creativity to this new position."

In her acceptance of the position, Ragsdale said, "EDS' commitment to the full range of diversity and not merely to inclusion but to transformation is at the heart of my own values and commitments. I believe that EDS grounds that work in the context of deep, thorough, nuanced theological education. The thought of leading and supporting an organization doing cutting edge theology and preparing lay and ordained leadership to serve God in the church and the world is very exciting."

Episcopal Divinity School, formed in 1974 with the merger of Philadelphia Divinity School (founded in 1857) and the Episcopal Theological School (founded in 1867), offers doctor of ministry and master's degrees, as well as certificates in theological studies. Located on an eight-acre campus just a few blocks from Harvard Yard, EDS is a member of the Boston Theological Institute, a consortium of nine theological schools, seminaries, and departments of religion.

By **Randy Sly** - *Catholic Online* - April 2, 2009 (*Randy Sly is the Associate Editor of Catholic Online. A former Archbishop of the Charismatic Episcopal Church, he and his wife Sandy entered into the full communion of the Catholic church three years ago. His interest in and coverage of the challenges facing the Episcopal church is rooted in his deep concern for all faithful Christians within that community.*)

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