

September 6, 2018

**“Our mission is to celebrate God’s transforming Love in Jesus, by following where Jesus’ Love is calling us to serve the community”**

There will be one service  
On Sunday, September 9

—9 am Holy Eucharist.

—10:15 Coffee Hour

— Fr Roy Cole will be  
our Celebrant; Deacon  
Bill Baker the Preacher

#### Inside this issue:

— Deacon Bill’s path  
to the priesthood

—Confirmation Course  
at St Mary’s flyer

—Congregational De-  
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held at Ascension flyer

—Meetings, Events and  
Church Service sched-  
ules for the next few  
weeks

— Richmond Episco-  
pal Clergy Rota for  
September

## Ascension This Week

### My Vocation, Part I Deacon Bill Baker



In 10 days I will be ordained a priest! This is part of my vocation. Since arriving at Church of the Ascension, a few people asked me how or when I knew I felt called to the priesthood. Since my ordination looms, I want to share with all of you, over the next couple of weeks, part of this story.

I grew up in the Roman Catholic Church. My family attended a church around the corner from our home in Gering, Nebraska, population 7000. I spent hours every week at my home parish when I was a child. I sang in the choir, attended and taught Sunday School, participated in youth group activities and served on the altar as an acolyte--we called them altar boys.

In 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, I wanted to attend a training for new acolytes. All 4<sup>th</sup> graders who wanted to serve on the altar were required to attend a parish-wide training, which lasted all day. My family already had another commitment on that day. The Head of the acolytes told me if I could not attend the training, I would have to wait until the next year to serve on the altar. A year is a long time in the life of a 9 year-old.

Even as a 4<sup>th</sup> grader I thought outside of the box. My mother, brother and I hatched a plan. We asked the priest if my older brother and I attended the daily mass (at 6:00am) and he trained me for a week, could I serve on the altar. The priest agreed with our plan. My brother and I attended the morning mass for a week and he trained me as an acolyte.

I enjoyed the morning services so much that after the week of required training, almost every day from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I attended morning mass and served on the altar. You might have guessed that those services were small. Most mornings, the priest, 8-10 women of the church and I attended morning mass. I loved those Eucharistic services. They shaped into who I am in so many ways. ... (next page)

One of my favorite parts of the mass was the passing of the peace. Because we were such a small group, everyone could greet everyone else. For me, that meant 10 hugs first thing in the morning. And because of my age, most of the women were impressed that I went to church. They showered me with praise and love.

One morning during the passing of peace, a woman named Jobita Ramirez took me aside. Jobita was a small woman—a grandmother of one of my classmates. She took my small hands into her even smaller hands and looked me in the eyes. Then she said to me, “You are special. You are going to be a priest.” I remember that I said yes. As 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grader, I heard what she said and I knew that somewhere in my heart or my spirit, I agreed to serve God in the Church.

I am a long way from being that boy or even attending the Roman Catholic Church. However, in just over a week, when I step onto the altar and the Bishop lays hands on me, I will carry a whole history with me. Part of what I carry are my memories from being a Roman Catholic, serving on the altar and the voice of Jobita. But there is a lot more to my story.....

Blessings,  
Deacon Bill

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### **Save the Date: Church Services, instruction, meetings, events for the next few weeks --**

**Sunday, September 9:** The six-week **Confirmation Course at St Mary's** begins. See flyer. And a follow-up meeting of **Men's Ministry Group at St John's** 11:30AM.

Deacon Bill will be ordained a priest on **Saturday, September 15, 2018.**

A Church Picnic will be held on **Sunday, September 16th**, in honor of Deacon Bill's installation after a 10:00 mass. Please bring a dish or a dessert.

**Saturday, September 22:** Fund-raising dinner at St Paul's.

**Sunday, September 23:** Ascension resumes the schedule of 8AM and 10AM services.

**Saturday, September 29: 4PM to 9PM:** 175th Anniversary at St John's.

**Sunday, September 30:** Blessing of the Animals for St Francis Day at Ascension, 9AM.

**Sunday, October 7:** Annual Oktoberfest at Ascension beginning 5PM. Full meal with beverages. Tickets \$30. Doors open at 4:30PM.

**Saturday, October 20:** Congregational Development Workshop, held at Ascension. 9AM—1PM. See flyer.

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**“Brother, Give Us A Word.”** Every day, on the SSJE website, one of the brothers gives a word that we might use as a focus in our prayer and meditation. **“Ministry”**. *“God does not need our prayers in order to call others to ministry, but I believe that God wants our prayers so that we may be aware of the needs of the Church and the world – and be aware of the role of every one of us to help guide, nurture, and encourage those whom we know who are responding to God’s call.”*— *Br. David Allen, [SSJE](#)* You can see his full page of comments on this word on [SSJE.org](#).

~ Save the date and register now! ~

## I Want My Church to Grow: What is Congregational Development?

Saturday, October 20, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

*(Check-in & breakfast opens at 8:00 a.m.)*

Church of the Ascension

1 Kingsley Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314

**This special training event is for:**

- ✓ Laypeople and clergy who want to grow a vital church
- ✓ Those who want to join God in doing a new thing
- ✓ Leadership teams working on evangelism, church growth, spiritual development

**Workshops**

- ❖ Evangelism 101: Using Community Organizing Tools for Church Growth
- ❖ We Need More Money: Best Practices for Your Stewardship Campaign

Plenary: *“What is Congregational Development?”* — *The Rev. Canon Altagracia Pérez-Bullard, PhD,*  
*Canon for Congregational Vitality*

**Cost: 1-2 people: \$10 each**

**Group rate: 3 or more \$25** *We encourage congregations to bring teams of 3 or more people!*

**Continental breakfast and snacks provided**

To register, mail in your name, payment, and number of people attending to: The Church of the Ascension, 1 Kingsley Ave., Staten Island, NY 10314, Attn: Beth Brown. Checks payable to Church of the Ascension.

**Questions?**

The Rev. Canon Altagracia Pérez-Bullard, PhD, Canon for Congregational Vitality

212-316-7433 or [aperez-bullard@dioceseny.org](mailto:aperez-bullard@dioceseny.org)

Or contact Beth Brown: 908-672-0765

### What is Congregational Vitality in the Diocese of New York?

- Latinx Ministry
- Consulting with Congregations
- Renewal Works (2018)
- Congregational Development Commission
  - Developing/Identifying/Providing Resources [Resourcing]
  - Diocesan Training Events [Equipping Leaders]
  - Planting and redeveloping churches [(re)Development]
  - Grant Programs



The  
Episcopal Diocese  
of New York

# THE JESUS MOVEMENT

*Justice • Communion • Community*



A 6 week confirmation course beginning on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> open to all Middle and High Schoolers that will equip young members of Christ's body to live out the gospel of radical Love in their day to day lives. We will cover the basic teachings and creeds of The Episcopal Church with a focus on the Baptismal Covenant found in the Book of Common Prayer and how it calls us to justice and compassion as a Eucharistic community.

**SEPTEMBER 2018 ~ St. Mary's Episcopal Church ~ Sundays 8:45 – 9:30 am.**

September Ascension	September St. John's
2 Mother DeLellis (9AM)	2 Fr. Cole and Deacon Bill Baker
9 Fr. Cole and Deacon Bill Baker	9 Fr. Mark Brown
16 Fr. Bill Baker and Fr. Cole	16 Fr. Mark Brown
23 Fr. Bill Baker (8AM) and Mother DeLellis (10AM)	23 Fr. Cole (8AM) and Fr Bill Baker (10AM)
(Saturday – no service)	29 <sup>th</sup> 175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Bishop Glasspool Celebrant and Preacher
30 Fr. Bill Baker (8AM & 10AM)	30 Fr. Cole and Deacon Geri Swanson (175 Anniversary Weekend)

1 Kingsley Ave, Staten Island, NY 718.442.4187

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Visit us on the web at  
<http://www.ascensionsi.org/>