



The Missionary Diocese of All Saints

Anglican Church in North America



The Right Reverend William H. Ilgenfritz, Bishop
The Right Reverend Richard W. Lipka, Suffragan

Missionary Diocese of All Saints 2013 Diocesan Synod

September 15, 2013

On July 19, 2013, the Missionary Diocese of All Saints (MDAS) Diocesan Synod assembled at Our Lady of the Snows, Bellville, Illinois.

At 1:45pm, Bp. William Ilgenfritz opened the assembly. He appointed Fr. Jon Mark Lipka secretary for the 2013 Synod. Fr. Larry Hill stated that minutes for the 2012 Synod had been sent electronically, and asked if there was any discussion. Fr. Seth Brooker moved that the minutes be accepted as submitted; Fr. Geoffrey Boland seconded; all were in favor, none opposed.

Bp. Ilgenfritz thanked all attendees for their presence. He requested the Synod's prayers for Fr. Tim Doublestein and his family, who had to leave to care for his wife. He requested prayers for Bp. Rick Painter, who is suffering from extremely limited mobility. He noted that Bp. Ken Myers could not be present due to travel out of country. He greeted those present, including new members, first-time attendees, and seminarians.

Bp. Ilgenfritz addressed the assembly. Following the last Synod (as noted in the minutes), the MDAS was been granted diocesan status in the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) at the 2013 Provincial Council meeting of the ACNA at Nashotah House, Wisconsin. The MDAS was one of only three dioceses with 100% annual reporting.

Bp. Ilgenfritz reported that the ANCA College of Bishops (CoB) met and received the report of Commission on Holy Orders, which will address not only whether women can be ordained, but the nature of Holy Orders from Scripture, Tradition, and reason. The Commission's first step was to gather the committee and establish the ground rules for the study; they are commencing with the second step. There is no fixed time by which this step will be done. Bp. Ilgenfritz assured the assembly that MDAS will never have ordain women in Holy Order or receive them as ordained ministers. He said that he has friends in the CoB and does not intend to abandon them the way that TEC did him. Bp. Ilgenfritz noted that blogs do not always have the truth concerning these issues, and a frequently in error or present the truth without charity.

Bp. Ilgenfritz asked the assembly to pray about the sustainability of MDAS. The Diocesan budget is \$45,000, which is working at present but leaves nothing for additions missions for support of a replacement. His goal is to ensure that MDAS's future is not in question. He stated that the MDAS will never require anything more than the Biblical tithe, but asked that all give as they have been blessed. MDAS offerings for the Oklahoma tornado was \$4,200, which was 5% of the total raised by ACNA, and one parish paid for a victim's funeral.

Bp. Ilgenfritz reminded the assembly to share with him their joys and problems. He desires to help but cannot do so if he's not informed. Bp. Ilgenfritz shared his concern that he was not made aware in advance that three small churches intended to close. This is irregular and does not pastorally care for the flock.

Bp. Ilgenfritz reminded the clergy that marriages must be between baptized Christians, man and woman. Of one or both persons have been divorced, they must petition the Bishop. This is as grave a matter as Holy Orders and human sexuality, and we need to protect the institution of marriage. Bp. Ilgenfritz stated, due to changes in state laws that support a disordered view of sexuality, said that he is no longer signing state marriage licenses, and is having couples receive civil marriage before coming to the altar; but he will not force clergy to take one position or the other. Bp. Fred Fick and Fr. Tom Vece were asked to work on updating our diocesan marriage policy.

Bp. Ilgenfritz encouraged the assembly to foster relationships with other local ACNA groups, to find mutual support and fellowship, and to encourage them in Catholic faith and order.

Bp. Ilgenfritz answered questions from the assembly.

Q. With marriage license received early, how has Bishop counseled on consummation? (I think the questions was: If the civil and sacramental marriage ceremonies are separated (with the civil taking place first) how has the Bishop counseled on consummation?

A. Couples should continue to be counseled to consummate the marriage only after the sacramental union.

Q. Will the Commission on Holy Orders share the study and will other groups have input?

A. The study will be shared with ecumenical partners, including Polish National Catholic Church and Missouri Synod Lutherans.

Q. How should previously decided annulments handled?

A. These also must be referred to the Bishop for decision, since other bodies do not have the same requirements as ACNA and MDAS.

Q. What is the composition of the Committee on Holy Orders?

A. Supporters of traditional orders and of women's ordination, both men and women, are on the Committee. Mrs. Alayne Boland noted that MDAS is not the only diocese supporting traditional view of Holy Orders: only 6 of 28 dioceses in ACNA practice women's ordination.

Q. How should we address remarried people asking for a blessing?

A. Prayer on an anniversary for the couple, without the context or confusion of blessing of a civil union, is acceptable. Bp. Ilgenfritz asked Bp. Fred Fick and Fr. Vece to draft a proposal for a consistent policy for MDAS.

Q. How should we counsel those seeking marriage who may be averse to state licensure?

A. State license needs to be shown to the minister prior to the service, to avoid legal issues.

Q. What should we do if couples are civilly but not sacramentally married?

A. It is not our intent to run around and police this legalistically; Bp. Lipka inquires into this for all new members.

Fr. Hill stated that Fr. Terry Moore and Mrs. Lora Vece finished terms on the MDAS Council. Fr. Brooker and Mrs. Nancy Moore complete their terms in 2014, and Fr. Jim Hutchison and Dr. Paula Rose complete their terms in 2015. Fr. Moore is willing to continue for another term, but Mrs. Vece has respectfully declined another term. Bp. Lipka moved to close nominations for the clergy seat and reelect Fr. Moore; the move was seconded; all in favor, none opposed. Fr. Brooker nominated Dorothea Moebius. Fr. Danny Hart moved to close nominations for the lay seat and elect the sole nominee; the move was seconded; all in favor, none opposed.

Fr. Hill stated that ACNA Provincial Assembly will be held in June 2014 in Latrobe, PA. MDAS can send two clergy, two lay, and one youth delegate; no travel stipend is available. Mrs. Boland asked whether the youth delegate can be voted *in absentia*, as no youth are present; Bp. Ilgenfritz said that this will be considered. Fr. Hill requested nominations for clergy delegates. Fr. Vece nominated Fr. Jonathan Cook. Fr. Hart nominated himself. David nominated Fr. Boland. Mrs. Lois-Jean Ilgenfritz nominated Fr. Lipka. Mrs. Boland moved to close clergy nominations; the move was seconded; no further discussion. Fr. Hill requested nominations for lay delegates. Fr. Brooker nominated Mrs. Ilgenfritz. Fr. Hart nominated Mrs. Boland. Bp. Lipka nominated Mrs. Leann Mitchell. Fr. David Mathus nominated Lorenzo Thomas. Fr. Hakpon nominated Mr. John Dixon. Bp. Lipka moved to close lay nominations; the move was seconded; no discussion. Mrs. Boland stated that they had potential youth delegate, Miss Michelle Alexander. Mrs. Susan Lipka moved that the youth delegate nominations be closed and that, subject to her acceptance, Miss Alexander be elected; the move was seconded; by acclamation all in favor, none opposed. Bp. Ilgenfritz appointed Mrs. Vece and Mrs. Tammi Rainey to tally ballots.

Fr. Hill noted that, as part of MDAS's acceptance as a full diocese in ACNA, we are required to update our Canons concerning insurance (Title 1, Canon 4, Section 4); this was reviewed and approved by MDAS's Bishop's Council. The proposed revision changes section 4 to read as follows: "*Every parish shall be established in accordance with the laws of the State or jurisdiction where situated, shall handle its own finances, and shall carry appropriate insurance coverage for general liability, officers and directors liability, financial personnel bonding, and fire and other insurance for damage to improved real property.*" Mrs. GG Michaels moved to approve the revision; the move was seconded; all were in favor, none opposed.

At 3:15pm, Bp. Ilgenfritz suspended the Synod to allow ballots to be tallied. At 3:45 Bp. Ilgenfritz reconvened the Synod. MDAS's delegates to the ACNA Provincial Assembly were Fr. Boland, Fr. Lipka, Mrs. Ilgenfritz, and Mrs. Boland.

Bp. Lipka said that Tres Arroyos, part of the Anglican 4th Day, is holding its 6th weekend March 27–30, 2014 in Lewes, DE. Both clergy and laity are welcome to attend, and it has been a life changing moment for many participants. The Society of Franciscan Servants of Jesus has achieved full canonical status as a religious society. Fr. Mathus said that Holy Cross (Ravenna, OH) has established a relationship with a sister group in Uganda, and anyone desiring to support this mission may mail a check to Holy Cross noting that it's for "Uganda."

Fr. Hill presented the Canon to the Ordinary's report. Four new parishes have been received, one church was planted, two parishes were transferred to other dioceses, and three parishes were closed. There was one ordination, Dcn. Olusegun Oladapo. Nine clergy were received, four were transferred to other jurisdictions, one retired, and one died. There are two candidates for Holy Orders, two postulants, and four aspirants. Fr. Hill requested that all changes in contact information be forwarded to him so that the directory can be kept updated. He reminded all clergy that potential moves need to be discussed with the Bishop.

Bp. Ilgenfritz presented MDAS's statement for 2012 and budget for 2013; 2012 ended approximately \$2,000 in the red, but savings were able to cover this. Fr. Hart moved to accept the budget; Fr. Boland seconded; there was no discussion; all in favor, none opposed.

Bp. Lipka inquired of the Synod whether meeting following the Forward in Faith North America (FiFNA) assembly was suitable. The assembly had consensus to meet following FiFNA in 2014. Fr. Cook asked whether a Clergy-Wives retreat was planned; Bp. Lipka will explore options. Fr. Cook moved to close the Synod; the move was seconded; all in favor, none opposed.

At 5:30pm Bp. Ilgenfritz closed in prayer and adjourned the Synod.

Respectfully submitted,
Fr. Jon Mark Lipka