



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World by Knowing, Loving and Serving God.



RETREAT IN MALAWI

This past month I had the pleasure to travel to our sister diocese of Northern Malawi with my good friend and our Cathedral Dean, the Very Rev. Mark Polley to lead the clergy in their annual retreat.

The theme we chose for the week was The Parables of Jesus with nine teaching sessions over three days. We began by discussing the importance of storytelling in Jesus's ministry and how the parables convey a sense of urgency, how they allow us to place ourselves in the roles of various characters and how they have the ability to both reveal and conceal Gospel truths in memorable and meaningful ways.

We discussed the different categories of the parables, teaching about the nature of God, the Kingdom of God, and our responsibilities as followers of Christ. This was followed by sessions on individual parables including the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son (which Fr. Mark insists on referring to as "the Parable of the Loving Father"), the Talents, and several others. We ended the retreat with a final session on using our own stories to spread the Good News and illustrate the importance of the faith in our particular contexts.

Each session included small group discussion time as well as an opportunity for everyone to come together and share some of those discussions. The retreat also included ample time for confession and spiritual direction of which many of the clergy took advantage. It was a blessed time of teaching, worship, and fellowship with our brothers in Northern Malawi and I pray that it will be far less than another 10 years before I return.

Of course, it wouldn't be a proper report without including at least one funny story. On the first evening following Evensong, a conversation broke out in Chichewa, the national language of Malawi. Though we were unsure at first, it became clear that this conversation was more of an argument. Finally, with enough English sprinkled in, we figured out that they were arguing over the correct way to chant the psalms and canticles at Evensong. Mark and I quickly began to identify the different personalities that mirrored our own clergy in the Diocese of Fort Worth as the lines were drawn between "how we learned at seminary" and "how we've always done it." Afterwards, one of the

senior clergy came and apologized to us that we had to witness such disagreement, but we told him how much we appreciated being able to see a discussion that would have played out almost identically at our own retreat.

Following the retreat we had one day to travel around the diocese, visit the convent, and do a little shopping. We got a tour of the convent and heard about all the initiatives of the sisters. They run a preschool, a tailoring shop, a chicken coop, they are building a small factory to make communion wafers with a shop to sell the bread and wine, they have a farm on the property as well as an offsite rice farm, and they are building a new main house with plenty of room for new sisters to join and live. It was exceedingly impressive to see how resourceful and industrious they are and how much of a benefit they are to the diocese.

That evening, we had dinner with Bishop Fanuel's son, Praise, at the same Indian restaurant we visited several times on my first trip. He is a very bright young man working through his clinical rotations to become a physician.

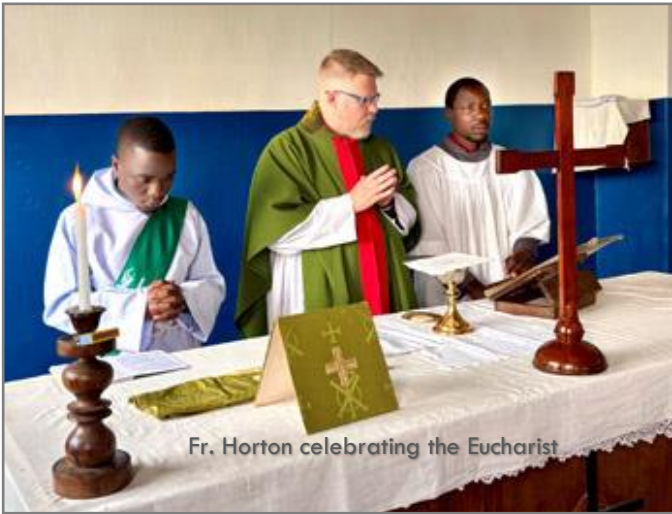
He told us all about the healthcare system in Malawi and his desire to practice in his home country and work to make a difference. I was surprised that he had never had the chance to travel with his father to the states and told him that we would try to make that happen in the near future.

The next day we made the long drive from Mzuzu back to Lilongwe to spend the night and catch our flight for home the next day. Aside from an unplanned 13 hour stay at Chicago O'Hare, the trip home was relatively uneventful. But, due to the flight delay, we were able to watch the World Cup Final at the airport. There was a group of Spaniards watching across from us at a bar and it was exciting to see their reaction when time was called and Spain declared the victors.

All in all, it was a very worthwhile trip. Our time in country was quite short but very fruitful. Thank you all for your financial support that made the trip possible and for your understanding of my absence in order to maintain this cherished relationship between the Diocese of Fort Worth and to Diocese of Northern Malawi.

Fr. Alan Horton

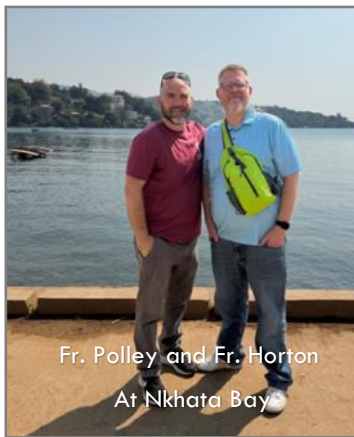
(See photos from Malawi on page 2)



Fr. Horton celebrating the Eucharist



Fr. Horton teaching.



Fr. Polley and Fr. Horton
At Nkhata Bay



Fr. Alan Horton
administering communion



Fr. Polley, Mother Martha and Fr. Horton



Fr. Alan Horton, Praise, Ishmael (our driver) and Fr. Mark Polley



The Clergy of the Diocese of Northern Malawi



Fr. Horton at the convent with
banana trees in the background.



Fr. Mark and Bp. Magangani in front of the newly
constructed diocesan office building.



Fr. Mark and Mother Martha in front of the new main house for
the Sisters of St. Mary.

CHRISTIAN GROWTH AT CAMP CRUCIS

This summer Jacob and James had the wonderful opportunity to spend time at Camp Crucis in Granbury, Texas. Their week at camp was filled with fun, adventure, friendship, and opportunities to grow in their faith. Through the many activities of summer camp, they enjoyed being outdoors, making new friends, laughing together, and creating memories that they will carry with them for years to come. They received letters and emails from family and friends, encouraging them to grow in their faith and relationship with God.



Their time at Camp Crucis gave Jacob and James an opportunity to grow closer to God and deepen their relationship with Jesus. Through worship, prayer, fellowship, and time spent learning about their faith, they were reminded of God's love and presence in their lives. Being surrounded by other young people who were also growing in their faith helped them see the joy of living out their Christian faith together.

As their Dad, I am especially grateful that Jacob and James were able to experience a week that combined the excitement of summer camp with the opportunity to strengthen their relationship with God. I pray that the lessons they learned, the friendships they made, and the memories they created at Camp Crucis will continue to inspire them as they grow in faith and follow Jesus in the years ahead.

-Jason Hisaw

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND GENEALOGY

In your genealogy research have you ever found a wonderful old will or document that belongs to one of your relatives and you know it must contain important information. If you could only read it!! The old handwriting from the 1700's and 1800's is very difficult to read.

At our August 6th Genealogy Meeting, we are going to learn how to use AI (Artificial Intelligence) to transcribe those old handwritten documents and much more. This is the best thing since "sliced bread"!!

Ancestry.com and Family Search have now incorporated AI into their search features. So, if you have not done any recent research, you might try it again. Please join us on Thursday, August 6th at 9:30 am to learn more.

And as usual, we will enjoy lunch and fellowship at Mexican Inn after our meeting!

-Gayle Bradburn

August Birthdays

01~Anahi Gamble

05~Paul Jennings

06~Laura Horton

07~Leah McDuff

10~Donna Sloan

14~Bisi Ogunruku

22~Kathy Walker

30~Tate Hightower

30~Thomas Hightower

St. Clara's Guild

After taking a couple of summer months off, St. Clara's Guild will meet on Friday, August 14, at 9:00 am, Wilson Hall. We will continue to work on some fleece blankets. Even if you don't sew or knit, please come join us for fun and fellowship!

-Barbara Edwards



August Events

04~05~ 9:30 am Women's Study

06~ 9:30 am Genealogy Meeting

11~ 9:30 am Women's Study

14~ 9:00 am St. Clara's

15~8:00am Men's Group@Rosa's

11:00 am Hour with Jesus

16~Vestry Meeting

18~9:30 am Women's Study

20~9:00 am Dominoes & Donuts

23~9:00 am Youth Sunday and

Food Drive—Pasta & Pasta Sauces

25~ 9:30 am Women's Study

29~ 11:00 am Hour with Jesus



Pie Sunday is coming!
Sunday,
September 13th



Help Us Celebrate 50 Years!

Next year, 2027, marks an exciting milestone in the life of our parish.

It is our 50th Anniversary!

To celebrate this special occasion, we are planning a parish festival in October of 2027, and we'd love for it to be a joyful reunion that honors our past and looks forward to our future.

To make this celebration a success, we need a planning committee to begin meeting soon. There are many ways to help, whether you enjoy organizing, researching, hosting, or simply lending a hand.

Some of the committee's projects will include:

- Compiling the history of our parish, including photographs, stories, and memorable events.
- Reaching out to current and former members, inviting everyone who has been part of our parish family over the past 50 years.
- Planning the anniversary celebration itself, including food, activities for all ages, displays, music, speakers, and other special events.
- Coordinating volunteers and ensuring that the day is welcoming and memorable for everyone who attends.

Whether you've been here since the beginning or joined us more recently, your ideas and talents can help make this celebration something truly special.

If you would like to serve on the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, please contact the church office or speak with Tim Cannon.

Together, let's create a celebration worthy of the many blessings God has given our parish over the last fifty years!

NEWS FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS

Wishing everyone a pleasant summer season. As temperatures continue to rise, we eagerly anticipate the arrival of autumn. Our Daughters meetings will pick up in September. I would like first to thank anyone who brought items to fill the Samaritans Purse Shoeboxes in November. Donations can be made any time of the year, but this just allows us to get ahead.

Thank you all for this wonderful ministry to bring God's word around the world. I am hoping to get someone that just delivered boxes to Tanzania, to share all the work that goes with those boxes.

If any ladies would like to join our group, we would welcome you. Prayer, Service, Study and Evangelism are the principals of our order. We usually only meet once a month and we enjoy the social and well as serious moments. If you are interested in joining, please inform me, Theresa, or any other member.



It is my hope that the Daughters will return refreshed and reinvigorated for a new year. Share God's love each day.

In Christ alone, Kathy Walker



WHY HEALING PRAYER

Healing was a major part of Jesus' ministry. His compassion to heal the sick revealed the heart of the Father. Never do we hear of Jesus turning someone away who wants to be healed; and in many instances, scripture reveals that he "healed ALL who came to him."

In Luke's Gospel, we are told that Jesus sent out 70 unnamed people ahead of him to all the towns he planned to visit, with specific instructions to "Heal the sick, and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near you.'"

The Father's heart does not change. He desires wholeness for each of us. To deny this is to deny the truth of scripture.

But sickness, pain, injury, and heartache abound in this world because the enemy still exists here. While we know that Satan is defeated, we also know that even a defeated foe will continue to harass his enemy. As Christians, we are called to put on the full armor of Christ to stand up against the enemy by bringing the healing heart of the Father to the world, one person at a time.

These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages.... They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed. (Mark 16:17 NIV)

Mark 16:17 NIV)

Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. (James 5:14 NIV)

But many believers are hesitant to ask for healing prayer from their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Mark's Gospel tells us of the time that Jesus visited his home town and "could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them." **Could it be that Jesus only healed "a few" because only a few came to him?**

Common reasons for hesitancy to come to a prayer team member for prayer:

- "My issue isn't nearly as bad as someone else's." Remember that God cares for all of his children. Not a sparrow falls to the ground without his knowing. How much more does he care for you! Praying and being prayed for strengthens and heals in more ways than we even imagine!
- "I'm embarrassed to pray aloud with someone." Prayer team members are trained to put people at ease and not to do anything that would make someone uncomfortable. Coming before our Lord in prayer is an honor, privilege, and blessing.
- "If God wanted me healed, he would have already healed me." If God had not wanted people healed, Jesus would have been going against the will of the Father when he commissioned his disciples to heal the sick. God himself walked on dusty streets, touched people, talked with them ... in the flesh. Part of God's plan is to share the inheritance of his kingdom with his children. The power of the Holy Spirit dwells in all believers for a reason.
- "I don't have enough faith to be healed." Consider the mustard seed. Also remember that Christ never admonished a sick person for not having enough faith. And Lazarus couldn't have had faith... He was dead!



Submitted by
Heinz Liedke

Join Us in Service and Fellowship

Altar Guild

This group maintains the altar for Sunday service, Baptisms, funerals and other special services.

St. Gregory's Choir

The choir is for men and women who like to sing and offer praise to God with their voices.

Daughters of the Holy Cross

This group of women take a lifetime vow of prayer, service, study and evangelism.

Evangelism and Outreach

Planning activities and events, this team shows the love of Jesus in our Mansfield community.

Flower Guild

Learn the art and skill of flower arrangement with fresh flowers for our sanctuary.

Healing Ministry

A group of prayer teams to pray on those seeking healing as directed by Jesus.

Men's Study Group

The men of the church meet on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays for a time of study, service and fellowship.

Women's Study Group

The women of the church meet on Tuesday mornings, enjoying book studies and fellowship.

St. Clara's Guild

This group sews quilts for the sick or to welcome new members at baptism. They also knit caps for newborns in local hospitals and complete other hand done projects for the community.

St. Gregory's Genealogy Group

Explore your family history and heritage with our group. Or learn how to research your family's roots using the knowledge shared by our members.

St. Gregory's Nursery Helpers

This group provides care in our nursery for children under 3 years of age while services are taking place in the sanctuary.

St. Martha's Guild

By providing meals for parishioners and their families during times of illness, bereavement, or even the birth of a child, this group shares God's love.

St. Francis Pet Therapy (Pet Partners)

Through Pet Partners, owners and pets are trained to visit residents of nursing homes and schools, offering God's love through time with a gentle pet. Those without pets may also serve.

St. Gregory's Worship Teams

Our team of Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM), Lectors, Crucifers and Oblationers (Ushers) make of this group. Special training is provided for those wishing to serve on this team.



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