

# The Clarion Voice

## The Journal of

### ✠ The Anglican Devotional Society ✠

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## CORPUS CHRISTI

### The Feast and its observance

The Anglican Devotional Society will be marking the feast of *The Commemoration of the Most Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ commonly called Corpus Christi*, by two special events.

The Anglican Devotional Society is pleased to announce that it will sponsor Solemn Evening Prayer with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. upon the occasion of the Feast of Corpus Christi.

The service will be held in the Nativity Chapel of Trinity Cathedral with a reception to follow in the Undercroft. Anyone interested in assisting with either the service or the reception is asked to either email [anglican@cox.net](mailto:anglican@cox.net) or call Sean Reed 932-7059.

On Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup>, interested society members will be attending as a group and inviting friends to come attend a Solemn High Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by participation in the outdoor procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the grounds of the Joslyn Castle. This service will be held in St. Barnabas Church.

### What is Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament?

This popular devotion began in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It is an extension of that very brief section of the mass when, just before Communion, special devotion is addressed to Jesus present on the altar under the outward signs of bread and wine. The Mass, however, is addressed to God the Father and it would overturn the nature of the Eucharistic action to give the Mass over to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Devout hearts felt the need of expressing their love and faith in their Eucharistic Lord and out of this grew the custom of taking the sacred Hosts from the tabernacle at some time when the Mass was not being offered for the purpose of veneration and acts of devotion.

Thus, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament supplies a need for those faithful who have entered into the meaning of our Lord's real presence in the Blessed Sacrament, while at the same time guarding against the danger of making devotion to the Blessed Sacrament a substitute for the Eucharistic action of offering to the Father.

The Priest enters with the assisting ministers and places the Blessed Sacrament in a special Vessel used for adoration called a Monstrance (from the Latin, "to show"). Incense is made and the people sing or say hymns as the Blessed Sacrament is censed.

## Check out the website

The Anglican Devotional Society now has its own website [www.anglicandevotionalsociety.com](http://www.anglicandevotionalsociety.com).

It is in the process of being developed and new information and material is being added regularly. If you have not been to the site please do. If you don't have internet, ask a friend to show you the site. Any suggestions or comments are welcomed.

## Incense Workshop & Holy Communion from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer

The Anglican Devotional Society will host a workshop on Incense from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on June 22nd at St. Barnabas Church 40<sup>th</sup> & Davenport (one block north of Dodge).

The evening will begin with a slightly shortened order of Holy Communion from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

A social time will follow in the Undercroft followed by the workshop.

The social time will be an “appetizer potluck” with each person or couple attending bringing an appetizer. Various event appropriate beverages will be served.

In the workshop, participants will learn about the history, use, and proper place of incense in worship and have a chance to see a thurible prepared, and also each participant that wishes, will have an opportunity to handle a thurible themselves and “make a little smoke.”

Reservations are requested by either email to [anglican@cox.net](mailto:anglican@cox.net) or contact Sean Reed 932-7059.

## Incense

Incense is placed or “set” in a thurible or censer on burning charcoal. A Thurible or censer is basically a pot suspended by one or more chains in which incense is burnt.

The incense itself is carried in a small vessel known as a navicula or boat and with it is a small spoon with which to place the incense on the charcoal in the censer.

When being carried, the censer is normally held in the right hand with the bowl hanging at full length. The boat is generally carried in the left hand.

When in use (when persons or things are being censured) the chain is generally held in the left hand and while the right hand grasps the chains just above the bowl.

Within the setting of an Eucharist, incense is normally only placed in the thurible by the priest, and thereafter blessed.

The thurifer approaches the priest, bows moderately, and presents the opened thurible after having handed the boat to the priest. As he does so the thurifer should say “bless, reverend father.” The priest then places the incense on the burning charcoal and as he does so may say “Be thou blessed by him in whose honour thou art to be burned Amen.” The priest then makes the sign of the cross over the thurible. Then, but not before, the thurifer closes the lid.

Incense should be blessed afresh for each act of incensing, but if the act for which incense has been blessed lasts for a long time, and all the incense in the censer is consumed, then the thurifer may add additional incense to the censer without ceremony and with help from another server if necessary.

The drawing following this article is from *Ritual Notes* and shows the manner in which the altar and the oblations should be censured.

When the thurifer censes individual people or groups of people, he bows first to them and they return the bow, with the exception of the celebrant who should generally not return the bow.

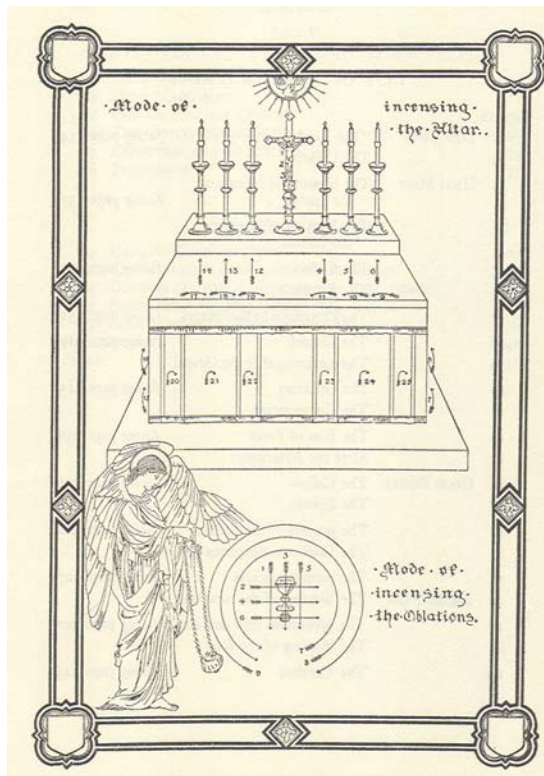
The thurifer then censes the person or groups according to their rank. Groups of

people should be censed with three single swings – center – left (from the thurifer’s point of view) and right.

Objects which have been blessed are similarly triply censed, though in these cases with double swings.

Incense is properly used at Morning Prayer following the second canticle and at Evening Prayer following the first canticle.

At the Mass incense is properly used: in procession before the service; to cense the altar at the introit; in the Gospel Procession to cense the Gospel book before and the Gospeler after reading the Gospel; at the oblations to cense them and the altar and those present; and lastly, in procession at the close of the service.



This drawing is from *Ritual Notes*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition

## A POEM

### *Whispered Forgiveness Prayers*

Linda Weeks

Fragrant resin *Boswella* of *Burseraceae*  
pungent gum *Commiphora abyssinica*  
married to labdanum  
darkly bitter essential  
of cistus rockrose  
frankincense and myrrh,

hand gathered drop by drop  
from nailed limbs  
oozing rare  
precious tears  
each counted with tender care  
lest any fall outside sacristy,

companion postulates  
rose, jasmine, lily  
petals of praise  
picked for marriage to  
the Christ Passion  
promise fulfilled,

blended bouquet beads  
housed within  
pierced thurible ember censer  
Sacred Heart  
thorn impaled  
brimming eternity,

burning wisps  
whispered forgiveness prayers  
the haze heaven bound  
broken bread and poured wine  
Spirit arisen  
Ascension Divine.

## **NEXT EDITION GENERAL TOPIC –**

### **LIGHTS: - LAMPS, CANDLES, VOTIVES & TORCHES**

The general topic of the next edition of *The Clarion Voice* will be LIGHTS: Lamps, candles, votives, and torches.

## **SUGGESTIONS SOLICITED**

Suggested topics, questions to be answered, and general inquiries are welcomed by the editor either by email to [anglican@cox.net](mailto:anglican@cox.net) or by mail to:

The Clarion Voice  
Anglican Devotional Society  
% Trinity Cathedral  
113 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68102

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS & MEMBERSHIP**

Subscriptions to *The Clarion Voice* are free to members of the Anglican Devotional Society.

Membership is open to those persons interested in the goals and objectives of the society. Dues are \$5.00 per year and should be accompanied by a letter requesting to join the society.

## **Of Interest to traditionally minded Anglicans**

May 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:00 p.m. Choral Evensong – Trinity Cathedral  
May 26<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m. Solemn Evening Prayer with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament – Nativity Chapel – Trinity Cathedral  
May 29<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Solemn High Mass followed by procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the grounds of Joslyn Castle – St. Barnabas Church  
June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6:00 p.m. Incense Workshop – St. Barnabas Church

## **Adoremus in aeternum...**

On Maundy Thursday, the day on which the Church celebrates the institution of the Blessed Sacrament, the tenor of the day prohibits full and joyful honor done to the Sacrament. Yet it was long desired to give special honor to this most gracious gift.

Saint Juliana, a Belgian nun who lived in the 13th century, had a recurring vision in which she the full moon in all its glory with a small section of it was cast in black and darkness. It was later explained that the moon represented the liturgical year and the black spot was the lack of a special feast in honor the Holy Eucharist. She spent all her life striving to institute a special commemoration of the Sacrament.

Six years after Juliana's death, on September 8, 1264, Pope Urban IV established the feast of Corpus Christi to be held on the Thursday following Trinity Sunday. This feast has been held in honor for over 700 years and is one of the major holidays in many European countries.

Our busy society finds it too difficult to make time to honor Our Lord's Eucharistic presence in this mid-week celebration. For this purpose, we transfer the feast of Corpus Christi to the following Sunday. While it is generally forbidden to transfer saint's days to Sunday, this feast day in honor of our Lord is appropriately celebrated on the Lord's day. Indeed, the Roman Church has transferred this

## **Coming Local Events**

feast permanently to the Sunday following Trinity.

St. Barnabas Parish will mark this feast on May 29th with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to be held immediately following the 10:00 Mass. The procession forms in the Church immediately following the Mass. It takes a route through the Joslyn Castle property returning at the Church for Benediction. During the procession the faithful pray the Litany of the Blessed Sacrament.

All are invited to attend, and visitors are encouraged.

Let us adore forever the Most Holy Sacrament.

## REFERENCES

*Ritual Notes* – 11<sup>th</sup> Edition is a reference book many may find quite interesting, and the editor has referred to it frequently in preparing the subject matter of this newsletter. The first edition was published in 1894. The 11<sup>th</sup> and final edition was published in 1964.

*The People's Anglican Missal* is the source from which the form of blessing Holy Water was taken.

Both of these long out of print books are currently available as reprints through the *Anglican Parishes Association* at their website:

[www.anglicanbooks.com](http://www.anglicanbooks.com)

## The Daily Office

THE DAILY OFFICE – Morning and Evening Prayer are cornerstones of Anglican worship and have formed the foundation of Anglican spirituality since their compilation by Thomas Cranmer in the first Book of Common Prayer of 1549. If you have not participated in the Daily Office, read in the traditional fashion, virtually unchanged since its inauguration, please consider taking 20-25 minutes and attending one of the following opportunities for participating in the traditional reading of the Daily Office.

MORNING PRAYER – Nativity Chapel –  
Trinity Cathedral

Tuesday & Thursday 6:30 a.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. (coffee and doughnuts follow)

Wednesday 6:30 a.m. St. Barnabas Church

EVENING PRAYER – St. Barnabas Church  
5:15 p.m. followed by the Angelus

For additional information on the Daily Office  
Email [anglican@cox.net](mailto:anglican@cox.net)

[www.anglicandevotionalsociety.com](http://www.anglicandevotionalsociety.com)

Or contact

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