

Gerry Swieringa ordained to the Priesthood and Fr. Kevin Allen elected bishop at the Diocese of Cascadia Synod



Deacon Gerry and Deacon Michael Beggs (originally from St. Brendan's) were ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Richard Boyce Saturday June 26th with over 100 attending the Synod's Festival Eucharist and Ordination. The Synod, during its Friday business session, unanimously elected Fr. Kevin as bishop-elect to lead Cascadia upon acceptance as a full diocese by the Anglican Church in North America. Also elected to Synod office from St Brendan's were Bruce Litherland as treasurer and Susan Hess as secretary.

Fr. Kevin, after first being confirmed by the Anglican Church of North America's College of

Bishops, will be consecrated and take office when the Diocese of Cascadia is formally received as a full Diocese next summer. He would still be over half time as rector of St. Brendan's and part time as Bishop for such a missionary diocese. We are blessed to have Fr. Gerry agree to assisted at St. Brendan's as needed when Fr. Kevin is visiting other congregations.

Celebrating the addition of 4 churches the Anglican Diocese of Cascadia concluded an exciting first annual Synod meeting at the Palisades Roman Catholic Retreat Center in Federal Way, Washington. Bishop Richard Boyce presided over a two day annual church convention unlike many others. The business session was limited to just an hour and a half while the rest of the time was devoted to learning how their churches could support micro-financing to lift people from poverty in Asia and Africa, helping people in Myanmar and South America, planting new churches in the Pacific Northwest, as well as enjoying fellowship and worship together. Attendees from Washington and Oregon were amazed, many stating that they had not anticipated nor have ever witnessed anything quite like this.

St. Brendan's people were actively involved: Cavin Philbin gave the excellent presentation on 5 -Talents, Barbara and Curry Miles served as our delegates, Susan Hess and Caryol Litherland and Stefanie Allen handled registration and support, Paul and Cynthia Johnson (accompanied by friend Christ Attebery on flute) sang for the Festival service, and Fr. Kevin facilitated the Synod and chaired its sessions.

Bishop Richard Boyce, Vicar General of Cascadia, reported that the diocese now has eleven congregations, with another one in formation. He was proud of how far the diocese had come since it was formed a year ago and he set a vision for a vigorous future of church planting and evangelism. Other business included adopting the new diocesan logo, welcoming 4 new parishes into the diocese, creating a Companion Diocese relationship with the Diocese of Recife, Brazil. The congregations added during the Diocese of Cascadia's first year were St. Matthew's in Portland, Holy Cross in Yakima, Resurrection in Tacoma, and St. Elizabeth's in Marysville.

The Rev. Canon Ron McCrary was the guest speaker and led four dynamic and interactive sessions on church planting and personal evangelism. Fr. Ron is from the staff of Christ Church, (Plano, Texas), a co-leader of *Anglican 1000*, the Anglican Church of North America movement to raise up 1000 new congregations and communities of faith across North America in five years. We were delighted to welcome to the pulpit at St. Brendan's that Sunday as now Fr. Gerry celebrated his first Eucharist as a new priest.

