

The Epistle

January 2012

The Long Awaited Ordinariate is Here!



Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter

www.usordinariate.org

The Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter was established by Pope Benedict XVI on January 1, 2012 for Anglican groups and clergy in the United States who wish to become Catholic in a “corporate” manner (as groups). At the same time, the Holy Father named Reverend Jeffrey N. Steenson, a professor in Houston, Texas and a former Episcopal bishop, to lead the new structure as its Ordinary.

This is the second ordinariate in the world for former Anglican groups. The first, Our Lady of Walsingham, was established on January 15, 2011 to serve England and Wales. The U.S. ordinariate will be based in Houston, Texas, at Our Lady of Walsingham parish.

Similar to a diocese, though national in scope, the U.S. ordinariate will include Catholic parishes, groups, religious communities and individuals of the Anglican heritage from across the United States. The parishes and communities will be fully Catholic, but retain elements of their Anglican heritage and traditions, particularly in the liturgy.

To date, over 100 Anglican priests have applied to be ordained Catholic priests for the ordinariate and 1,400 individuals from 22 groups have asked to be received into it. Two of the communities already entered the Catholic Church in fall 2011 after a period of preparation.

Fr. Steenson is a former Episcopal bishop who became Catholic in December 2007 after 28 years of ministry. He was ordained a Catholic priest in February 2009 for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Since 2009, he has served on the faculty of St. Thomas University in Houston. He also has been instrumental in developing the priestly formation program for the ordinariate.

As Ordinary, he is a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. However, since he is married, he may not be ordained a bishop. Fr. Steenson and his wife, Debra, are parents of three adult children and the grandparents of one.

Why ordinariates?

The ordinariates are a response to persistent and repeated requests by Anglican groups worldwide seeking to become Catholic. In November 2009, Pope Benedict XVI issued an apostolic constitution, *Anglicanorum coetibus*, (Groups of Anglicans), establishing “personal ordinariates” for those of the Anglican heritage entering full communion with the Catholic Church, particularly as groups. While Catholic, they will maintain distinctive elements of their theological, spiritual and liturgical patrimony.

In September 2010, the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) appointed Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, as its delegate for the implementation of *Anglicanorum coetibus* in the United States. He, Bishop Kevin Vann of Fort Worth and Bishop Robert McManus of Worcester were assisted by Reverend Scott Hurd, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, and a former Anglican priest.

Over the next year, they were contacted by clergy, groups and individuals nationwide, leading to the establishment of the new ordinariate.

Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter

Reverend Jeffrey N. Steenson

Ordinary

Pope Benedict XVI appointed Rev. Jeffrey N. Steenson as the first Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter on January 1, 2012.

Fr. Steenson teaches patristics (the study of the early church fathers) at the University of St. Thomas and St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, TX. He and his wife Debra were received into the Catholic Church in 2007, after 28 years of ministry in the Church of England and the Episcopal Church. Fr. Steenson was ordained for the Catholic priesthood in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in 2009, and was instrumental in establishing the formation program for Anglican priests applying for the Catholic priesthood as part of the ordinariate.

He was born on April 1, 1952 in Camp Rucker, Alabama and raised on a farm in Hillsboro, North Dakota that has been in his family since the 1880s. He attended Trinity College near Chicago and received his theological training from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois and Harvard Divinity School. He was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Oxford University in 1983.

Ordained an Anglican priest in 1980, he served as an assistant at All Saints' Church, Highfield, Oxford before returning to the United States. Between 1983 and 1989, he was rector of two churches in Philadelphia and from 1989-2000, he served as rector in Fort Worth, Texas.

Fr. Steenson was canon to the ordinary for the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande, in Albuquerque, New Mexico from 2000-2004, before being elected bishop of that diocese.

After being received into the Catholic Church in 2007, he spent a sabbatical year in Rome, residing at the Pontifical Irish College as he prepared for the priesthood. In February 2009, he was ordained a Catholic priest by the Archbishop of Santa Fe under the Pastoral Provision, which Pope John Paul II had created to permit former Anglican clergy who were married to become diocesan priests.

Since 2009, he has been the Carl and Lois Davis Professor in Patristic Studies at the University of St. Thomas Center for Faith and Culture in Houston and an assisting priest at St. Cyril of Alexandria parish in Houston.

He and his wife, Debra, married in 1974 and have three adult children, Kristina (34), Eric (32) and John Mark (26), and a grandson, Peter. Prior to his theological studies, Fr. Steenson was a sportswriter for The News-Sun of Waukegan, Ill. He has a deep interest in general aviation. He once restored a 1947 Cessna 120, which he has flown around the United States and he has built a floatplane.

Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter

Reverend R. Scott Hurd

Vicar General

Reverend R. Scott Hurd is a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington and will serve as vicar general of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter for a three-year period, with the approval of Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington.

A native of Alexandria, Virginia, he was baptized and raised in The Episcopal Church. He has degrees from the University of Richmond and Oxford University, where he attended Saint Stephen's House, a theological college of the Church of England.

He was ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1993. He served as curate of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Grand Prairie, Texas, and as rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in Weatherford, Texas. In 1996, he entered the Catholic Church, and was ordained a priest in 2000 under the Pastoral Provision, which permits married former Anglican clergy to be ordained Catholic priests.

After ordination, he served in the Office for Religious Education of the Archdiocese of Washington until 2005, when he was appointed executive director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate. In addition, Father Hurd has assisted at St. Hugh of Grenoble parish in Greenbelt, Maryland for the past 11 years.

In June 2010, he was appointed liaison to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *ad hoc* Committee for the Implementation of *Anglicanorum coetibus*. In October 2011, he also became chaplain to St. Luke's Catholic Ordinariate Community after the former Episcopal parish was received into the Catholic Church.

Father Hurd's first book, [*Forgiveness: A Catholic Approach*](#), was published by Pauline Books and Media in September 2011. Father Hurd and his wife Stephanie live in Virginia with their three children.

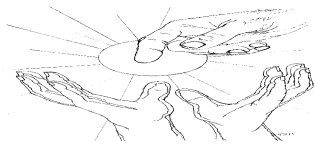
Please continue to pray for the Ordinariate, as well as: Cardinal Wuerl, Fr. Steenson, Fr. Hurd, and for all those who will be entering the Ordinariate. Pray for Msgr. Newton and Our Lady of Walsingham Ordinariate in the UK. Also pray for Archbishop Peter Elliott and the establishment of an Ordinariate in Australia. Finally, I ask you to keep me, your pastor, in your prayers.

This is a very exciting and historic period in the life of the church!

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

RCIA is the official term to be used for adult catechism classes. All adults interested in becoming a Catholic must enter this process.

RCIA classes will begin on Jan. 10, 2012.
The Classes will begin at 7:00pm.



Thanksgiving Sunday

Thanksgiving Sunday is the last Sunday of each month, where a special offering is collected, over and above your weekly giving, to give thanks to God for all the many blessings He has bestowed upon us.

The next Thanksgiving Sunday will be on Jan. 29.

Weekday Mass Schedule Suspended

Our normal weekday Mass schedule has been suspended until further notice. However, Holy Days of Obligation will be celebrated at 6:30pm.

Please check our web site for updates.



Remember St. Luke's in your prayers

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth, mercifully hear the supplications of thy servants, and grant unto this parish family all things necessary for its spiritual welfare: schools to train up thy people in thy faith and fear, ministers to labor in this portion of thy vineyard, a church restored and maintained in the beauty of holiness. Strengthen and increase the faithful; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; rouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent; remove all hindrances to the advancement of thy truth; and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within the fold of thy Holy Catholic Church Through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth on God, world without end. Amen.

Your Sacrificial Offering

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Charles Sommerkamp;
Chet & Espie Stewart; Auburn Traycik;
Ginny Mcknew; Moses Alusi;
Catherine Jones; Rimisa Williams;
Jean Ashman; Juliette Scott;
Norma Brumfield; Alice McNeil;
Larry Maske; Lawrence McDowell;
Victor & Gloria Deigh; Martha Krabandam;
Malcolm Parkinson; Angela Koker;
Joyce Stewart; Ron Alert; Natalie Reeves;
Andrew Keegan; C.C. Onejeme;
La-Verne Williams; Debbie Holt;
Susan Gibbs; Robert Gibbs; Toketo Sanders
and family; Theresa; Joey; Thomas, Lynn &
Dallas Love; Robert King; and Fr.Zera

Please provide us with your e-mail address

In an effort to keep you up to date with the current events at St. Luke's, we are asking you to provide us with your e-mail address Please send an e-mail to Fr. Lewis providing your name.

Fr. Lewis' e-mail address is:
fmarklewis@gmail.com

Pledges

Please keep your giving current.
We need your support.

*"Where your heart is there will your treasure
be also"*

Please give generously!

You can now stay current with your pledges, (offerings, and donations), by using PayPal on our website. Just click on the PayPal emblem and complete the form- it's easy!

2012 Pledge Cards and envelopes can now be picked up in the back of the Church.

Upcoming events

Jan. 1 – The Solemnity of Mary (There will only be one Mass on this day. The Mass will begin at 10:00am).

Jan. 10 – RCIA classes begin. 7:00pm

Jan 15 – Parish Meeting (There will only be one Mass on this day. The Mass will begin at 10:00am).

Jan. 22 – Future Planning Committee Meeting 10:00am.

Recitation of the Rosary every Thursday evening 6:30pm.

Study Group every Thursday evening 7:00pm.

Parish Meeting

On Jan 15, we will hold a parish meeting. All members and all those interested are encouraged to attend. This meeting will give your former pastor Mark Lewis the opportunity to lay out before you the vision he believes God has laid on his heart for St. Luke's.

Fr. Hurd will be able to address matters concerning the Ordinariate and the future plans for your former pastor.

This meeting will provide ample time for all questions.

You are asked to bring a "pot luck" dish to share for lunch. The meeting will take place immediately following the Mass. **There will only be one Mass on this day! Mass will begin at 10:00am.**



Recommend Reading

The Lamb's Supper by Scott Hahn
First Comes Love by Scott Hahn
Hail, Holy Queen by Scott Hahn
The Catholic Way by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl
The Sacraments by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl
The Catechism of the Catholic Church **A Must!**
United States Catholic Catechism for Adults
Anglicans and the Roman Catholic Church

edited by Stephen Cavanaugh
Forgiveness: A Catholic Approach by Fr. Scott Hurd
Rome Sweet Home by Scott Hahn
The Mass by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl and Mike Aquilina
Scripture Matters by Scott Hahn
Fatima For Today: The Urgent Marian Message of Hope by Fr. Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R.

New Suggested Readings

Seek First the Kingdom: by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl

Building fund

As part of the agreement with the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, we will continue to use our present Church under the terms of a leasing agreement. Our leasing agreement calls for us to rent the property for a period of three years, at which time we can purchase our property at 75% of the market value or build a new church. Either decision will require \$\$\$\$\$\$. Please make a donation toward our future. Make checks payable to St. Luke's, memo: building fund

Calling All Women

Most all parishes have an Altar Guild. For much of the recent past our Altar Guild consisted of one or two women.

About a year ago, a Women's Guild was established. In addition to performing Altar Guild duties, these women also took on the responsibility of learning floral design-thus providing our Sunday Altar arrangements.

There is a great deal of work to be done. It is not necessary to be here to contribute; linens need to be washed, ironed and folded. Your help in this ministry would be greatly appreciated. **We need your help!**

Protecting God's Children

The Archdiocese of Washington is committed to protecting all of God's children. It is of the utmost importance to them that we provide a safe, loving environment in which our children can play, learn and grow.

To help us provide such an environment and in order for us to be in compliance with the polices of the Archdiocese, **every adult working with children or in a leadership role, rather an employee or volunteer is required to attend a workshop on Protecting God's Children.**

Please contact Mrs. Susan Mathis for questions and registration.



Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry needs to be restocked. Please buy some extra canned goods on your next visit to the market. We are particularly low on canned: meats, vegetables, sauces, beans, and peanut butter.

Liturgical Press

Liturgical Press is a Catholic company who supplies a weekly bulletin for Catholic parishes. They have contacted us and wish to supply our bulletins. They supply these bulletins at no cost to the parish; instead they seek advertisement from businesses.

Please contact Mark Lewis if you own a business, or know of a business who might like to sponsor our parish. The ads begin at \$450 per year. Your ad will appear in 52 weekly bulletins as well as being placed on our webpage

Visit Our Website

www.stlukesparish-bladensburg.org

www.usordinariate.org