

# OF PRESENT MOMENTS

## BISHOP' S COMMENTS ON PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS



This is the first of what will be regular communications from me to the People of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon. I hope you will find these snippets about people and happenings within the Diocese, along with thoughts and plans I might share, to be of interest in our common life.

I have chosen the name for this short newsletter quite intentionally. I have taken it from the title of a book attributed to Jean-Pierre de Caussade, an 18th century French Jesuit priest and contemplative. The short classic bearing his name is really a compilation of letters and writings, many to the Nuns of the Visitation, whom he served as spiritual advisor. It was known for years under the title, Abandonment to Divine Providence, but more recently has been renamed, The Sacrament of the Present moment.

I commend this short read to you, as the main theme of the writings revolve around the teaching that every moment of our lives is sacred, for God is actively engaged in our personal histories. And though he speaks repeatedly of abandonment and self surrender, it is not a theme of drudgery and harshness he promotes. As Richard J. Foster, of Celebration of Discipline fame suggests, "Joy, freedom, serenity - these are words much closer to the reality to which de Caussade calls us."

And so, allow me to welcome you to my new effort for further communication, under the heading "Of Present Moments".

"If we have abandoned ourselves to God, there is only one rule for us: the duty of the present moment."

Jean-Pierre de Caussade

## Of People, Places, and Things.....

- We welcome The Rev. Joseph Farber and his wife, Janice, to Transfiguration in Sisters. A Celebration of New Ministry is being planned for the fall. I know you will join me in giving thanks for Fr. Joseph's ministry with us.
- Although communicated earlier, it is with much joy that I note again the new role Patty Olson-Lindsey has taken with the National Episcopal Church as Executive Director of the Episcopal Service Corps. This organization "invites people in their 20s to work for justice, live in Christian community, grow in leadership, and deepen their faith life", as stated on their Facebook page. It is wonderful that she will continue to live in Cove, and that her work may well challenge us to engagement with this program. Congratulations Patty!
- After many years of service in leadership with St. John's, Hermiston, The Rev. Daniel Lediard has retired from his call there. We do thank Fr. Dan for his presence with us, and wish him God's peace and grace as he enters into retirement.
- But just as one leaves, another enters: it is with joy and gratitude that I share with you the Ordination to the Priesthood of our own, The Rev. Marilyn Roth (Deacon) of St. Paul's, The Dalles, and St. Mark's, Hood River. The ordination is being planned for Saturday, September 9th, 1:00 p.m. in The Dalles. All are invited. For clergy, red stoles are requested.
- Who would have thought it when I started riding motorcycles again some ten years ago: I set a new milestone in May when I travelled over 1600 miles in six days on my black beast while attending meetings, making calls, and doing a visitation in the Diocese. That counts for a lot of bugs on the windshield!

### SOME DATES TO REMEMBER

August 24-27: Adult Ed with  
The Rev. Dr. Armand Larive  
Ascension School

Sept. 9: Ordination of  
The Rev. Marilyn Roth  
St. Paul's, The Dalles

October 13-15: Diocesan  
Convention  
Trinity, Bend

## **2017 DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

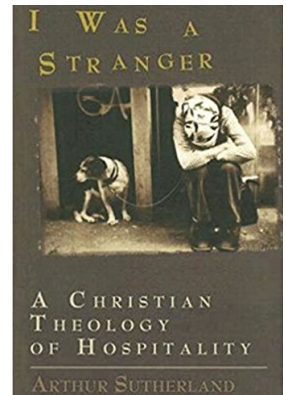
### Welcoming the Stranger: Practicing Radical Hospitality

"For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us." Ephesians 2:14(NRSV)

I am quite excited to welcome Dr. Arthur Sutherland, Associate Professor of Theology, Loyola University Maryland, as our guest speaker. Based on our theme for the Convention, his focus will be, *Being Hospitable People: Broken Walls, Crossed Boundaries, and Uncommon Community*.

I hope many of you will read his highly acclaimed book before coming to Convention.

And I know many of you will be thrilled to know that I have also invited back our very popular speaker from last year, Juli Stratton. She also will be speaking and offering a workshop.



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LET'S BE SAFE OUT THERE - The solar eclipse weekend will be a significant test of our ability to practice hospitality. Radically so, in some places for sure. From the Oregon State Police:

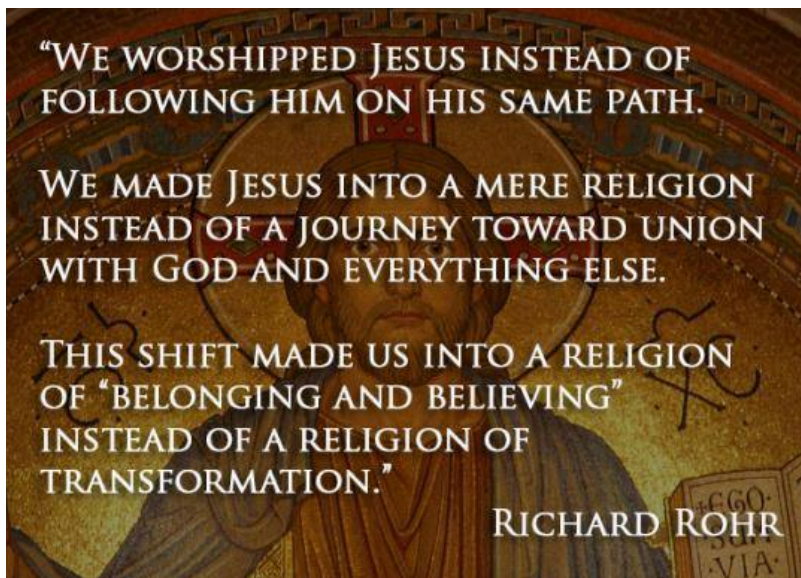
### Suggestions for RESIDENTS and VISITORS:



- Be prepared for crowds, lines and traffic. Be patient. Bring books, games, etc., to keep busy; Take the time in long lines to get to know Oregonians and other visitors via lively conversation. It's a good time to learn about Oregon and other areas from which guests are visiting, and to make friends from around the state/country/world.
- Have snacks, water and first-aid supplies on hand in case crowds/lines/traffic become paramount.
- Become aware of the beauty, splendor and hazards that are all

part of Oregon. Know what to do and where to go in the event of severe heat, wildfires, earthquakes and other natural disasters.

- Have an emergency kit and an emergency plan; make sure family members or friends back home know your schedule, when you are expected to return and your plan if something happens.



May God's gift of peace be with you all, and may we journey together into an ever increasing awareness of the presence of God in every moment of our lives.

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