

THE KEYS



Church of St. Peter the Apostle

Anglican Catholic Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic States

www.dmas-acc.org

The Rev. Canon Peter Geromel, OHI, DMin - Rector

September 2022

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The Curate's Corner – Mr. Gregory Seeley

“The Grace of the Church of England” Part 1

A lot has been made about St. Peter, and the Roman Catholic Church has long maintained that it holds his apostolic grace, continues his teaching, and wields his authority. But what about the other apostles, do any of the other traditionally Christian nations and their churches have the grace of a particular apostle? I would like to posit that they do, they just don't realize it. The grace of God is sometimes misunderstood, and not recognized; kind of like St. Francis who at first took Our Lord literally when he heard the command to “rebuild my church.” Much like the apostles who did not recognize the risen Lord when he appeared to them after the resurrection, and how often when Jesus asked a question of someone, he wasn't asking the question they thought he was asking.

Understanding the grace given to a church can be a bit like Nicodemus talking to Jesus by night; you might have him alone, and you might be able to ask him anything you want, but that does not guarantee you'll understand the answer. So, the question is this: Where might the Church of England and the Episcopal Church fit into the apostolic church founded by Christ, and what apostolic grace might she have? Jesus left us no writing, instead he left twelve men to whom he committed his teachings and sacraments; we call them the Apostles; a Greek word meaning “one sent”. Simon, whom Jesus renamed Peter spent the later part of his life in Rome and died in Rome and the Roman Catholic Church has long claimed to be “the church of Peter”, stating that the bishop of Rome is the successor to the Petrine office and speaks with the authority that Christ originally gave to Peter. But there were twelve apostles. What about their churches? Can any other church in any other nation claim an apostle as their own?

If you look at the nations of Europe where Christianity grew and you look at the saints of which they were characteristic you get an interesting picture:

- Italy: St. Peter (the Pope and the basilica of St. Peter in Rome her capital)
- Spain: St. James (Santiago de Compostela, and St. James is also the patron of Spain)
- England: St. Paul (St. Paul's cathedral, the cathedral of the capital, plus much of what I will now explain)
- Russia: St. John the Evangelist: (the Eastern Orthodox churches, and Russia in particular claim him as their spiritual father.)

I will not here try to assign all the nations of Europe the grace of an apostolic patron saint. I would like to talk in particular about England, and I think the fact that St. Paul is associated with England is no coincidence.

Now of all the nations of Christendom none is so like unto Imperial Rome as England. What with her empire, her love of pageantry, her enigmatic and ever popular culture, her sense of governance and law and order. She has sins certainly, but her enduring power to govern and civilize is unquestioned among the nations of history. England, more than perhaps any nation in Christendom, brought the Christian civilization to the world. Her only rival is Spain (ironically, St. James). So which apostle was primarily responsible for taking the Gospel to the world? St. Paul, and he acknowledges this in his own words. The mission of the Apostle of the Gentiles was precisely to bring the message of Christ to the whole world; to evangelize the world in the name of the risen savior. St. Paul was also the only apostle who was a Roman citizen.

So how does the grace of the Church of England differ from the grace of the Roman Catholic Church? If you look at the commission of Our Lord to St. Peter, he said “feed my lambs/feed my sheep” and “I have prayed for thee Peter, that when you have converted you might strengthen your brethren”. Peter's job among the apostles was to strengthen their faith. This holds true of the Petrine Office: to protect the deposit of the Faith, when needed, in its defense and protection.

What about the commission to St. Paul? As he himself states it: “to me, who am the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. (Eph 3:8) and “I became all things to all men, that I might save all.” (1Cor 22b). So, would it not therefore be fitting that the nation of Christendom, who took the Gospel to furthest corners of the world, should not claim the grace of he who was commissioned to do just that? Doctrine is not England’s grace. She has had her issues with doctrine and has fought bitterly to protect her doctrine against any number of nefarious sects which dwelt or were founded within her borders, but she has never failed to bring Christian civilization, and with it the Gospel, to those with whom she had contact.

News and Information

Bilbo Baggins Birthday Party – Sunday, September 18th, 4 PM

Gregory Seeley’s Ordination to the Diaconate, St. Matthew’s Day, September 21st, 6:30 PM

Vestry meeting – September 28th, 7:30 PM, Holy Mass preceding at 7 PM.

St. Michael and All Angels – Thursday, September 29th, at Noon

SEPTEMBER, 2022						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LEGEND: HC - Holy Communion; FHE – Festal Holy Eucharist; HE - Holy Eucharist; SS – Sunday School; PG - Prayer Group; EP – Evening Prayer; MP – Morning Prayer; P&HU – Prayers and Holy Unction				[1] 12 noon HC	[2]	[3] 5:00 p.m. HC
[4] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS TRINITY XII	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8] 12 noon HC	[9]	[10] 5:00 p.m. HC
[11] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS TRINITY XIII	[12]	[13]	[14]	[15] 12 noon HC	[16]	[17] 5:00 p.m. HC
[18] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS 4:00 p.m. Bilbo Party TRINITY XIV	[19]	[20]	[21] 6:30 p.m. Mr. Seeley’s Ordination to the Diaconate ST. MATTHEW	[22] 12 noon HC	[23]	[24] 5:00 p.m. HC
[25] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS TRINITY XV	[26]	[27]	[28] 7:00 p.m. HC 7:30 p.m. Vestry	[29] 12 noon HC	[30]	

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

If you cannot fulfill your assigned duty because of an urgent reason, PLEASE SECURE A REPLACEMENT.

	September 4	September 11	September 18	September 25	October 2
Altar Guild	M. Slayton	V. Williams	J. Butterfield	M. Slayton	V. Williams
	B. Higginbotham	B. Higginbotham	B. Higginbotham	B. Higginbotham	B. Higginbotham
Coffee Hour	S. Darby	C. Pappas	V. Williams	E. Paisley	C. deRosset
Sat. Epistoler 5 p.m.	A. Butterfield	A. Butterfield	A. Butterfield	A. Butterfield	A. Butterfield
Epistoler 8 a.m.	G. Mauney	D. Drysdale	G. Mauney	C. Von Claparede	D. Drysdale
Epistoler 10 a.m.	T. Paisley	P. Williams	G. Terrell	P. Williams	T. Paisley

Altar servers and ushers will be assigned as available before each service.

2022 Vestry (term end): Dan Drysdale ('23), Lisa Olver ('24), Ted Paisley ('24), Marnie Slayton ('22), Clemens
Von Claparede ('22), Phil Williams ('23)