Despite challenging times, Convention upbeat, unified

By Mary W. Cox, editor

In spite of economic obstacles and the tensions within the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, “our diocese remains united,” Bishop Leo Frade told delegates to the 39th Convention of the Diocese of Southeast Florida, held at St. Thomas, Coral Gables, on Nov. 7-8.

The proof of this statement was a convention characterized by an upbeat and collegial mood and joyous worship. Guests from neighboring dioceses in the Caribbean were welcomed enthusiastically; resolutions and the 2009 budget were passed with no debate and near-unanimous votes; congregations that show consistent growth were honored and applauded; and special recognition was given to the ministry of Episcopal schools in the diocese.

Bishops from two of our Companion Dioceses, the Rt. Rev. Julio Holguin of the Dominican Republic and the Rt. Rev. Laish Boyd, bishop coadjutor of Nassau and the Bahamas, brought greetings to the convention.

With Frade translating, Holguin expressed gratitude for the companion relationship between our dioceses and for the support given to ministries in the Diocese of the Dominican Republic.

“We not only preach the Gospel,” he said, “but we also practice it—and that we’re doing together.”

Boyd also spoke of the importance of the longstanding relationship between the dioceses.

Diocesan website gets an extreme makeover

On November 6 anyone who clicked on www.diosef.org expecting the familiar diocesan website got a surprise: Just in time for Diocesan Convention, a completely redesigned website was up and running.

The new site represents more than a year of work by the diocesan Electronic Communications Committee and web developer Donna Holdsworth of Pickme, Inc., who is now our webmaster. Programmers Paula Moore and Ruchi Agarwal organized thousands of details, put the pieces of the very large puzzle together and made it look inviting.

Paula Jacobs, who designed the former site and has been webmaster for the past six years, was unable to undertake the redesign project or future site maintenance due to other commitments.

The new diosef.org is designed to provide not only a fresh look, but also more streamlined and user-friendly navigation.

There’s a link to the blog that Bishop Leo Frade

Celebration planned for Frade’s 25th year as bishop

Sunday, January 25, 2009, will mark the 25th anniversary of Bishop Leo Frade’s consecration to the episcopate.

The diocese will celebrate the occasion with a festive service at Trinity Cathedral, Miami, at 4 p.m.

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will be the preacher.

Frade was consecrated January 25, 1984, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, by then Presiding Bishop John Maury Allin. For the next 16 and a half years he served as bishop of Honduras, and is now in his ninth year as bishop of Southeast Florida. He is now the senior bishop with jurisdiction in House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church.
in verse of the eight years of Frade’s episcopate in Southeast Florida—“mighty Leo has stuck it out!” (The poem concluded, “there’s great joy here in Southeast Florida—mighty Leo has stuck it out!”) (The entire poem can be found in Diocesan Convention coverage at www.diosef.org)
ELECTED AT CONVENTION

Standing Committee:
- Lay member—Char Vinik, St. Gregory’s, Boca Raton;
- Clergy members—The Rev. Sherod Mallow, All Saints, Ft. Lauderdale;

Ecclesiastical Trial Court:
- Clergy member—The Rev. Robert Trache, St. Mark the Evangelist, Ft. Lauderdale.

Cathedral Chapter:
- Blanca Famadas, St. Philip’s, Coral Gables

University of the South:
- Lay Trustee—Edmund T. Henry III, St. Stephen’s, Coral Gables

RATIFIED AT CONVENTION

ELECTED AT CONVOCATIONS

Deanery Elections to Executive Board
- North Palm Beach—Dean, The Very Rev. Carol Barron, St. Luke’s, Port Salerno;
- Lay Representative, Carol O’Neil, St. David’s-in-the-Pines, Wellington
- South Palm Beach—Clergy Representative, The Rev. Anne Harris, Chapel of St. Andrew, Boca Raton; Lay Representative, Lisa Allerton, St. Joseph’s, Boynton Beach
- Broward—Clergy Representative, The Rev. Mark Sims, St. Mary Magdalene, Coral Springs
- North Dade—Clergy Representative, The Rev. Ledly Moss, St. Margaret’s, Miami Lakes; Lay Representative, Ingrid Clarke, Holy Family, Miami Gardens
- South Dade—Lay Representative, Marcia Hitchins, St. Faith’s, Cutler Bay
- Keys—Lay Representative, John Oeler, St. Francis, Big Pine Key

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

- Pam Anderson, St. Mark the Evangelist, Ft. Lauderdale
- Gisele Bosquet, St. Paul et les Martyrs d’Haiti, Miami
- The Rev. Susan Bruttell, Director of Pastoral Care, Memorial Regional Hospital, Hollywood
- Horace Davis, Holy Sacrament, Pembroke Pines
- James Richardson, Holy Trinity, West Palm Beach

OFFICERS ELECTED BY YOUTH CONVENTION

- President—Michael Sahdev, St. Benedict’s, Plantation
- Vice-president—Christopher Hendricks, All Saints’, Jensen Beach
- Secretary—Kyle Meunier, St. Benedict’s, Plantation
- Administrative Assistant—Strickland Davis, St. Patrick’s, West Palm Beach

SECOND ANNUAL HII (HOSPITALITY, INVITATION, INCORPORATION) AWARDS

Top 10 in percentage of growth 2006-2007:
- San Francisco de Asis, Miami Lakes; St. Mary’s, Stuart; St. Luke the Physician, Miami; St. Simon’s, Miami; St. Columbia, Marathon; St. James-in-the-Hills, Hollywood; St. Anne’s, Hallandale; St. Andrew’s, Palmetto Bay; St. Patrick’s, West Palm Beach; St. Matthew the Apostle, Miami

Top 12 in percentage of growth 2002-2007:
- St. Patrick’s, West Palm Beach; St. Mary’s, Stuart; All Angels’, Miami Springs; St. John’s, Homestead; All Saints, Ft. Lauderdale; Holy Cross, Miami; Historic St. Agnes, Miami; St. Joseph’s, Boynton Beach; Holy Redeemer, Lake Worth; St. Philip’s, Coral Gables; St Matthew the Apostle, Miami; Holy Spirit, West Palm Beach

Church assessment; diocesan staff positions and compensation; and the program budgets for human needs, youth and congregational development. (See p. 4 for more on budget adjustments.)

The convention passed resolutions that congregations and parishioners “reduce their carbon footprints by reducing their consumption of energy and other resources” and “act as role models to the wider community” for reduced energy consumption; that the convention approve the submission to General Convention in 2009 of a resolutions supporting the Clergy Letter Project “and its reconciliatory programs between religion and science;” and that Deanery Youth Coordinators be granted seat and voice in Diocesan Convention.

The convention closed with an invitation from the Very Rev. Donald Sullivan, dean of the Keys, to come to “paradise” for next year’s convention, scheduled for November 13-14 at St. Paul’s, Key West.

Approved resolutions; the 2009 budget; the complete texts of the bishop’s address, Bishop Robert Thompson’s sermon, the Youth Commission report and “Leo at the Bar”; as well as convention photo galleries and video clips, can be found at the Diocesan Convention link at www.diosorf.org.

CONVENTION from Page 2

JUST SAY YES
Delegates practice using the voting cards that will be used when a voice vote is not clear and a more accurate count is needed.

Photo by Mary W. Cox

Second Annual HII Awards
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“She was truly a good person with a good heart.”

— Flor Quevedo

CONGREGATIONS WILL RECEIVE ASSESSMENT REDUCTION FOR 2009

In presenting the 2009 budget to convention, the diocesan Budget Committee acknowledged “the current volatile financial environment,” and included the guidelines that would be used in making adjustments to the approved budget, “should adjustments be required.”

At its November 19 meeting the Executive Board approved a recommendation by the Budget Committee for spending cuts of $187,000 in the already lean budget for 2009 that would reduce the assessment rate for congregations from the convention-approved 14.77% to 13.99%.

The intention is that this assessment reduction will enable congregations to devote more funding to their own ministry needs.

In keeping with the guidelines presented at convention, the initial spending cuts will not affect diocesan staff positions or the program budgets for human needs and congregational development. Reductions have been made in most other sections of the budget. Many of the cuts are from line items which accrue funds for future expenses, which means that these funds must be reinstated in the 2010 and 2011 budgets in order to provide adequate funds for these future needs.

The Executive Board also approved a second tier of cuts totaling an additional $90,000, which could be implemented later in the year, if needed.

New strategy aims to end “mission status mind-set”

By Mary W. Cox, editor

In the middle of his address to convention, after acknowledging “the brutal realities of declining membership” in the diocese, Bishop Leo Frade stepped aside for a presentation by Archdeacon Tom Bruttell on a new diocesan strategy to “make every church a viable congregation and to make sure that all of our churches have a strong and able leadership.”

The new plan focuses on the churches that currently receive diocesan aid or reduced assessment, many of which are designated as mission or aided congregations. Too many of these, Bruttell said, have a “mission status mind-set,” and are stuck in survival mode, with no ministry plan, little vision or mission activity, no proactive programs and often inadequate pastoral care—all resulting in no growth.

All churches seeking assessment reduction, whether or not they are designated as missions or aided congregations, must at least move in survival mode, with no ministry plan, little vision or mission activity, no proactive programs and often inadequate pastoral care—all resulting in no growth.

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By the end of the year Charles R. (Charlie) Ring III, the first—and only—president, of Episcopal Charities of Southeast Florida, will have left that position.

In a July letter to Episcopal Charities Board Chair Benjamin Reid, Ring announced his intention to resign effective November 28, but was urged by the board to continue into December.

He has led the ministry since it was established in 1998 as the Southeast Florida Episcopal Foundation, with the stated purpose “to raise, manage and disburse funds to support the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida and its parishes.”

Ring, who came to the work with a background of 28 years in real estate development, said that at the time he “wanted to do something for the next five to ten years that—this might sound hokey—have an impact on the community.”

Now, he says, he has accomplished what he wanted to do and feels it’s time “to let the next person take it to the next level.”

“There are a lot of things that are in place to make me feel that the timing is good,” he said in a conversation in early November.

“This has personally been a very rewarding journey for me. I’ve really enjoyed my work.”

The Foundation was at first an offshoot of the former diocesan Office of Planned Giving, and Ring’s work consisted of promoting and soliciting planned gifts for the diocese and helping congregations to develop programs of planned giving and endowment funds.

Then came the bequest from Agnes Smith in 2000 that created the Blair and Agnes Smith Charitable Fund.

“The whole concept shifted,” Ring said. “Our focus changed—we became more interested in outreach ministry and that became the driver.”

Two years ago the Foundation became Episcopal Charities, and now serves as the charitable and philanthropic arm of the diocese, with much of its work centered on grant-making, in addition to its ongoing ministries as a resource for the diocese and congregations in the areas of planned giving and endowment.

Ring believes that both aspects the ministry are important. He stresses that in uncertain economic times smaller churches in particular need to “be really serious about setting up endowment funds” in order to remain financially viable; but he also said of Episcopal Charities’ grant-making, “We really are funding parish ministries that are transforming lives.”

Ring said that he intends to stay in non-profit work.

Ring resigns as president of Episcopal Charities

Concerns over continued decline in worship attendance at Holy Nativity, Pahokee, and St. John’s, Belle Glade, despite “years of ministry initiatives,” have prompted the decision by Bishop Leo Frade and the diocesan Executive Board to seek new and creative ways of providing ministry in the Glades area.

The membership at Holy Nativity is now numbered in single digits. The English-speaking congregation at St. John’s is not much larger, and the Haitian congregation there has not yet been able to develop organized, financially viable leadership.

For the dwindling congregations the cost of maintaining and insuring the property has become burdensome, leaving minimal funding for ministry.

At its November 19 meeting the Executive Board approved a recommendation by the Property and Loan Committee to begin the process of closing the two small churches and selling the properties, with a committee appointed by the bishop to determine the best use of the proceeds from the sale.

Board members, especially those from the North and South Palm Beach Deaneries, expressed concern for the pastoral care of the members of the two congregations and urged a transition process that would continue ongoing ministries and assist the members in finding and becoming part of other congregations.

On November 23, Archdeacon Bryan Hobbs met with the two Glades congregations to begin the transition process. In a letter to the congregations in preparation for his visit, Hobbs cited the leadership provided over the past few years by “the Revs. Denise Hudspeth, Sebastien Guillaume, Charles Cannon [current deacon-in-charge] and others; Bishop [James] Otley; Archdeacon [Paul] Rasmus, [Mary] Gray-Reeves, [Bryan] Hobbs, [Fritz] Bazin; Bob Moore; the North Palm Beach Deanery; the Nehemiah Process and the Rooftop Granting Process,” as well as “over $370,000 in funds” from the diocesan budget, and thus from the assessment payments of other congregations—all to “too little avail.”

“Unfortunately, no matter what we collectively have tried,” he said, “we were just not able to overcome changing demographics and new challenges to parish ministries.”

Hobbs will meet again in January with the leadership of Holy Nativity and St. John’s to begin the process of identifying and planning for the continuation of ongoing ministries, to plan pastoral care of the members during the transition process and to deal with property matters.

In his letter the archdeacon assured the congregations that “nothing has changed, or will, until such time as the properties are closed.”

Happening #24 Slated for March 2009

Happening #24 is scheduled for March 4-6, 2009, at Holy Trinity, West Palm Beach. The Happening experience is a weekend designed to bring youth in grades nine to twelve to a fuller personal knowledge of and relationship with the books of the year by Publishers Weekly and Christianity Century in 2006.

Her next book, A People’s History of Christianity, will be released in March. She is currently Senior Fellow at the Cathedral College of the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

She has taught at Westmont College, the University of California at Santa Barbara, Macalaster College, Rhodes College, and the Virginia Theological Seminary.

For more about Butler Bass and her books, go to http://www.dianabutler-bass.com/. Additional information about the conference will be published in Grapevine and on the “current news” page of the diocesan website, www.dioe.org, in January.

Diocese addresses decline in Glades area ministries


The featured speaker will be William Laney, a “graduate” of the Key West Loaves and Fishes Program, which receives grant support from Episcopal Charities through St. Paul’s, Key West. Laney has recently published a book, Homeless Isn’t Hopeless—A Remarkable Journey of Hope and Humor.

The event will also include the public announcement of the diocesan Human Needs grants for 2009.

Similar luncheons are planned throughout next year in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties.

For more information on the January 15 event, or if you would like to help with planning for it, contact Margaret Hudson at Episcopal Charities, (561)790-624 or margaret@cescf.org.

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CURRY WILL PREACH AT ABSALOM JONES SERVICE

The Rev. Michael Curry, bishop of North Carolina, will be the preacher for the annual diocesan Absalom Jones Service, scheduled for February 14 at Historic St. Agnes, Miami.

The annual observance commemorates Absalom Jones, the first African American to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church and founder of the Episcopal parish, St. Thomas African Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pa. An Absalom Jones service has been held annually in this diocese since 1984.

The service, which begins at 10 a.m., will be followed by a luncheon and fashion show, sponsored by the Theodore R. Gibson Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE).

Curry is a known and appreciated speaker in our diocese. In 2001 he preached at the Convention Eucharist, and last winter he was one of the leaders of our Bishop's Spring Conference. After his closing presentation at the conference, one participant commented, “If we weren’t a bishop, he’d make a great stand-up comic!”

For more information on the diocesan Absalom Jones Service, contact Kathleen Walker, president of the Theodore R. Gibson Chapter of the UBE, at kathylwalker001@gmail.com.

KRICKBAUM TO LEAD RETREAT

The Very Rev. Donald Krickbaum, dean emeritus of Trinity Cathedral, Miami, will lead the annual diocesan clergy retreat, February 2-5, at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center in North Palm Beach.

During his time in our diocese, Krickbaum was well known as a teacher, retreat leader and spiritual director. Since his retirement he has served as a member of the board of directors of the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Bethesda, Md.

The retreat will begin with registration at 4 p.m. on Monday, February 2, and end with lunch on Thursday, February 5. A contribution of $50 is asked of each participant, with the balance of the cost covered by the diocese.

Registration is online at www.dioeseofl.org/register.html. The registration deadline is January 28, 2009.

WOMEN IN NEW ORLEANS NEED SEWING MACHINES

Many women in New Orleans lost their sewing machines to Hurricane Katrina.

Social service agencies don’t consider a sewing machine an “essential” household item, so they have not been replaced along with other household appliances.

However, sewing machines are essential for many poorer households, because the women used them not only to make clothes for their own families, but also to supplement their income by doing tailoring and making clothing and Mardi Gras costumes to order.

“I have two clients who grieved over the loss of their machines,” Ann Ball has told her former colleagues in Episcopal Communicators. The longtime director of

communication in the Diocese of Louisiana, now a case manager with the diocese’s Office of Disaster Response, explained that her clients could not replace the machines now because they must use their limited funds for such need as increased rent and utility fees, furniture and school supplies and uniforms for their children.

“These two women both said their mental health has been affected,” Ball said. “They not only used their machines to generate income, but their sewing also gave them great peace of mind and tranquility.”

For more information about donating a sewing machine to a household in New Orleans, contact Ball at aball@edola.org or 504-259-1125.

Sewing machines can be shipped directly to her at: St. Paul’s Homecoming Center, 6268 Vicksburg St., New Orleans, LA 70124.

Most valued ministry

PRAYER—“THE FIRST STEP IN ESTABLISHISHING A HEALTHIER CHURCH”

By Archdeacon Bryan Hobbs

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”

— Ephesians 6:18

I am often asked my opinion on the “most valued ministry” in the church. I am tempted to answer, tongue in cheek, that it is the clergy. But we all know that, although clergy are significant, they are not the most valued ministry.

Others would say the music is the most valued ministry, especially on those Sundays when our favorite hymns are sung, the musicians and director have had an especially satisfying week, and the choir hits all the notes with enthusiasm. But we all know that they are not the most valued ministry.

Well, this exercise could go on and on and on—but the most valued ministry to me is usually the one that gets the least attention, is almost invisible, and never draws attention to itself, for indeed, it isn’t a ministry but a lifestyle. If this ministry is absent, the very life of the church is diminished or even extinguished.

When talking about the first step in establishing a healthier church, I always respond that the first step is PRAYER. This isn’t really a defined ministry, but when you make a lifestyle of every member, it ultimately permeates and undergirds all that the church attempts to accomplish.

As many of you are aware, my mother died on October 10. Many of you have walked this same pilgrimage of love and joy followed by loneliness and loss, so you do not need my reflections on that journey—and that is not my subject here.

My mother never held an office in the church. She never led anything, organized anything, or got an award for outstanding achievement. But she never, never, never missed church, and was most frequently attending any Bible study or prayer group that was available. She mentored many more people than I ever did and had a greater impact on the church’s ongoing ability to sense and follow God’s will than I could ever hope to do. You see, she was one of those gifts to the church that we call an “intercessor,” or as she described herself, a “prayer warrior.”

I was always aware of her prayer support, as were the leaders of her church. She would spend hours each morning in her little rocking chair, surrounded by Bibles, devotional books and her endless intercessory prayer lists. No one who asked her for prayer was ever ignored, and once on Mom’s list, you stayed there until an answer came. She labored tirelessly over each prayer request. She was tenacious, persistent and relentless. I often thought that God just changed his original intent simply so that he would not have to listen to the same petition day after day, month after month, year after year.

I would like to think that I was at the top of her list—actually, everyone thought they were her number one prayer request—but the truth was that what headed her list was not any one person or event, but the coming of the Kingdom of God.

The Church was her mission, and I greatly benefited from her ministry. I saw miracles happen again and again. Ministries prospered that shouldn’t have. Tragedies that should have derailed the church were avoided or minimized. And when we were consumed by what felt like the fires of Hell, we were given the strength to stand firm during the firestorm of anguish.

Now, I don’t want to make my Mom into some sort of super-saint. She was simply an ordinary woman who had found herself in Christ and followed Him into the ministry to which He called her. At Mom’s funeral many of the present-day intercessors came forward and commented how they too had discovered their ministry of intercessory prayer by sitting at Mom’s feet.

Again: During her 84 years she held no office in the church, nor did she organize any ministry or activity. Nevertheless, she had a more profound impact on the life of the Church than almost anyone, touched more lives than I can count, and raised up an army of intercessors to carry on the work of the most valued ministry in the Church.

The best part is that she is still praying for all of us, and for the coming of God’s Kingdom. Not bad for a, to be blunt, humble woman from the coal fields of Kentucky—one of God’s most important ministers.

“DAD PLAYED, MOM PRAYED!”

Ken and Fay Hobbs, parents of Archdeacon Bryan Hobbs, pose for a portrait on their 60th wedding anniversary. Ken has provided music for countless church events, while Fay, who died October 10, had the “most valuable ministry” of intercessory prayer.
The Diocese of Southeast Florida, along with The Episcopal Church and other faith communities, has signed a document developed by Church World Service that calls for humane immigration reform.

The Interfaith Platform for Immigration Reform calls on the incoming Obama administration and the 111th Congress to commit to immigration policies that will: Uphold family unity as a priority of all immigration policies; create a process for undocumented immigrants to earn their legal status and eventual citizenship; protect workers and provide efficient channels of entry for new migrant workers; restore due process protections and reform detention policies; and align the enforcement of immigration laws with humanitarian values.

The document concludes, “As people of faith, we call attention to the moral dimensions of public policy and recommend reforms that uphold the God-given dignity and rights of every person, each of whom is made in the image of God. We are dedicated to immigration reform because we value family unity, justice, equity, compassion, love, and the humane treatment of all persons.”

Even before the November election representatives of the diocese had joined in an interfaith effort concerning immigration issues.

At a Columbus Day press conference on the front steps of Trinity Cathedral, Bishop Leo Frade, Archdeacon Fritz Bazin, UBE President Kathleen Walker and the Rev. Cori Olsen, along with leaders from South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice and other faith groups in the community, signed an interfaith statement calling for increased attention to immigration issues.

Copies of the signed document were sent to the local headquarters of both the Obama and McCain campaigns.

Other signers on the document included representatives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Miami, the United Methodist Church, the Unitarian Universalist Church, the Metropolitan Community Church and the Quaker Peace Center. Rabbi Solomon Schall of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation was unable to be present at the press conference, but also signed.

Signers said they intentionally chose to make their public statement on the Columbus Day holiday in recognition of the fact that the Europeans who “discovered” the North American continent in 1492 were, in fact, among this hemisphere’s first immigrants.

The statement cautioned against the temptation to make immigrants the scapegoats for the current economic crisis and other challenges facing this country, and urged voters to “remain level headed, seek information and inquire about the stand of your candidates on the issue of immigration” before casting ballots on November 4.

“No one can deny that there is an urgent need for comprehensive reform of our immigration system,” the statement said. “We do believe that the U.S. must secure its borders, but we must also approach this matter with justice, pragmatism and especially compassion for the more than 12 million undocumented men, women and children currently in the country.”

St. Anne’s acolytes shine at National Acolyte Festival

By Kaitlyn Neely

More than 2000 acolytes from all over the country attended the 29th Annual National Acolyte Festival, held on Saturday, October 11, 2008 at Washington National Cathedral D.C. Each year acolytes come to the Washington National Cathedral to renew their vows. That’s the main reason for attending.

The first thing I was thinking of when I arrived in Washington, D.C., was renewing my vows as an acolyte—and of course, the food and the tour.

My church has been attending the festival for the past five years. This was our sixth year. Some other churches from our diocese that participated were: St. Patrick’s, West Palm Beach; Church of the Atonement, Lauderdale Lakes; and Church of the Incarnation, Miami. This year we traveled with younger acolytes, but we processed with ceremonial precision. I was the cross bearer.

During the service our very own Amari Rainford was recognized for the second year in a row as one of the youngest acolytes attending. Also, our acolyte master, Maceo Brown, assisted as a chalice bearer.

After the service, we attended workshops on “Jubilation Streamers” and “Everything Interesting to Know about Acolytes.” Jubilation Streamers taught acolytes how to handle the streamers. This was a “hands on” workshop. Each acolyte was given a chance to carry a streamer. The “Everything Interesting to Know about Acolytes” was a brief history of the origin of acolytes. Both workshops were interesting. I had such a great experience that I can hardly wait for 2009.

Kaitlyn Neely is an 11-year-old member of the Acolyte Guild at St. Anne’s, Hallandale, and a sixth-grade student at Coral Springs Middle School.

HOBSEES RECEIVES DUBOSE AWARD FROM SEWANEE

Archdeacon Bryan Hobbs was one of three recipients of this year’s Dubose Awards, presented annually by the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., to alumni/ae who have demonstrated “faithful, distinctive service to the mission of the Church.”

Hobbs received the award at an October 30 School of Theology banquet.

The other two award recipients were the Rev. Dr. James Monroe Barnett, author of the 1981 book, The Diasconate: A Full and Equal Order, and Dr. Edward de Bary, who has been dietitian to other orders of ministry; and the Rev. Dr. Jack Rentfro, author of the 1992 book, Understanding the Diaconate in Relation to Other Orders of Ministry.

The Net, December 2008

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“Race for the Cure” in West Palm Beach, again sponsor a team in the January 31 to shop, decorate, visit with friends or ment and silent auction. to the first 700 finishers. The parish also charity fund-raiser that awards apple pies Tequesta personnel serving overseas. Christmas packages to Armed Forces per-organization Forgotten Soldiers to send in customary Christian music to give to the more than 100 year-history. It’s free, and will include stories of the congregation’s Seaview Ave. in Jensen Beach. The tour Boynton Beach, based at 582-6609. Renaissance. For further information on supper and a presentation by Babatunde p.m., followed by a community potluck event will begin with Evening Prayer at 6 time last year were preparing for the roles Bethesda’s youth coordinator, who this Mark’s students for collecting more than 100 CDs of contour- loya- lamorada, observed Veterans’ Day by decorating 50 bags and filling them with gifts like toilettes, socks and books for veterans undergoing treatment at the VA Hospital in Miami. Susan Bennett

Charles Milling, leader of the St. All Saints, Jensen Beach, has recently released a

Kamla Bhagwandin

On February 13, 10 a.m., on our way to the table at the parish’s annual Men and Boys’ break- fast on November 30. The breakfast was served by the December Birthday Club, and followed the traditional men and boys’ corporate communion on the First Sunday of Advent.
BISHOP’S MESSAGE TO CONVENTION:
“Commitment to Christ” brings unity, overcomes obstacles

(The complete text of Bishop Leo Frade’s convention address, from which this is excerpted, can be found on his blog, http://blog.diosef.org/)

This past September 16, I completed eight years as your bishop, I am now in the ninth year of my translation to this diocese from my previous dioce an and next January 25 I will celebrate 25 years as a bishop of our Church. It’s amazing how time flies. Now I am the Senior Bishop with jurisdiction of the House of Bishops. (This is easier than it sounds—all you have to do is not die.) I have discovered that all of these great honors are accompanied with much work and more chances of getting into trouble. As they say, getting old is only for the brave ones...

It’s good to know that I begin my address to this Diocesan Convention after the national elections have been completed. I know that some of you are very happy with the selection that voters made, and others are not that happy. But I want to say this to all of you: I rejoice in the fact that I am a citizen of this great country where democracy is one of our greatest treasures.

Four years from now we will have another presidential election, so let’s put aside whatever ideological issues that may have divided us in the recent past and work together for the good of the country. United we stand, divided we fall. No matter which candidate got your vote, let us all keep in our prayers our president, George W. Bush, our president-elect, Barack Obama, his family and those who will work with him, as we prepare for the enormous challenges he will face as the leader of our nation in these difficult times.

As we gather today, I don’t need to remind you of the financial crunch that this country and the world are facing. We indeed have a challenge ahead of us, but this is nothing new for us. Actually, together we have gone through a lot during these past eight years. A number of things have happened that have severely affected us, and some of those things have been out of our control.

First there was the horrible and despicable terrorist attack that took place on September 11, 2001, with the subsequent decline of our economy that also brought down our markets—hard days and trouble in our lives similar in many ways to the even worse economic situation we are experiencing now. Add to that the five hurricanes that took place in just one year, 2004, bringing chaos, panic and misery into our area. We have also been affected by the Iraq War and by the very high prices for fuel that until only a few days ago made going to the gas station like one of those Halloween horror houses. Unfortunately we also have lived these past months with a lack of trust in our government, and that has severely affected us. But I must also remind you that regardless of all the obstacles that we have found along the way, our diocese remains united—and I dare to say, with hope for our future. I am happy to report that your bishop is in communion with all the priests, parishes and missions that are part of our diocese. As far as I know, no congregation is threatening or planning to leave, or has left during my episcopacy. All the congregations honor their diocesan assessment, and all priests honor their solemn vows and promises to conform to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Episcopal Church.

Unfortunately, this is not necessarily the case with a few other dioceses of our Church. I believe that the credit for our unity as a diocese should be shared by all. The strong leadership that exists in most of the congregations in our diocese has made it possible to battle all the obstacles and challenges along the way.

Our vision of “Bringing them in, Building them up, Sending them out, Tending to their needs and Harvesting God’s fruit” continues being a reality in this diocese.

Do we still have obstacles ahead of us? Of course we do.

But we are committed to continue with the Nehemiah Process that faithfully trains our congregations to be stronger and more effective in their ministry.

In recent months we also have been developing a strategy to confront the brutal realities of declining membership that we are facing. There are several things that are out of our direct control: the economy, hurricanes (and fear of them), the war, lack of employment in this area and so on.

But there are other things that we can change and improve—and in some cases there are things that we need to discard, and even individual leaders who may need to move on.

I have asked Archdeacon Tom Bruttell to make a brief presentation of our drive to make every church a viable congregation and to make sure that all of
our churches have a strong and able leadership. (See p. 4 for a report on Brittell's presentation and this new process.)

I am committed to make this diocese more than a good diocese. I want Southeast Florida to be a great diocese...

On a different note I welcome you all for sending your bishop and his spouse to the 2008 Lambeth Conference for bishops and spouses.

A lot was said in church circles around the world about what was going to happen at this Lambeth Conference.

Fortunately all the doom prophets and the Chicken Littles that love to predict the end of our Communion were wrong again and had to eat their words.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was able to pull it off, and I can tell you as a bishop who has attended these three different Lambeth Conferences—1988, 1998 and 2008—that this was the most cordial and the most productive meeting of Bishops that I have attended.

One of the things that you learn when you are part of the Lambeth Conference is the incredible diversity that exists in our Anglican Communion. Let me give you an example: One part of the world considers that the acceptance of polygamy is the only Christian thing to do to the population of their countries; and another part of the world may propose that persons with different sexual orientations are human beings created and loved by God and deserving of the same rights as heterosexuals.

Of course diversity is nothing new for us in this diocese. I am sure that there are many different ideas and theological positions represented here, just as there are different races and ethnic groups, socio-economic standards, male and female, gay and straight, red and blue and many shades of purple. Of course there are also many countries and languages represented here.

But what unites us? I believe that what unites us is what unites hundreds and hundreds of Anglican bishops around the world who may have different ideas about many things but are united in this: It is our commitment to serve Christ, to bring the message of faith, and faith is the daring of the soul to go farther and not necessarily a calm passage. His promise is that he will be there with us every step of the way.

In my experience as a Christian, I have learned that it is in the times when things may look bleak that we have to trust the promise our Lord has given us: That he will be there with as far as we want to dare in his name.

Sometimes when we see ourselves at the edge of a cliff it is imperative to completely trust God. We have to let go and know that with God only one or two steps will happen. Either he’ll catch us when we fall, or God will teach us how to fly.

I saw this happen after that horrible and destructive Hurricane Mitch when I was the bishop of Honduras. We lost everything, but in the end we not only recovered every single church, and rectory and school but we came back stronger, bigger and better.

I saw this happen after all the crises that we faced in this diocese post- September 11. Our church suffered, but in the end we became stronger. We learned that faith, and faith is the daring of the soul to go farther than anyone of us can see.

As your bishop I want you not to forget that. Do not take your eyes from our mission: To make known to all people the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, including all, excluding none.

I am challenging each one of you, clergy and laity, all of our vestries, not to start thinking of cutting our costs in these years of economic uncertainty. We have had no more hope. I want to challenge every vestry to implement the strategies that will make a difference in their ministries and their communities.

At times of trouble and challenge, I am always reminded of my favorite biblical story. It is found in the 13th chapter of the Book of Numbers, which tells of Moses’ sending 12 spies to check out the land that God had promised the people of Israel. When they came back, the 12 spies agreed that it was indeed a land of milk and honey. But 10 of them considered claiming the land an impossible task—they thought it would be too hard to do battle with the people they would face there. Those 10 scared men influenced Moses and the people not to go further to seek God’s Promised Land. They said: “When we saw the enemy, we realized that we were so small that we saw ourselves like grasshoppers, and the enemy saw us as grasshoppers.

Only Caleb and Joshua insisted on obeying God and trusting in God’s promises, and Caleb said: “No, we must go over at once and claim God’s promise to us, regardless of the obstacles that exist, because with God’s help we can surely overcome them.”

Today I am reminding you of that cry of obedience and faith in God. Yes, we can surely overcome any obstacles that may exist in our future. We can surely overcome them and make our church grow and be stronger regardless of any obstacle that may come our way.

Why? Because what we do, we do in faithful obedience to Christ’s command to us to go forward. When fear begins to knock at your door, just let faith answer the door and you will find that no one is there anymore.

I invite you to trust and obey, for as the hymn says, “there is no other way.”

I know that you can do it, and I know that you have that inner strength in you. During these eight years of my episcopacy among you, I have seen how courageous and sacrificial your efforts have been: you have truly sacrificed yourselves, and you have met obstacles and overcome them. You have not ceased to work for God’s kingdom. I consider it a privilege to be your bishop, and I pray that regardless of any difficulties we may face that we may continue working together to fulfill our vision: Bring them in, Build them up, Send them out, Tend to their needs, and then together we will rejoice in “Harvesting God’s fruit.”
ST. ANDREW’S, LAKE WORTH, TO HOLD THIRD ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES

On Friday, January 2, 2009, St. Andrew’s, Lake Worth, will begin its third annual lecture series with a lecture entitled “Homosexuality, the Bible and the Church.” The featured speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Lesley Northup, Interim Dean of the Honors College and Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Florida International University. Northup is also an Associate Priest at St. Stephen’s, Coconut Grove (Miami).

The 50-minute lecture will begin at 7 p.m. and will be preceded by Evening Prayer at 5:30 and a community potluck supper at 6 p.m. The public is invited for the evening’s activities. The lecture is first in a series of four, with the overarching title, The Church in the World.

Subsequent lectures will take place on the first Fridays of February, March and April. Other topics to be explored are: “Hope in a Time of Global Climate Change,” and “Development Help Should Not Hurt: Practical Ethical Pitfalls in International Development Programs.”

The lecture series is made possible by a Partnership Grant from the Florida Humanities Council. The current series is the third year of a three-year grant made to St. Andrew’s. All events in the series are free and open to the public.

For more information about the series, call the church office, 561-582-6609.

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW WILL OFFER LENTEN RETREAT

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew chapter at St. Benedict’s, Plantation, will sponsor a Men’s Lenten Retreat on February 28, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. All men in the diocese are invited.

The day will begin with Eucharist, followed by a continental breakfast. The morning will continue with small group sessions and end with the full group coming together for individuals to share their journey with Christ.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is a worldwide ministry dedicated to the spread of Christ’s kingdom among men and boys. Seven chapters are currently active in congregations around the diocese.

For more information on the Brotherhood, contact Diocesan Coordinator Carlos Belgrave at mrlisbon_144@hotmail.com or 561-795-8641.

Workshop explores disease of addiction, grace of recovery

By Mary W. Cox, editor

Fr. Stuart Hoke, who served as staff chaplain at Trinity Church, Wall Street, and missioner to St. Paul’s Chapel at Ground Zero, tells a story from September 11, 2001. He was walking down the street not far from the World Trade Center when the first plane slammed into the building, and as debris and burning jet fuel rained around them, someone beside him said, “Is this a movie set? Are they shooting a movie?”

“For a split second I thought that, too,” Hoke told participants in the “Recovery in the 21st Century” workshop on November 22. “Then someone screamed, ‘Run for your life!’ and we did.”

About 30 people, most of them involved in some aspect of recovery ministries, gathered at St. Gregory’s, Boca Raton, for the day of presentations and sharing of stories, ending with a Twelve-Step Eucharist. The event was sponsored by the diocesan Task Force on Addiction and Recovery.

Hoke told the group that the first symptom of addiction is denial—“sincerely believing that which is not true”—and that the addict needs to hear and comprehend that this is not a movie and it is indeed time to “run for your life.”

He said that denial can be broken through confrontation, education and identification—which is why people in 12-Step “rooms” tell their own stories of disease and recovery.

“We are healed when we hear our stories on another person’s lips,” he said.

In retirement Hoke has been doing interim ministry, to which he brings not only his personal experience of addiction and recovery, but also his academic and pastoral experience in recovery work. He told of how he has been able to use this experience to help congregations where he serves—and individual parishioners—break through the denial, understand the disease and begin healing.

In addition to Hoke, other speakers for the day included Ettia Stella, a member of the Task Force who works with women addicts in prison; Dr. Randall Green, a “recovering Southern Baptist minister” and clinical psychotherapist who works at Transitions Recovery Program in North Miami Beach; and Jack Geist, a Task Force member who works with youth in the recovery program at South Miami Hospital.

Stella’s presentation used the 12 Steps to discuss the spiritual nature of the disease of addiction and the spiritual work of recovery.

Green spoke about the special risks associated with addiction in persons over 65: Age-related physical and cognitive changes make them more susceptible to the effects of alcohol and other drugs; and life changes, such as retirement or loss of a spouse, can lead to drug abuse.

Geist warned of the use of alcohol, marijuana and prescription medications by increasingly younger children—beginning as early as fourth grade. Alcohol use typically begins as early as 12 and marijuana at 14.

“We don’t hear these stories in our parishes,” he said, “We need to find a way to listen to youth, to understand what they’re saying.”

Geist introduced a young woman who is a graduate of the program at South Miami Hospital. Now in her sixth year of recovery, Arlene simply told her story, a journey beginning with drug use at 15 and leading to “a very different person” now.

Arlene’s mother told her story, too. “I used to judge all people who used drugs,” she said. “When I had to accept the reality of my daughter, it was very hard.”

She finally attended a Narcotics Anonymous meeting with her daughter, and began her own process of healing: “From that day I started to understand how they feel, how they live—how they learn to live every day with this sickness.”

The purpose of the Task Force on Addiction and Recovery is to help addicts, their families and our churches acknowledge “this sickness” and “learn to live every day” in the grace of recovery.

For information on the work of the Task Force contact Wendy Barraco, finstrabarraco@bellsouth.net.
Black churches in Broward share their stories

By Mary W. Cox, editor

On November 15 the gym at St. Mark’s School in Ft. Lauderdale became a museum of living history. In the second of an ongoing series of “Telling Our Stories” events sponsored by the diocesan Commission on Anti-Racism, five historically black congregations in the Broward Deanery displayed photographs and artifacts from their past and offered oral histories of faith that flourished in spite of racism.

Archeacon Bryan Hobbs welcomed participants, saying, “We are empowered by hearing what other people have to say about their lives.”

Dr. Gay Outler, co-chair of the Commission on Anti-Racism, added, “It’s so important that we share our history…our children will have more pride when they see what their grandparents did with little or nothing.”

The facilitator for the storytelling was Broward television personality and oral historian Kitty Oliver. “We’re going to talk about change,” she said, “but we’re going to talk about where it all began.”

The panelists were Clifford Jackson of St. Christopher’s, Ft. Lauderdale; John Saunders of St. Anne’s, Hallandale; Hester Hall of St. Andrew’s, Hollywood; Ernestine Williams of St. Christopher’s, Ft. Lauderdale; and St. Philip’s with St. Christopher’s. The Broward congregations also had a close relationship with St. Matthew’s, Delray Beach; all were founded by Bahamians and led by many of the same clergy over the years.

They were clear about discrimination in the diocese. “We were segregated,” Jackson said. “I was very uncomfortable if I had to go to a white church…we weren’t welcome.”

Saunders said that going to Miami to the Diocesan Office or the cathedral was “like going to Rome.” But he added that he had seen changes, as more black people now serve on diocesan committees and the Executive Board.

Fr. William “Chip” Stokes, co-chair of the Commission on Anti-Racism, thanked the panelist for their stories and said, “We still have much, much work to do…the whole church needs to understand that this is our story.”

The stories of Broward’s black Episcopal churches will become part of the archive of the county’s history; panelists and other parishioners will have their oral histories recorded for the African American Research Library and Cultural Center.

Planning is underway for the next “Telling Our Stories” event, which will focus on the traditionally black congregations in the North and South Dade Deaneries.
Scottish pageantry honors Scotland’s patron saint

Parishioners at two ends of the diocese celebrated the Feast of St. Andrew, Scotland’s patron saint, on November 30 with the traditional service of the Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans.

The “kirkin’” (churching) of the tartans originated in 18th century Scotland, when the Scots, who had been defeated by England and were forbidden to wear their tartans, held an annual service at which they secretly brought pieces of their tartans to church for a blessing on their clans for the year.

At Guardian Angels, Lantana, (left) parishioners wore tartan skirts, kilts and sashes representing their family clans and carried tartan flags during the procession at the Sunday morning Eucharist, and celebrated with a champagne brunch following the service.

At Trinity Cathedral, Miami, (above) the 4 p.m. service of Choral Evensong included a procession of parishioners and members of the community with their kilts and tartans, accompanied by the St. Andrew’s Pipe Band. The Anglican Chorale offered quieter music for the service, which included the blessing of the tartans and prayers for Queen Elizabeth II of England, as well as for our president and our president-elect. Worship concluded with the singing of the national anthems of Scotland, England and the United States.

The tradition of the Kirkin’ was brought to Trinity Cathedral in 1976 by its first dean, the very Rev. George McCormick.

DUNCAN CENTER RENOVATIONS ENHANCE WELCOME

Approaching the Duncan Center on Military Trail used to be a matter of slowing down and peering forward to look for the almost hidden driveway. Now a new sign, perpendicular to the street, clearly welcomes guests to our diocesan conference center.

The sign is one part of the Center’s ongoing renovations, which also include refurbishing the 40 guest rooms with fresh paint, new carpet, new furniture and new fixtures and lighting in the vanity area.

Donations from individuals and congregations have already provided for the renovation of seven rooms; the cost to renovate a room is $2500. Duncan Center Director Alison Walsh told the Diocesan Convention that donations are needed for additional rooms and other ongoing upgrades to the facility.

“We did receive donations for the front sign,” she said after convention, “but have not reached our goal to cover the whole expense.

From January through October of 2008 of this year the Center hosted 192 groups, 30 of them from within the diocese, and welcomed 4,080 guests.
Inspired by a message from Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori that called voting and political participation “acts of Christian stewardship” and urged Episcopalians “to prayerfully consider the choices before us,” Holy Family’s rector, Dean Howard Ward, invited his parishioners to bring their friends and neighbors to a series of three potluck “prayer suppers” for the election.

On the evenings of November 2 and 3 the gatherings focused on informal conversation, with prayers for the election and for wise choices. On the evening of November 4, there was another supper, this time with conversation about election results, and prayers for the newly elected leaders and the challenges that face them. There were also prayers of thanksgiving for the hope represented by the historic election of the nation’s first African American president, Barack Obama—a particularly meaningful event in the West Indian and African American community of Miami Gardens.

For those who could not attend the supper, there was a prayer gathering by telephone conference from 6 to 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday. This concept received enthusiastic approval from parishioners.

“We should consider doing this again in the near future,” one said.

The church’s parish hall is a polling place, so on Election Day, November 4, parishioners welcomed their neighbors who were standing in line to vote by distributing bottled water from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The water bottles were labeled with parish information and a Bible verse: John 7:37—“If any one is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.”

“It was an awesome blessed time,” said Beverley Findley, one of the members who handed out water. “People were so happy for the water.”

Clergy spouses see girls “blossom” at Our Little Roses

By Annabel Hobbs

On October 14 a group of fourteen clergy spouses accompanied Bishop Leo Frade and his wife, Diana, on a mission trip to Our Little Roses home for abused and abandoned girls in San Pedro Sula.

The Frades showed us all the various aspects of Our Little Roses Ministries: the home for girls; Holy Family Bilingual School with over 200 students; the retreat and conference center under construction; a medical clinic; a house for volunteers; and a Spanish immersion school. Also part of the ministry are homes for several single moms in the community that we didn’t have time to visit.

In contrast to all of this we toured the barrios from which most of the girls had come. They had no clean water, electricity, adequate food, medical care or opportunities for education.

The young women from OLR who are attending the university hosted a lovely dinner party for us at the “transition house” where they live. We were so impressed by their maturity, graciousness, and academic achievements. Judy Kinard from St. Luke’s, Port Salerno, said “They behave as though they were graduates of finishing school! It is a tribute to Diana for being such a great role model.”

One of the young ladies told us, “OLR doesn’t ask for anything in exchange. Even if one day we could give something back to OLR, nothing would be enough to repay what we have received.”

We could not have been prepared for the impact this trip would have on us. Hearing from Diana about the types of situations these girls were rescued from, we were amazed at how happy and well-adjusted they were.

They welcomed us whole-heartedly and although only some of our group spoke Spanish, the girls were able to transcend the language barrier and reach out to us. Those who were bilingual were eager to translate. This was especially helpful while we played games with them, made crafts, or helped them with homework.

The members of our group who had asked for donations from their parishes were delighted with the response. They came laden with beautiful clothes, medical supplies, books and school supplies, toys, cosmetics, toiletries, and other items the girls can use.

Several of the spouses made PowerPoint presentations from their photos of the trip to show their parishes. One used hers to motivate her co-workers.

We all agreed that we hoped this was only the beginning of our relationship with OLR. Not only did we bond with the girls, but also with one another as clergy spouses. We look forward to supporting each other throughout the year, and to having others join us the next time we go.

Within three weeks of our return, the home received three more girls ages two, five and eight. The sad, fearful-looking photos of them stood in stark contrast to the happy, smiling faces of the fifty-seven girls we had met. When asked how the transformation takes place, Diana said, “It’s a mystery. We just introduce them to their new ‘sisters’ and something mystical begins to happen. It seems to take on a life of its own.”

Perhaps it is not unlike the tightly closed rose bud which blossoms in the warmth of the sun. “Our Little Roses” is the perfect name for this amazing home!

Annabel Hobbs, wife of Archdeacon Bryan Hobbs, is a member of the Clergy Spouses Planning Committee.

Clergy spouses see girls “blossom” at Our Little Roses

By Annabel Hobbs

On October 14 a group of fourteen clergy spouses accompanied Bishop Leo Frade and his wife, Diana, on a mission trip to Our Little Roses home for abused and abandoned girls in San Pedro Sula.

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Jubilee Center draws strong support, small protest

By Mary W. Cox, editor

Every year on a Sunday afternoon close to Thanksgiving, members of St. John’s, Hollywood, and the other Broward congregations that support the ministry of the Jubilee Center of South Broward gather at St. John’s for a Hunger Walk that raises funds for Jubilee. It’s a family activity that not only brings in pledges for Jubilee’s ministry to the homeless, but is also a reminder of the needs in the community and the ways Jubilee is helping.

The event has never been controversial, so why did it attract protesters this year?

On the afternoon of November 16, as the Hunger Walkers from St. John’s headed east toward their route around the golf course, a group of about a dozen people stood in front of Little Flower Roman Catholic Church on U.S. 1, just south of Buchanan Street, where St. John’s is located. They carried signs with such messages as: “Too many social programs are killing our neighborhood.”

Protest organizer Norm Berube, a landlord in the area, said that the group was not really protesting the ministry of the Jubilee Center, but thought there were too many social service programs in the neighborhood and feared that criminals—specifically, sexual predators—might be among the people served by these programs.

Meanwhile, about 200 people, young and old, members of St. John’s; St. Anne’s, Hallandale; St. Andrew’s, Hollywood; St. James-in-the-Hills, Hollywood; and All Saints, Ft. Lauderdale, hiked around the golf course on the cool, sunny afternoon.

“Why are we doing this?” Fr. Tom O’Dwyer of Little Flower and members of his congregation were walking with their neighbors. The protesters just happened to be standing in front of his church, he said. “It’s not condoned in any way by the good people of Little Flower.”

Quoting Matthew 28, O’Dwyer explained, “Jesus said, ‘You did it to me’—not for me, to me—that’s why we’re doing this.”

In front of St. John’s, Jubilee Center Executive Director Tammy Morton stood behind a table piled high with a growing mountain of food donated by the walkers.

Pledges gathered by the walkers raised more than $7,000 for Jubilee, which serves a hot lunch to clients Monday through Friday, and also partners with government and other agencies to provide counseling and referrals for other services needed by homeless individuals and families.

As the walkers enjoyed refreshments after their hike, Bill Bliss, chair of Jubilee’s board of directors, addressed the issues raised by the protesters.

“We are aware of the problems that our clients might cause,” he said, “and we are continually working on that.”

He assured the Center’s supporters that anyone who commits a crime is not allowed to come back to the Center.

“We will continue to work with our neighbors,” he said.

Eagle Scout project provides expanded storage at Jubilee

The Jubilee Center of South Broward is excited about how Eagle Scout Candidate John Corsbie spent his summer.

Corsbie, a senior at University School in Plantation and a member of St. John’s, Hollywood, devoted much of his summer to his Eagle Project—the construction of additional storage facilities at the Jubilee Center of South Broward.

He first met with Center Director Tammy Morton and her board members and staff to determine layout and requirements. Then he presented his project proposal and budget to a Scout committee, who had to determine if the project fell within the guidelines for Eagle Projects.

Next it was time to raise funds; the Scout wrote letters to corporations, met with corporate representatives, and called on friends to provide materials for the project, as well as donations of food to fill the storage area when it was completed.

The actual building, which took two weekends at the end of August and in early September to complete, involved the removal of existing structures, temporary relocation of the food products on existing shelves during construction, and clean-up after the work was finished. The new storage area includes three 16-foot storage racks and one eight-foot sorting table.

Corsbie was also able to raise sufficient funds to purchase a fan and additional food.

After the work was done, all of the food that had been removed from the old shelves, plus the newly donated food that Corsbie had gathered, had to be sorted and placed on the new racks.

“This was not a one man effort,” said the Scout’s mother, Fazia Corsbie. “The project drew help from fellow scouts, friends and the business community.”

She added that part of the challenge of her son’s project was mobilizing and managing volunteers.

“We are extremely grateful to John and his volunteers,” said Morton. “By increasing the available storage in our pantry warehouse, we can find everything so much easier and quicker. In fact with the added space, we are now seeking additional donations.”

HUNGER WALK
Walkers of all ages—including some canine hikers—turned out for the annual Hunger Walk in support of the Jubilee Center of South Broward.