



Introducing Assistant Bishop Hector Monterroso

A native of Guatemala, the Rt. Rev. Hector Monterroso served as bishop of Costa Rica for 14 years before becoming an assistant bishop in the Diocese of Texas, July 1, 2017.

His father's professional soccer career proved to be an opener for him in gathering people to a new worshipping community. "My training in the seminary did not include how to [plant] new churches," he said, but with his inherited soccer skills, he soon made headway. "People couldn't believe that a priest could play soccer. I visited many small towns where the people came to learn that I was the priest of the new church. Many young people came to the church to meet and to play on my soccer team. Eventually, we had our own soccer team sponsored by the Episcopal Church. It was good advertising," he laughed.

In addition to his experience as a missionary, and as Bishop of Costa Rica, Bishop Monterroso also served as Secretary General of Province IX (1986-2000); as editor of the *Revista Anglicanos* for 16 years, a magazine that served the Hispanic diaspora in the Anglican Communion; and as Secretary General of the Anglican Church of the Central Region of America. During his tenure in Costa Rica, he secured its financial stability, increased the number of clergy from seven to 29, assured that most congregations were self-sustaining, and gained governmental recognition and support for many of the Diocese's programs.

In Texas, Bishop Monterroso will continue to strengthen the growth in both Hispanic congregations as well as new missional communities and church plants. He will visit 45 congregations during the year; primarily in the southern region of the Diocese of Texas; chair the board of St. Vincent's House, a social service agency in Galveston; support growth of multicultural presence in all congregations and help to create a strategy for new ethnic church plants and missional communities. Additionally, Bishop Monterroso will work to identify vocational leaders within the Hispanic congregations.

Father Mitch's Notes...



Peace and Grace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ our Lord!

Sometimes the polity of the Episcopal Church can be confusing. With the polity meaning the organization or structure. For instance, in the Diocese of Texas we have a Bishop Diocesan, Andy Doyle, and two Bishops Suffragan, Dena Harrison and Jeff Fisher, and as of July 1, 2017, a Bishop Assistant, Hector Monterroso. If that was not enough, there are even two more types, a Bishop Assisting and a Bishop Coadjutor. (The following information comes from <http://www.epicenter.org/how-many-different-types-of-bishops-are-there/>)

Diocesan Bishop - the primary bishop of a diocese; sometimes referred to as "The Diocesan."

Bishop Coadjutor - A bishop elected to succeed the Diocesan Bishop. An ordained person consecrated to become the next bishop of a diocese when the diocesan bishop retires; when the bishop retires or resigns, the Co-adjutor becomes the Diocesan and the term Co-adjutor is dropped. Suffragan bishops do not automatically become diocesan bishops.

Bishop Suffragan - A bishop elected to assist the Diocesan Bishop and to serve under the Diocesan's direction. A working co-bishop in a diocese but without inherent right of succession when the diocesan bishop retires or resigns. Suffragan bishops are sometimes called by another diocese to become their Diocesan bishop.

Assistant Bishop - A bishop appointed by the Diocesan Bishop with the consent of the Standing Committee to assist the Diocesan and to serve under the Diocesan's direction, creation of the post having been approved by the Diocesan Convention. A specially ordained or otherwise specially designated person who has the spiritual and liturgical rank of a bishop and who usually assists the Bishop of a diocese; some retired diocesan bishops become assistants to other bishops; some assistant bishops are specially ordained for their work. Assistant Bishops can perform most functions performed by other bishops.

Assisting Bishop - A bishop appointed by the Diocesan Bishop to provide short-term assistance with episcopal duties in the Diocese.

As you can see, it is all clear now. As for how one becomes a bishop that is also not an easy answer. So, I will save that for the next Journal.

Peace,
Mitch+

It's time for Vacation Bible School!
The theme this year is ...
Christmas in July



Hey kids, we know you're out of school, splashing in the pool, going to summer camp, playing video games. And we are talking about Christmas?!? Isn't Christmas for winter?!? But it's so busy around Christmas - with school and parties and shopping and Santa and - Presents!

But what about the real gift, the gift of Jesus? Come and learn the real reason for the season without all that Santa distraction. Learn the Bible stories about the birth of Jesus, make crafts, sing Christmas carols - and yes, there will be Christmas cookies. Invite your friends. Just have everyone's parent sign them up so we know how many cookies to bake!

"For God so loved the world that he sent his only son..." (John 3:16)

Where: St. Francis Episcopal Church

When: Sunday, July 23rd - Thursday, July 27th

Times: Sunday, 5:00pm - 7:45 pm for hamburgers
Monday - Thursday, 5:30 - 7:45 pm - meal for kids served every night

Ages: Kindergarten through 5th grade

Pageant: Thursday, July 27th, 7pm. Parents, siblings, grandparents, etc, invited!

Bring a gift for the baby Jesus each night - a canned good to help the hungry.



St. Francis Sunday School Formation: Discovery Series

Beginning Sunday August 6 we are going to start a new formation series geared to:

Understanding the basics of Christianity (Four Classes)
Becoming Spiritually Mature (Four Classes)
Exploring Episcopal Worship (Three Classes)
Identifying our Spiritual Gifts (Two Classes)
How to reach out to others with God's Good News (Three Classes)

Due to the length of the courses, 2 – 5 Sunday School Classes each, the entire courses necessary for Baptism, Confirmation, and Reception will be offered before the Bishop's Visit on November 12. This is so that those willing to be Baptized, Confirmed, or Received into the Episcopal Church by the Bishop will have time to take the class.

Those seeking **Confirmation** are those Baptized individuals that are Episcopalian and have not yet had a Bishop lay hands on them before. Being **Received** is for those baptized in other faith Traditions in the name of the Holy Trinity, and have had a Bishop from another denomination lay hands on them, that desire to participate in the life of the Episcopal Church. **Baptism** is for those that have not been baptized before.

Please sign up so that we know how many booklets to make.

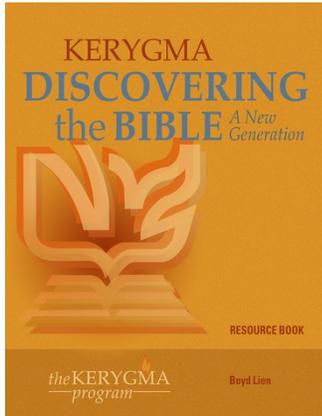
I am looking forward to this course and the conversations to be had about God and our faith. Remember this course is not only for those desiring Baptism, Confirmation, and Reception, but also for those that desire to be refreshed, formed, and informed in their journey's as Christians.

Peace,
Fr. Mitch+



Save the date! The St. Francis luau will be held on Saturday, August 19th from 4 to 7 pm at the home of Frank Cabell and Lisa Kraus. Bring the kids and your bathing suits. Don't let the hot weather keep you away. There will be plenty of indoor seating. We will smash melons again this year! Bring a watermelon, and channel your inner Gallagher.

St. Francis Sunday School Formation:



Kerygma

Discovering the Bible: A New Generation

Beginning Sunday August 27, 2017, we are going to start a study like no other. The *Discovering the Bible: A New Generation* is an introduction to the people, places and stories of the Bible and discover where The Story lives in your story!

Through a process of reading, reflection, discussion and creative expression, both the first-time learner and the lifelong student are invited to an engaging, rewarding encounter with Scripture that will greatly deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Bible.

Be sure to sign-up and let me know if you are interested so we can order enough books. The books are \$30 each. Please write a check to St. Francis with Discovering the Bible in the memo or give cash to Bob Gray or myself and let us know what it is for. \$30 can be a lot of money so don't let cost keep you from participating. Let me, Fr. Mitch, know if you need assistance for there are scholarships available. The course lasts for 30 sessions that we have planned throughout the year.

Peace,
Fr. Mitch+



STEWARDSHIP

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

- *Matthew 6:21 NRSV*

When it comes to stewardship we all pledge the treasure that we know we can give. For what you and I pledge to support the ministries of St. Francis, we are thankful. We are so close to eliminating our deficit I believe that if we begin to give an extra \$5-\$10-\$20 in the offering plate we would reduce, if not eliminate, any deficit for 2017.

So bring a friend: George, Abraham, Alexander, Andrew, Harriet, and some of their friends. Together we can fully support the ministries of St. Francis!

Peace,
Mitch+



INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

What is intercession? It is prayer that pleads to God for the needs of others, and not stopping until God's will comes to pass. The Intercessory Prayer Group, or "Prayer Warriors", was formed in 2005 by Priscilla and Jim Warren to provide prayers for our parishioners, their friends and family (in petition or thanksgiving).

To get your petitions onto the prayer list or before the prayer team: (1) write them on the list on the stand in the Narthex. (2) After the second service, a prayer team is available at the altar by the St. Francis Tapestry. This team will continue to pray during the week for your petition. **All are welcome to come up for prayers also** (3) You may call the church office during normal working hours, Monday through Thursday, between 9 AM and 2 PM, or (4) make your petition known to Father Mitch.

For questions about the prayer group or to volunteer to join us, please contact Pat Sarubbi at 903-561-2321, cell 903-948-7300, or email: n5dxs@earthlink.net.



HANDBELLS

We will be taking off part of the summer. Our last group practice will be Thursday, June 22nd. We will resume practicing Thursday, August 3rd.

Thanks!
Susan Kohler!



Other News and Happenings Since the Last Journal:

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The DOK (Daughters of the King) met. They are a group that does so many things around the church along with the many prayers they say. A great group committed to serving Christ.

Wednesdays: (All are invited)

12:00pm Bible Study – An open discussion around the Bible as we walk through the Bible together. Everyone is welcome to come.

6:00pm Healing Service – A contemplative yet participatory service where we have laying on of hands and anointing of oil to foster and pray for physical and spiritual health for each other and our community.

7:10pm Choir Practice – Lift your voices and sing songs of praise! If you like to sing, join the choir.

Fr. Bob DeWolfe's Bible classes! A classroom type environment where there is deep diving into the Biblical text.

Hand Bell Practice! – All are invited. It is a great group of folks that come together and make the bells sing!

Serendipity, a time we get together at a home or the church for a fellowship meal in which everyone is invited and guests are welcomed, was held at the Barron's home!

Sunday School takes a break for the Summer! Thanks goes out to all of those folks!

Thank you Mairi and Melinda, now Bob, for putting together and producing the Journal in all of its many forms.

There was a Men's breakfast. – All are invited to go and if you are lucky you get to be there for biscuits and sausage gravy! SOOOOOO filling! Thank you men's group for expanding your ministry last month.

Church Under a Bridge Prep – Here all are invited to help make 225 sandwiches and bags in preparation for taking them to the Church Under a Bridge on the following Sunday. The Church Under a Bridge is a community that holds worship for the homeless under the Gentry bridge. We provide lunch for that community once a month.

Church Under a Bridge Delivery – On the first Sunday of the month there is a faithful few that deliver the meals prepared the day before to the Church Under a Bridge. Some have been known to stay and worship with our homeless neighbors. Which from personal experience is quite powerful.

A huge thanks for everyone who helped make the graduation celebration for Miles and Mason a wonderful event.

Another Serendipity, a time we get together at a home or the church for a fellowship meal in which everyone is invited and guests are welcomed, was held at the church and hosted by the Dunns!

To all that made the Sunday for sending Melinda off, I thank you very much for putting that together! Your vestry met and discussed the finances, grounds, and future of St. Francis. Thank you for your service vestry members, and clerk!

We had the Invite Welcome Connect team meeting with Bob Gray. Great discussion and ideas on how to invite people to church, welcome them in, and connect them to what is happening here. Everyone is welcome to come and join in the discussion.

The OTLB (Out to lunch bunch) met at Abuelo's this month. Everyone is welcome, it is simply yet another opportunity for St. Francis folk to mingle. Bring a friend!

The Anglican Rosary happens on the first Wednesday of the Month. Everyone meets and if you have not prayed with an Anglican Rosary before you are brought up to speed. It is a very powerful way to pray.

The new missional community named *Just as I am* has had a strong early turnout. They are expected to grow. I am thankful for this new community in the Tyler area. Thank you Rob Jerger and the many volunteers for your hard work on this.

The gardens look so nice! (Thanks gardening angels! If you are reading this you can be one too!)

Thanks goes out to the Altar guild for having everything ready each and every Sunday!

Thanks also to the office volunteers folding and answering the phones.

Plus much, much more!

Thanks go out to the many volunteers and donors that make these things happen!

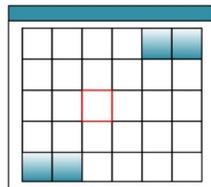
JULY BIRTHDAYS

Miles Miller	07/03
Bob Lee	07/04
Pamela Haltom	07/08
Kathleen Davis	07/09/
Polly Kuklewicz	07/10
Sara Steinbrueck	07/11/
Derik Gray	07/14/
Malcolm Teasdale	07/16
Mac McGraw	07/20
Phyllis Wilcox	07/25
Mary White	07/31



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Dwain & Georgia West	07/11
Bill & Cindy Cornett	07/11
Mark & Julie Miller	07/20



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW...

<i>Ice Cream Social</i>	<i>7/2</i>
<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	<i>7/23 - 27</i>
<i>Blessing of the Backpacks</i>	<i>8/13</i>
<i>Back to School Party</i>	<i>8/13</i>
Blessing of the Animals	10/7
St. Francis Feast Day	10/8
Bishop's Visit	11/12
Thanksgiving Turkey Lunch	11/19
Christmas Eve Services	12/24