

Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognized as one of success and fulfillment.

Our congregation greatly valued our last rector, Father Tony Noble, but we met his retirement with great confidence. Even in the absence of a rector, the congregation showed continued commitment by participating in good numbers at Lenten weekday events (Stations of the Cross, Bible study, soup supper) and Holy Week services. At Father Noble's retirement, the parish recognized its own vitality--which appears to us more and more clearly as we prepare for the centennial of our church building, the oldest continuously occupied church in San Diego.

During the past few years, we have had success in welcoming people who had earlier drifted away from church, providing a place for them to rediscover and recommit to Christianity. Many individual stories of the church's outreach might be recounted, but one that is particularly recalled is the baptism of a gay, interracial couple's infant children earlier this year. We have seen many people return to their faith because of All Saints' ministry. Encouraged by our clergy and community, they have become vital members of the congregation, incorporating the sacraments once more into their lives. Several who have moved away from San Diego have searched for the same type of experience in their new communities and have found that there is something special at All Saints' that is not easily discovered elsewhere.

Describe your liturgical style and practice. If your community provides more than one type of worship service, please describe all.

We value the full depth and breadth of the Anglo-Catholic tradition, with the understanding that sacramental, incarnational worship is central to our life in service to God.

We reverence the beauty and awe of the Holy Mysteries. In addition to Sunday masses (low mass at 8 a.m., solemn high mass at 10 a.m., both Rite I), there are weekday masses and a monthly Marian mass. On Festival Sundays there may be a Eucharistic procession or Choral Evensong with Benediction. Our music program fully supports and enriches the worship. The choir, which is gaining recognition as one of the best small choirs performing anthems and motets in San Diego, consists of volunteers and four paid soloists, and also leads the congregation in the Ordinary of the mass. We have a noted organist-choirmaster.

All Saints' has always appreciated a homiletic approach that emphasizes inspiring Bible teaching, the centrality of worship, and the implications of Christian teaching for the individual and corporate life. All Saints' has never welcomed the mixture of religion with politics. Our social life emanates from our worship life, not the other way around. As a religious community of this kind, we do not accept an "agenda" that might be put forward by a special interest group of any type.

How do you practice incorporating others into ministry?

At any given time, a very large portion of our congregation (from an acolyte aged 8 to a reader aged 100) participates in the public life of the parish, either as acolytes or readers or greeters or members of the choir, the altar guild, the flower guild, or the vestry. Active participation is not limited to a set, self-perpetuating group. Everyone who currently plays an active role in the church tries to bring others in, and often succeeds.

One of our most important tasks is to continue to strengthen leadership development; we know something about how to do that, but we can learn more. We also need to continue doing everything possible to help newcomers to All Saints' and people who have never been actively involved in a religious congregation find a role in our tradition of service.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being?

We are an incarnational community, caring for the physical surroundings associated with our spiritual being. Our church, which is the oldest institutional presence in our neighborhood, is beautifully embellished and devotedly maintained. Within the church, every opportunity is taken to encourage and support personal devotion. Our weekly Bible study has been running for years. We encourage the chain of prayer. We reach out to people who need assistance. A strong web of friendships unites the congregation. Individually, we maintain a sense of fun and an earthy sense of humor.

We can summarize our means of caring for our well-being in this way:

Physical – by visits of clergy and congregants to home or hospital; by helping people to come to church when they have difficulty doing so; and by care for the church itself.

Spiritual - by our lovely services with their delicate liturgy, the same week by week.

Emotional – by the warm fellowship of believers, supporting each other, having fun.

How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

Our church welcomes and ministers to everyone it can reach, and we have demonstrated our specific concern and welcome for the prevalingly gay and bohemian community in which we are located. For many years we have also felt that we have an important role in revitalizing the faith of Episcopalians and other Christians throughout our metropolitan area, especially those who are looking for a firm anchor of faith in a shifting and often superficial world. As one of the oldest religious communities in San Diego, we feel that we offer a continuous witness of faith and works, and we seek to make this witness still more visible.

Matching works with faith, our members are active in several ministries for the homeless, including food, coat, and blanket collections.

Describe your worshiping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region?

Since the early twentieth century we have been a destination church, ministering to the entire metropolitan area and drawing people from the whole of that area, while cultivating our relationship with our immediate neighborhood.

We operate a popular preschool (of which our interim rector has long been the chaplain) and provide space for other, specialized school projects, including an organization for autistic children. The Alcoholics Anonymous group for which we provide facilities is San Diego's longest-running group, meeting in the same location. For more than 30 years it has hosted the annual New Years Eve Alkathon. We help the local organization Hillquest, cooperating with its neighborhood street cleaning project and other activities.

We are an integral part of our diocese, and we maintain an intense involvement with the Society of the Holy Cross and the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, both of them representative of the worldwide Anglican communion.

Tell about a ministry that your worshiping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Our music program has been enhanced, and now draws many people from the surrounding communities to our services and special events.

We participate in the City Fest community festival in our neighborhood. We offer summer evening concerts and afternoon teas. Our preschool has been set on a firm foundation and is markedly successful.

For more information on our music program: Mr. Robert MacLeod, our organist and choirmaster. For our preschool Ms. Renike Battles, preschool director. For general information: Ms. Clare Jacob, our senior warden.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

We *are* the church of the future. We have no qualms about the future; we are ready for it, because we are the church that is “yesterday, today, and forever.” We offer something that people are coming back to find. We offer the recognition of why the church is important to people now, and will be important to them in the future. We offer the distinctive answer to the question, “Why should I go to church?” People don’t go to church to replicate what they would

do if they weren't in church; but when they have worshiped at All Saints', "they know they've been to church." We believe that our church and its liturgy help to teach the meaning of a sacred place, a place where God dwells, not just an assembly hall for fellow believers.

Yet our community of belief is itself important. When you look around our congregation you see people of very different backgrounds, lifestyles, and personalities. The congregation is multi-ethnic and multi-generational (though currently tending toward an older age group). It includes families and single people, military and non-military, Democrats and Republicans, San Diego natives and people from around the globe; those who grew up in the Anglo-Catholic faith and those who did not. Many of these people would never have had the opportunity to meet one another, were it not for All Saints' and the welcoming community of worship that thrives in our church. We will maintain our welcoming community; we will also keep the faith of our fathers by continuing to reach out to the younger adults who will carry on the faith.

Please provide 4-6 words (*separated by semi-colons*) describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community?

Anglo-Catholic; God-centered; urban; outgoing; welcoming; inspiring.