



The 25th Sunday After Pentecost

Collect for Veterans Day

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in whose hands are the living and the dead; We give you thanks for all those your servants who risk their lives, have risked their lives or have laid down their lives in the service of our country. Grant to them your mercy and the light of your presence, that the good work which you have begun in them may be perfected; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

Originally published on November 8, 2015 in honor of Veterans Day, the Rt. Rev James “Jay” Magness, then Suffragan Bishop of the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries, reflected on the relationship between those of us who represent the country’s faith communities and our armed forces.

All too often the political and social mission that has become such an important part of our faith communities has placed us at odds with the armed forces. Today it is increasingly difficult to find men and women who have served in the armed forces.

It is estimated that in the general population of our country less than 7% of our citizens have ever served in the armed forces. Therefore, with so few active social and cultural connections with men and women in uniform, we are increasingly disconnected from them and from their experiences. The inclinations of our faith communities have changed considerably about whether or not we think our members should engage in military service.

It has been my experience that about the only time we engage in serious thought about the implications of military service is when a member of the armed forces who is in some way connected to one of our congregations is either seriously injured or killed. Even then it is such a strange and unusual occurrence that we do not know how to act toward the affected service members or members of their families.

Given the scarcity of both military members and veterans perhaps it is time for us to think about why anyone would volunteer to go into the armed forces. I believe that there are three basic reasons. The first is for a sense of duty. For many of our fellow citizens the attacks of September 11, 2001 were for them what the December 7, 1941 attack upon Pearl Harbor Naval Base was for their predecessors. Within days after the 9/11 attacks near droves of young and capable American citizens came to the conclusion that their sense of duty levied upon them the requirement to volunteer to enter one of the branches of the armed forces as a way of doing their part to protect our country. Such responses to duty are virtues that form the basis of a person’s character.

A second reason that people volunteer is because they have a sense of service to the nation. Because they enjoy the goods of the nation’s freedoms, they reason that service is required. Many, if not most who volunteer because of this sense of service do so because they have been educated by parents and others that service is a civic responsibility. Like duty, service is a virtue that forms a person’s character.

I believe the third reason that people volunteer is because they envision becoming a member of the armed forces is their last resort; the only remaining life path that is open to them. Many, of these are men and women who enter the armed forces as directionless adolescents and who depart three or four years later as responsible adults. In my opinion, they then become living virtues and treasurers to our society.

The uneasy relationship between the faith communities and members of the armed forces has changed since the idea of compulsory military service was suspended. Nonetheless, it is time for us to reconnect. On this Veterans Day 2015 unlike some of my friends in the faith community I am not all that interested in what we can do for service members and veterans. I am, however, very interested in what these persons can do for the faith communities of America. Service members and veterans, if given the appropriate recognition, honor, welcome, and permission can teach us so very much about the spiritual value of personal and corporate sacrifice.

We live in an age dominated by the values of personal achievement and material acquisition. It will do us well to hear the encouraging word that service members and veterans can teach us about the spiritual value of sacrifice.

But where will we begin? Perhaps the next time you see a wounded warrior instead of thanking them for their service, commend them for their sacrifice. Then be still and watch what happens between the two of you.

Bishop Jay Magness is the retired Suffragan Bishop of the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries. Magness was elected by the House of Bishops as Bishop Suffragan on March 24, 2010. Previously, he served as the Canon for Mission and Diocesan Administration in the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia and in parish and diocesan ministry. He retired from the U.S. Navy in 2003 in the rank of Captain, serving as Command Chaplain of U.S. Joint Forces Command and Fleet Chaplain for the U.S. Fleet Forces Command. From 1997 to 2000 he was on the Navy Chief of Chaplains’ staff as personnel manager of the Navy Chaplain Corps. Copyright © 2015 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/>



Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive continues until Sunday, November 11th. We are collecting nonperishable food items or monetary contributions to buy supermarket gift cards. All Items will be donated to **Bridging Families & Communities** for families exposed to domestic violence and/or high conflict. **If you have any questions, please see Maria Mena.**

Hurricane Relief

Please send donations for Hurricane Michael relief to the following addresses:

The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
201 North Baylen Street
Pensacola, FL 32502

OR

Episcopal Relief and Development
Hurricane Michael Relief
815 Second Avenue
New York NY 10017

Angel Tree Toy Drive

The annual Angel Tree Toy Drive will be held from **November 25th to December 16th**. Adopt a Little Angel by bringing a new unwrapped toy to church. Monetary contributions are also welcomed. All items will be donated to Care Resource.



Search Corner Information 

The Search Committee has been meeting to review the OTM Profiles and Resumes of potential candidates who are applying to be the next Rector of All Souls'. The review process is all but complete pending feedback from one member, after which the Search Committee's recommendations will be sent to the Bishop for his approval to go ahead with the interviews. Please keep us in your prayers as we go forward in this very important process.



Hospitality

If your surname begins with **M - R**, a reminder that there's an opportunity for you to provide a much-needed food item for our hospitality next Sunday, **November 18th**. Please check with Joyce Foreman this morning and ask her what she needs for next Sunday. Items needed usually are a starch (pasta, potato, etc.), a meat, a salad, a vegetable and a dessert.

Stewardship Opportunities

During this exciting time of transition for All Souls' Episcopal Church, we have numerous stewardship opportunities to give your talents and time to our church community. Stewardship is rooted in the belief that we all have inherited wonderful and unique gifts from God. This recognition of our giftedness leads to a life of gratitude and desire to share our gifts with our family, church and community. Please speak with a vestry member to learn more about the ways you can give your gifts to the All Souls' congregation.

Stay Connected! Visit our website: www.allsoulsmb.org and sign up to receive our Weekly Newsletter by email

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Hey! It's November!!!

All celebrations and/or events are held at All Souls' Episcopal Church unless otherwise noted

November 11th
The 25th Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Eucharist 8:00 am
Sung Eucharist, Baptism of Daniel Vidaechea 10:30 am

November 12th
Girl Scouts Meeting

Saturday, November 17th
Centering Prayer
All Souls' 10:30 am

November 18th
The 26th Sunday After Pentecost
Egg Sunday (*Please bring boiled eggs*)
Holy Eucharist 8:00 am
Sung Eucharist 10:30 am
Miami Children's Chorus "Artistry of Youth" 4:00 pm

November 22nd
HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY!!!!

Saturday, November 24th
Centering Prayer
All Souls' 10:30 am

November 25th
The Last Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Eucharist 8:00 am
Sung Eucharist 10:30 am

Prayer List

We are continuously updating our church's Prayer List. If you would like to add a name, place, organization or situation to the Prayer List, please email us at: parishoffice@allsoulsmb.org.