



ANGLICAN ORDINARIATE FOR THE CANADIAN FORCES



Bulletin/Volume 8, No 4 **Advent & Christmas 2011/ Epiphany 2012**

Egyptian Coptic
terra cotta Santa.
See article page 5.

BISHOP ORDINARY TO THE FORCES
The Right Reverend Peter Coffin STB, MA, DD

ANNUAL ORDINARIATE WORSHIP SERVICE CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, OTTAWA

The annual worship service of the Anglican Military Ordinariate was held at Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa on Sunday 13 November 2011. This was the weekend of Remembrance Day and the Dean of Ottawa and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Reverend Shane Parker wanted to link the national services of Remembrance with



The three new Canons are presented. From left to right: Canon David Greenwood, Canon Michelle Staples and Canon Rick Durrett.

the historic relationships amongst Christ Church Cathedral and the Diocese of Ottawa and the military. Christ Church is not only the cathedral of the Diocese of Ottawa but also the cathedral church of the Military Ordinariate. Over and over again, during the service, these relationships were acknowledged and celebrated. The Diocese of Ottawa has been a good friend to the Canadian Forces and indeed Christ Church Cathedral was named in 1999 as the "Cathedral of the Canadian Armed Forces Canadiennes."

The worship service was overseen by the Dean. The preacher for the day was Brigadier General the Venerable Karl McLean our Chaplain General. The communion of Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the Right Reverend Peter Coffin, our Bishop Ordinary.

Just before the Eucharistic Prayer, the bishop invited the Dean to come forward and our Archdeacon, Colonel the Venerable John Fletcher invited Padres Rick Durrett, Michelle Staples and David Greenwood to come forward from the first pew. These

three military chaplains had been appointed by the Bishop Ordinary as Honorary Canons of the Ordinariate. Dean Parker administered their Oaths of Allegiance, introduced them to the congregation (to a great round of applause) and then formally "installed" the three new canons into their canon's stalls in the cathedral.

Following worship, the new canons and members of their families, other canons of the Ordinariate, military chaplains and senior members of the Cathedral were hosted by Archdeacon Fletcher and Nelson Usher to a wonderful lunch at the Delta Hotel. The following morning, our Ordinariate Chapter met at the offices of the Ottawa Chaplains in Uplands.

This Bulletin, for the Anglican Ordinariate of the Canadian Forces, is an informal document for the members of the Clericus. Its purpose is to provide the membership a means of communication and an expression of our fellowship. It is issued under the jurisdiction of the Bishop Ordinary for the Canadian Forces (Anglican). To submit an article please email text to: dmgcag1@msn.com.

A WORD FROM OUR BISHOP

“The light shines in darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.”
(Saint John 1:5)

Some thoughts on the mystery of this Holy Season

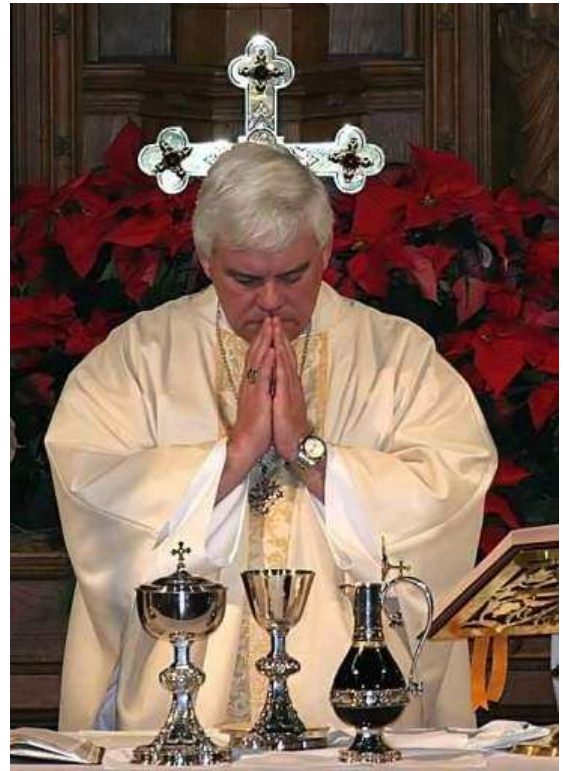
Dear Friends,

As we enter the Holy Seasons of Advent and the Incarnation of our Lord and then Epiphany we find ourselves immersed in a time of profound mystery and joyful hope. Our God comes to us! Zechariah proclaims that his son, John the Baptist, will herald “the tender mercy of our God whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us; to give light to them that sit in darkness and to guide our feet into the way of peace”. (The Benedictus – Luke 1:78-79). At Christmas we rejoice that the Word was made flesh and dwells among us (John 1:14) as he continues to do. Indeed, before he ascended Jesus said to his disciples then and now: “I am with you always to the close of the age”. As Simeon presents the Christ Child in the temple he proclaims that this child is the salvation of all people, “a light to lighten the nations and to be to the glory of Israel”. (Luke 2:29-32) Imagine how far that light has travelled since these words were spoken!

The days grow shorter and then the bleak mid-winter comes. But the sky seems clearer and the stars shine brighter. On dark streets the street lights and the Christmas lights, seem to defy the darkness with joyful colour. It is almost as if, in defiance of darkness, there is expectation of the true light that is coming into the world, and that “the light shines in darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1: 9) As you walk in the snow on a cold winter’s night, revel in the light.

We all have our personal times of darkness and are very much aware of the many things that cast shadows on the lives of others. It is certainly a part of the experience of those who live in the context of military service. This is a vocation that enters the places of fear, conflict and humanitarian need. Wherever we are, we need to know that in the midst of all of this Jesus is present and that even in the darkness there may be light and some hope that, to quote the 14th century mystic, Julian of Norwich: “All shall be well and all manner of things shall be well”.

This Holy Season is indeed festive with good reason. We live in the realization that Jesus has come and lives



amongst us and that every new morning there may very well be another personal Advent, a Divine encounter with him in our own lives. “How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given... No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in”.*** May we prepare a room for him in the inn of our own hearts. May we trust that “he will be a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path”. (Psalm 119:105)

May all of us feel the presence of Jesus anew this Holy Season and may we be light to each other so that even if darkness is not totally dispelled it will continue to be overcome in and through those who bear the light of Christ in their hearts.

Let us rejoice in Emmanuel – God with us.

“O Come, let us adore Him!”

+ Peter

Anglican Bishop Ordinary

(The Right Reverend Peter Coffin was appointed by the Primate to the position of Bishop Ordinary (Anglican) to the Canadian Forces in November 2004.)

*** From “O Little Town of Bethlehem” written by Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) for his parish Sunday School after a visit to the Holy Land. He later became the Episcopal Bishop of Massachusetts.

A word from our Archdeacon...

The Advent Hope to Which We Are Called

As we enter a new liturgical year, we encounter – once again – the forceful figure of John the Baptist, as he appears on the Advent horizon, and calls us to prepare the way of the Lord. Yet all too often, as we chart our way through a frenzy of seasonal socializing, shopping and decorating, we find ourselves – when Christmas arrives – feeling: in some ways ready; somewhat tired; but not at all prepared! The faith-filled waiting, hope-filled longing, and love-filled action, that should be our true posture in this season of Advent, seem sometimes lost in the chaos of the pre-Christmas commotion that surrounds and ensnares us. Like Captive Israel, “that mourns in lonely exile here”, we seem somehow separated from our truest selves, and in need of ransom, return and renewal. “O come, O come Emanuel”.

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, remind us of the hope and joyful expectation that we are called to as members of the Body of Christ. These seasons remind us that “Emanuel” has come to us; that “God with us” is with us still; that Jesus will one day come again in power to transform us, and all of creation, as the true source of our reconciliation and peace. That’s the Advent hope to which we are called. That’s the gift of Christmas we should truly celebrate. That’s the Epiphany we’re called to make manifest in these most splendid seasons and always. So in the midst of all of the busyness of the season, I wish to you, to those you love, and those with whom and for whom you serve: a blessed Advent, a holy Christmas and New Year filled with promise and peace.

God of power and mercy,
you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son.
Remove those things which hinder love of you,
that when he comes he may find us waiting
in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

The BAS Collect for the 3rd Sunday of Advent

God Bless,

John+ Archdeacon, Anglican Military Ordinariate



**Colonel the Venerable John Fletcher
Archdeacon of the Canadian Forces**

FROM OUR CANON TREASURER

I wish to thank you for your gifts to the Ordinariate Fund this year. We have made significant progress towards being financially self sufficient but there is still some distance to go. If you have not yet made a gift for the 2011 taxation year or would like to ‘top up’ you can still do so by making a cheque out to The Anglican Military Ordinariate of Canada and sending it to me before December 31st at :

Colonel N. Shaw, D Chap Strat Sp
Office of the Chaplain General
National Defence Headquarters
101 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K2

Or you can use the internet address via <http://www.canadahelps.org>



THANK YOU CHAPLAINS OF 37 CBG – Land Force Atlantic Area

While our bishop was in Halifax recently, Padre Dennis Newhook of LFAA presented him with \$ 1,000 given to the Ordinariate by the Anglican Chaplains of 37 Canadian Brigade Group. Thank you for this generosity. And thanks to all of you who support our Military Ordinariate in so many ways – financially; by your prayers and always by mutual encouragement. We are blessed.

THE BATEMANS SPEAK ABOUT AFGHANISTAN

On September 24, St. James' Anglican Church in Orillia was privileged to welcome back Lieutenant Commander Carol Bateman and Captain Murray Bateman. Phyllis Johnson of St James' parish sends along this article.

Carol came to us in 2002 as a deacon and as our assistant curate and stayed with us until after she was priested. During her time here she established our Wednesday Loonie Lunch program which has grown to our feeding an average of 100 per week. Her enthusiasm and boundless energy were infectious throughout the congregation. At the same time Murray was in charge of a busy four-point parish in the rural townships surrounding Orillia.



Needless to say the Canadian Forces gain was our loss. We have followed their progress and had an especially poignant Remembrance Day in 2010 when Carol spoke to us via a live feed from Kandahar. There were few dry eyes when she gave the final blessing.

Our October 2011 evening with the Batemans included a social hour with opportunity for everyone to visit with them followed by our roast beef dinner, prepared and served by the congregation. A great time was had by all. One parishioner summed the video presentation by Carol and Murray this way, "Carol and Murray gave an excellent presentation which vividly depicted the role of an Army Chaplain in their support of our troops. Their photographs and vignettes of life under harrowing circumstances, where humour, empathy and courage are all in high demand, helped their listeners to understand and appreciate the sacrifices made by our troops, and our Army Chaplains. I will not soon forget this evening!"

BISHOP ORDINARY VISITS BORDEN

by Padre Robert Parker, Visit OPI



Bishop Coffin and Padre Robert Parker share an after lunch conversation with the Reverend Tim Parker, candidate on the Chaplain Basic Military Officer Qualification Course in Borden.

On October 24th the Bishop Ordinary made a pastoral visit to the Anglican chaplains in the Borden area. And there were a lot of them to visit. On the Base providing pastoral care to the students and staff of the many CF School and Training Centres there are seven chaplains, three of whom are Anglican: Padres Robert Parker, Dwayne Bos and Charles Irish. Bishop Coffin was able to meet with each of these chaplains with their spouses. At the CF Chaplain School and Centre is Padre David Greenwood and Bishop Coffin joined David and Cynthia Greenwood for an informal dinner at a nearby Inn; they were joined by Padre Carol Bateman, who was an incremental teaching staff on the Chaplains in Deployed Operations Course. And on Wednesday 26 October, Bishop Coffin travelled out to the Training Area to meet with all of the students of the Basic Military Officers' Qualification course. At that time he was able to speak with the sole Anglican student Lt(N) Tim Parker and share a, IMP (Ration Pack) meal in a rained soaked setting.

These visits are incredibly important for the pastoral well being of the Chaplains and their families as they aid in the connection with the wider Anglican community.

SANTA: SECULAR OR SAINT?

by Canon Baxter Park

A few years ago I met Canon James Rosenthal, who was then the Director of Communications for the Anglican Communion and the editor of *Anglican World*. We immediately connected because of our shared belief in the importance of the legends of St Nicholas to the church. We believe that St Nicholas can be a powerful voice pointing people to the babe at Bethlehem. Every year in early December, I wear a St Nicholas pin on my lapel, given to me by Canon Rosenthal.

I am all too aware of the debate around the commercialism of Christmas. Still, I have learned that Santa can be a powerful ally for the church if we embrace his saintly origin and educate people that he was not a creation of Coca Cola. In fact the present North American Santa Claus is a direct descendant of the traditional St Nicholas whose feast day is celebrated on 6th December every year. In many parts of Europe it is still St Nicholas who delivers the gifts to the children. In the small community of Stahe in Germany where I lived, near the Dutch border, St Nicholas would deliver small gifts to the children on 6th December and then the Christ Child would deliver the bigger gifts on Christmas Eve, while the family was attending church. This tradition dates to the Protestant reformation when Martin Luther felt it was imperative to give Christ a larger role in the celebrations of the season in the home.



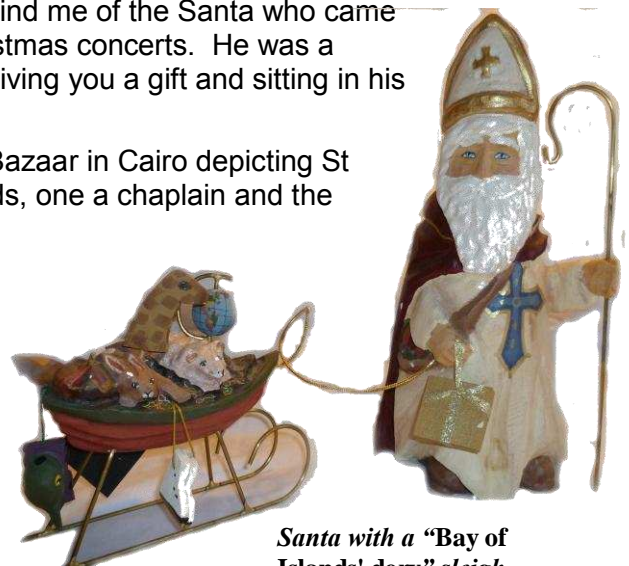
Canon Park holding his first Santa figurine from 1962.

Many of my friends and family know that I collect St Nicholas or Santa figures. I have between two and three hundred of them ranging from religious icons of Nicholas right up to more contemporary images of Santa Claus. Starting the 6th of December I begin decorating the house with them and I love mixing the images of Nicholas with historic and more modern Santas. I also enjoy telling the stories of how each of these figures became part of my collection and I love seeing people's reaction to them.

I believe I was called from the womb to collect Santas. The one I have had the longest in my collection was actually purchased for me for Christmas 1962, 5 days before my birth. I have commissioned a couple and one of my favourites is St Nicholas, wearing the robes of a bishop and towing a sleigh in the style of a Bay of Islands dory (properly painted orange) and laden down with the simple toys that St Nick might bring to outport homes during my childhood. (See the image at the top right of the front page of this newsletter.) This was done by Cape Breton carver Imelda George whose work is featured in Kevin Major's excellent children's story, *House of the Wooden Santas*. The memory of those simple Christmases has inspired me to collect a number by well-known NL artist Kevin Coates. I also have several in my collection by Ontario artist, Charles Heseltine, whose depictions of Santa always remind me of the Santa who came to my elementary school (St Nicholas Anglican School) for Christmas concerts. He was a jovial trickster who hopped around as intent on scaring you as giving you a gift and sitting in his lap or on his knee could be a bumpy ride.

My most unusual is a painted terra cotta piece from the Grand Bazaar in Cairo depicting St Nicholas as a Coptic bishop. I also have two from military friends, one a chaplain and the other a Military Policeman, in the style of matryoshka dolls that they purchased in Afghanistan. There was something really quite satisfying about what they separately said to me. "I saw these Santas and I thought of you." One of the few factory created figures that I have is a praying Santa with a Bible sticking out of the pocket of his red fur-trimmed jacket. I have to confess I love that depiction and I have used it often in my children's story in church in this season.

One of the things that I have always admired about the teachings of Jesus and particularly in his parables was his



Santa with a "Bay of Islands' dory" sleigh filled with toys.



ability to connect with people using the common images in their daily life. For the last two months of the calendar year we are bombarded with secular Christmas imagery, except it is not really secular. We have allowed our stories and our figures to be commandeered, but we can take them back. The Santa who loves children is the same image as Nicholas the patron saint of children. His reputation for generosity and kindness was earned because of his faith in Jesus. Santa or St Nicholas should not remind us of Canadian Tire. His image should point us back to Bethlehem.

Just SOME of the Park collection of memorable Santas.

Canon Baxter Park is the Formation Chaplain in Halifax. He and his Santas reside in Lakeside, NS with his wife Nancy.

FOR ALL THE SAINTS IN EGYPT

by Bishop Peter Coffin

On October 9th of this year in Maspero, Egypt demonstrators, mainly Christians, were peacefully protesting the burning of churches in southern Egypt. At the end of the day, 24 Copts were dead and over 200 injured. It was the latest in sectarian violence that has taken place over the past 40 years and escalating in the past two. Copts are 10-15% of the Egyptian population.

His Holiness, Pope Shedouda III called a fast and solemn vespers for three days. On one of these evenings I visited Saint Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church in Ottawa. Before this church building had been erected this congregation had worshipped in Christ Church, Bell's Corners (Nepean) when I had been the rector. I was privileged to meet with His Holiness at the dedication of the new place of worship.

I stood in the back until Fr. Butros noticed me and came down and introduced himself and invited me forward to the iconostasis. He then asked me to read the Gospel and preach albeit unexpected and without preparation. It was an immense privilege and I did get to meet some old friends. I later joined this gracious community of sister and brother Christians on Parliament Hill and stood with the priests. It was a moving experience and all were particularly grateful when some Egyptian Moslems expressed their solidarity.

This ancient church, founded by Saint Mark, continues to be a strong and faithful witness to the Gospel and once again does so by the blood of the martyrs. One of the placards read: "Blessed be Egypt my people". The complete text reads: "and Assyria the work of my hands and Israel my heritage". (Isaiah 19:25) I was reminded that our Lord had once walked in Egypt as a child after the Holy Family's escape from Herod. This was "to fulfil what the Lord has spoken by the prophet, 'Out of Egypt have I called my son'." (Matthew 2:15)

Let us give thanks for our freedom to practice our faith without hindrance. Let us pray for the Coptic Church in Egypt and throughout the world. Let us pray for brother and sister Christians and indeed those of any faith who are persecuted for their faith.

+Peter

Last year in Halifax when I was elected as a representative to General Synod, it was with some trepidation that I embarked on a three-year commitment. I had served on two other separate occasions on General Synod, as well as various other committees, but then had taken a three year hiatus from national church polity in order to concentrate on unit work. Returning to this world of national church leadership again was truly a blessing, but surprisingly somewhat disconcerting.

Let me explain. The work of our church when I stepped away in 2007 was good and true and frenetic. I loved our church then and I love our church now, but faced with huge cuts, threats of schism, falling numbers, and “failing” dioceses, the voice of hope in the church had about it, at times, a tone of palliative care. Regardless of what we said with our lips, somewhere in our soul was a knowledge that something precious had to die in order that Christ’s holy church should live. And perhaps it was us.

And die we did in many and painful ways. Even now, when people have offered their love and commitment for years, there continues to be a laying down that is painful; I think of the staff at Church House whose jobs are lost as just one example of the sacrifices that are being made across our great nation. I also think of the small parishes and dioceses across the country where closure or bankruptcy looms almost on a daily basis. And I am reminded again and again of the words we speak in Lent and Holy Week as the body of our Lord is broken in worship, *“Let our church be the wheat that bears its fruit in dying.”*

And so came 2010. General Synod morphed for me into an appointment onto the Council of General Synod, followed quickly by being named to the Vision 2019 Implementation Team. And so began the task of learning the language of the church again, and it was harder than I had thought, because the language of the church has changed, there is something about it that is new. I am not talking about new things: new books, new music, new programs, new members. What I am talking about is something much more fundamental. I am talking about that language that once was palliative is taking on a new life: the church, the beloved church--not the beleaguered church, or the struggling church, or the modern or traditional church—but the beloved church, in the body of its representatives, is speaking of a future beyond that which we can see or hear or touch or control. And while the conversation may yet be small, still it is exciting and arresting, inviting and life-giving. A sign of something to come...

In a few short days we are entering one of my favourite seasons of the church: Advent. I love the readings and the prayers. I love the simplicity of the church in its expectancy. I love the buying of presents, and the hanging of tinsel. I can’t wait to see what Christmas morning will bring—the unexpected gifts that we never knew we wanted, but which delight fill us with joy. And in a similar way, I can’t wait to see how God will use this new language of ours for the empowerment of His people and the glory of His Kingdom.

Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi...

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!

by Canon Rick Durrett

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh year, we remembered them. On 11 Nov 2011 we remembered them in the morning in Washington DC at the Canadian Embassy; and later in the day at the Cross of Remembrance in Arlington National Cemetery. Fallen comrades from past and present day conflicts were remembered and honoured before hundreds of people from the Allied Diplomatic services and their families.

This year I was afforded the tremendous privilege of travelling to Washington DC, the US Capital, to officiate at these annual Remembrance Day ceremonies. Our very special guest this year was Cpl Adam Keys, US Army, who is a triple amputee. Adam survived an IED blast in Afghanistan in 2010. Adam grew up in Bedford NS and served as an Air Cadet until his family moved to the US when he was 14. He is pictured (right) as he approaches the Cross of Sacrifice in



Pictured left to right: Deborah Lyons, Deputy Head of Mission; Cpl Adam Keys, US Army; LCol Douglas Martin, Public Affairs; and Cdr Rick Durrett, Chaplain.

Arlington during our afternoon ceremony. What an enormously positive young man he is and an inspiration to all of us who met him that day! Adam told me that he was just released from the hospital and getting used to the new chair he is in. He assured me that soon he will be running again and won't need the chair! He figures he'll be faster than ever on those spring-like prosthetic legs they have for runners. He showed me how his prosthetic hand can rotate 360 degrees, "Creepy isn't it?" he laughed. He showed me his medals; the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and the ISAF medal, which he wears to remember the friends he lost that day. He was the only survivor of the blast.

Members of the staff of the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff (Washington), CDLS(W), orchestrated a very stirring ceremony and together with the Embassy personnel hosted a reception afterwards at which our special musical guest, Terry Kelly, performed his song "A Pittance of Time" and other original songs of sacrifice and loss. Terry's personal journey is also a testament to the power of the human spirit to overcome obstacles and hardship. Born blind, Terry is an award winning athlete and musician who hails from Newfoundland. His highest honour is the Order of Canada awarded to him by the Governor General in 2003. He is an inspirational speaker and a warm human being whom everyone wished to talk to after the ceremony.

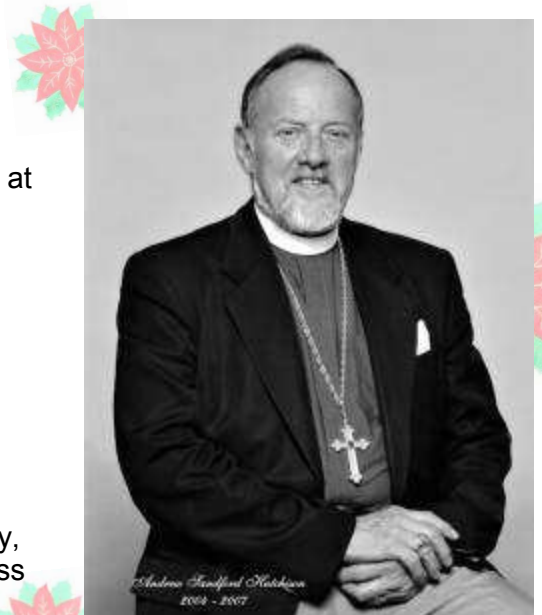
HONOURING PREVIOUS LEADERS

by Padre John Hounsell-Drover

Bishop Hutchison was born in Toronto, Ontario in 1938. He was made Deacon at St. James' Cathedral, Toronto on 11 May, 1969 and priested at Christ Church, Deer Park, Toronto on 18 May, 1970. In 1990, Bishop Hutchison was elected as bishop of the Diocese of Montreal and was subsequently consecrated at Christ Church Cathedral on 3 October. In 1998 Archbishop Michael Peers appointed him to be the Bishop of the Anglican Military Ordinariate, a position he held until 2004 upon his election to the Primacy of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Bishop Hutchison's ministry often focussed on addressing issues of diversity and reconciliation. Fluently bilingual, one of the goals of his episcopacy in the Diocese of Montreal was "to take up a ministry of reconciliation between French and English." Also during this episcopacy, he was awarded the "Jerusalem Prize" by the Canadian Jewish Congress for his opposition to the use of the "Good Friday Collect" (BCP) and its offensive reference to Jews as lost sheep.

Bishop Hutchison is no stranger to the military. His father was a veteran of the First World War and he himself served as a Cadet Battalion Commander in his younger years. He has, on occasion, described his ministry to and with the Ordinariate as "richly rewarding" and actively worked towards the creation of an endowment fund to support the work of the Bishop Ordinary.



A quote from Bishop Hutchison, *"The grace of reconciliation becomes possible whether between nations, peoples or families because of our openness to listen to our Saviour's gift of shalom."*

QUOTES

Bishop Coffin, in his article on page 2, referred to Phillips Brooke, author of "O Little Town of Bethlehem"; Rector of Trinity Church, Boston; and Bishop of Massachusetts. Here are some of Brooke's other thoughts:

A person who lives right, and is right, has more power in their silence than another has by their words.

Prayer in its simplest definition is merely a wish turned Godward.

I do not pray for a lighter load, but for a stronger back.

The earth has grown old with its burden of care, but at Christmas it always is young, the heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair, and its soul full of music breaks the air, when the song of angels is sung.

Be patient and understanding. Life is too short to be vengeful or malicious.

No man or woman can be strong, gentle, pure and good, without the world being better for it and without someone being helped and comforted by the very existence of that goodness.

Bear with the faults of others as you would have them bear with yours.

Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small ones.

Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks.

Charity should begin at home, but should not stay there.

Sad will be the day for any man when he becomes contented with the thoughts he is thinking and the deeds he is doing - where there is not forever beating at the doors of his soul some great desire to do something larger; which he knows he was meant and made to do.