

Griswold Installed as Canon for Interfaith and International Mission

On Saturday, December 1, 2007, The Rt. Rev. Canon Frank T. Griswold, who recently completed a nine-year term as Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, USA, was installed as Canon for Interfaith and International Mission by The Right Reverend Mark S. Sisk, Bishop of New York, in a joyous mass at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York City.

In his sermon, Bishop Sisk noted that in the readings for the day was the imperative to make the message of God's saving love utterly clear. As St. Paul writes in Romans 10:18 when he quotes the Psalmist, "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world." In other words, said Bishop Sisk, "we all have the duty to take part in spreading the good news of God's embrace to the very ends of the earth and to recognize it when we find it already present and active."

Bishop Sisk observed that it is his deep conviction that part of the mission of the Episcopal Church in general, and The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in particular, with its long history of national and international connections and commitments, is to pick up this mandate of dialog and understanding. In addition to that grand mission, Bishop Sisk remarked that we are also called to reach out in filial love to those members of other great religious traditions, and to hold everyone in abiding respect as a child of God, equally loved as a sister or brother.

The purpose of reaching out in conversation is at least three-fold, stated Bishop Sisk: "The first purpose is simply to make common cause as people, as human beings who together face a world of suffering and turmoil. The second is the chance to share the gifts of insight that we have been given by God in Jesus, not so much in order to proselytize, but rather to deepen our conversation with others who have had the courage to seek an encounter with the Living God. In those conversations we have the opportunity for the third purpose of our conversation: to receive from our conversation partners the gifts of insight that they, in their turn, have received from the One God who we all seek to worship and to serve. Bishop Griswold, our new Canon for Interfaith and International Mission will have a leading role in this work."

Living in Philadelphia, with a wide range of contacts in New York and internationally, Bishop Griswold will work on a number of special events at the Cathedral and abroad with themes of social justice and bringing people of multiple faiths into conversation.

"As Presiding Bishop I have been privileged to travel extensively in other parts of the world and to experience the complex realities with which our brother and sister Anglicans live day by day," said Bishop Griswold. "This has given me an enlarged sense of what it means to be an Anglican in a global context."

"This ministry is about building upon relationships, and especially upon the work that Bishop Griswold has been doing for some years to bring people of all faiths together for reconciliation and justice without participating in divisiveness," said The Very Rev. Dr.

James A. Kowalski, Cathedral Dean. This new post is most appropriate, the Dean noted, since the Cathedral is in “arguably the most international city in the world” and home of the United Nations.

Griswold was elected to a nine-year term as Presiding Bishop at the 1997 General Convention and invested in January 1998. Before becoming Presiding Bishop, he was Bishop of Chicago (1987-1997) and Bishop Coadjutor (1985-1987). He was ordained in 1963 and served three parishes in the Diocese of Pennsylvania before being elected bishop.

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