



*Diocese of the*  
**MID-ATLANTIC**  

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*Anglican Church in North America*

*A Special Thanksgiving Message from Bishop John Guernsey*

**November 24, 2011**

Dear Friends,

As we approach Thanksgiving Day, my heart is filled with gratitude to the Lord for you and for all that He is doing among us.

This past weekend, we held our first Diocesan Synod, based on Luke 9:43, "They were all amazed at the greatness of God,...marveling at all that Jesus did." The majority of our time together was devoted to testimonies from each church and we were indeed all marveling at the great things that our Lord Jesus has been doing among us. We heard one account after another of glorious conversions and healings, of faithfulness and perseverance and growth. So many people have told me how moved they were by these witnesses to the Lord's goodness and to the fruitfulness of the ministries of our churches. How great is our God!

To encourage us all, we hope to be able to put a number of these testimonies on our new diocesan website, [www.anglicandoma.org](http://www.anglicandoma.org) (at least audio and perhaps video).

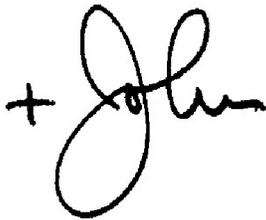
In addition to the church testimonies, we had a Eucharist on Friday night which centered on healing, both in the sermon and through an extended time of healing prayer ministry. We heard a challenging report on the vital work of church planting and we also prayed and dedicated our new diocesan offices on the upper level of the administrative wing of the new All Saints' Church.

During our limited sessions on other business, I announced the appointment of Scott Ward as diocesan Chancellor; we elected members of the Constitution and Canons Committee and the Ecclesiastical Trial Court and delegates to the Anglican Church in North America Provincial Council and Provincial Assembly (a full list of those elected will be on our website soon); and we approved our 2012 budget, which, in addition to support of existing church plants and missions, includes matching funding for at least one new church planter in the coming year.

Our great thanks to all who worked so hard for our Synod: the Rev. Dan Morgan of All Saints' and his staff and enormous team of volunteers who welcomed us and cooked and served and sang and supported us in so many ways; the intercessors and healing prayer teams from St. Margaret's, Christ Our Lord and All Saints', led by Bishop Dave and Mary Ellen Bena; the Standing Committee and Finance Committee under Warren Thrasher; our Treasurer, Gary French; Chancellor Scott Ward; the tellers, who tallied thousands upon thousands of votes for the various offices; and especially to James Guthrie and Heather Adams of our staff. Thank you all!

I pray that your Thanksgiving celebration will be a joyous one, with worship of the Lord Jesus Christ at its heart, that you'll reach out to those in need around you, and that you'll find an opportunity to offer testimony to the loving provision of our generous God!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a plus sign followed by the name "John". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt. Rev. John A. M. Guernsey

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