

Celebration of Retirement



Harry L. Way



The Wardens, Vestry and Parishioners of the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist share in this Celebration of Retirement from the Parish Priesthood of its Rector, The Rev. Harry L. Way (Fr. Harry). Fr. Harry has served the Parish as Rector since being called to that post in 2001. What follows is a brief glimpse into Fr. Harry's life within the Episcopal Church as well as prior to his ordination to the Priesthood.

Fr. Harry is the Son of Wallace Jackson Way (Career Member of the United States Marine Corp.) and Mary Grave Way (Homemaker with a degree in Biblical Studies). Fr. Harry was born at Camp Pendleton where he joined his brother, Norman Russell Way. He grew up in Alpine, CA (population 2000) and attended Alpine Elementary School. He is a 1966 graduate of Liberal High School, Liberal, KS. Fr. Harry completed his undergraduate degree at Phillips University, Enid, OK in 1970. He is a 1973 graduate of the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, TX.

In the summer of 1960 Fr. Way was baptized into the Disciples of Christ Church and was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 1968.

On December 26, 1970 Fr. Harry married the love of his life, Patricia Ann Totten (Pat), at St. Matthew's Church in Enid, OK. Fr. Harry and Pat have two children, Gwennydd Ann Way (born in 1974 in Oklahoma City, OK) and Christopher Charles Way (born in 1982 in Helena, MT). Gwennydd currently resides in Austin, TX and Christopher currently resides in Phoenix, AZ.

Fr. Harry served his Deaconate at St. George's Episcopal Church in Oklahoma City, OK starting on June 16, 1973. He later served as Priest at St. George's Oklahoma City starting on December 15, 1973. In 1974 Fr. received a call as Priest to serve at Trinity Church, Guthrie, OK and Holy Family in Langston, OK. In 1980 he was called by the Diocese of Montana to serve on staff in charge of Religious Education and Parish Planning. In 1980 through 1981 he served as Interim Dean of St. Peters Cathedral, Helena, MT and as the Provincial Representative of the Religious Network. In 1984 Fr. Harry took a call to serve as Priest at two yoked missions, St. James' Church, Fergus Falls MN and Trinity Church, Wahppon, ND. In 1986 he was called as Priest by St. Andrew's, La Junta, CO and was then called as Priest by St. Thomas' Church in Rawlins, WY. In 2001 Fr. Harry was called as Priest by St. John the Baptist, Phoenix, AZ.

Fr. Harry was trained as and joined a group of Diocesan consultants for Religious Education and Parish Planning in 1975. In 1976 he produced a series of training videos for Church School Teachers entitled: "The Other School System". From 1975 through 1984 Fr. Harry developed Programs and Curriculums for Church Camps as well as served as Spiritual Director for several Church Camps.

Fr. Harry has been an active member of the Episcopal Cursillo Community including being one of the individuals who was instrumental in the revival of the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Arizona. It has been reported that Fr. Harry was a member of the Otero Junior College Theater Group and the Picket Wire Theater Group in La Junta, CO. His favorite play was: "Seven Keys to Bald Pate".

Fr. Harry enjoys reading and is known to have great affection for his books. He also enjoys playing golf and traveling with Pat. Now that he is retiring from the Parish Ministry he and Pat have plans to travel more. Fr. Harry also now plans to write his book about the life of St. John the Apostle for which he has held a great passion to complete for many years.

As Fr. Harry and Pat move forward into their retirement from the Parish Priesthood we send them forward with two Celtic Blessings:

May there always be work for your hands to do. May your purse always hold a coin or two. May the sun always shine upon your window pane. May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain. May the hand of a friend always be near to you and May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
"THE CHURCH THAT SERVES"

