

## **PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL CONVENTION TO ELECT A BISHOP**

**June 28, 2008**

**St. Michael's Cathedral, Boise**

Following the Holy Eucharist (with The Rt. Rev. Harry Bainbridge presiding and The Rev. Canon Mary June Nestler preaching), Bishop Bainbridge called the Electing Convention to order. He noted that the concluding prayer and blessing had been suspended and would be placed at the conclusion of the election in order that the entire balloting process would be held within the context of the Eucharist.

### **Report of Credentials Committee:**

Robert Ryan, Chair of the Committee, reported that of the 123 eligible lay delegates, 119 present; and of the 74 eligible clergy delegates, 52 were present. A quorum was present in both orders. Sixty lay delegates and twenty-seven clergy delegates will be necessary to elect.

Bishop Bainbridge explained the voting process and the procedure by which substitutions were to be made should a delegate have to leave the Convention.

Henry Reents, President of the Standing Committee, invited Sue Summers Carver (Co-Chair of the Search & Nominating Committee) to place the following names in nomination:

The Very Rev. Richard Demarest  
Dean, St. Michael's Cathedral, Boise

The Rev. Kelsey Hogue  
Rector, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Scotts Bluff, Nebraska

The Ven. Faith Perrizo  
Archdeacon, Diocese of West Virginia

The Rev. Brian Thom  
Rector, Church of the Ascension, Twin Falls

Before the first ballot, The Rev. Canon Mary June Nestler gave the first of a series of reflections on the traits necessary for a bishop. This first reflection focused on the bishop as one who "knits us together."

The first ballot was taken and the tellers, under the leadership of The Honorable Deborah Bail, retired with the ballots. Canon Nestler gave the second reflection which likened a bishop to a sheepdog – one who commands the respect of the flock, gathers the community, has strong leadership, and makes possible the willingness of the flock to be entrusted into the bishop's care.

### **Results of the First Ballot:**

The Very Rev. Rich Demarest: 14 clergy, 19 lay  
The Rev. Kelsey Hogue: 9 clergy, 43 lay  
The Ven. Faith Perrizo: 11 clergy, 28 lay  
The Rev. Brian Thom: 17 clergy, 29 lay

The second ballot was taken and the subsequent reflection focused on the works of Bishop Tuttle, first bishop of the Missionary District of Idaho.

**Results of the Second Ballot:**

The Very Rev. Rich Demarest: 16 clergy, 16 lay  
The Rev. Kelsey Hogue: 9 clergy, 45 lay  
The Ven. Faith Perrizo: 7 clergy, 25 lay  
The Rev. Brian Thom: 19 clergy, 33 lay

The third ballot was taken and the delegates were dismissed for lunch

**Report of the Credentials Committee:**

Robert Ryan, Chair, reported that results of the lay delegates remained the same: 119 present out of a possible 123. One more clergy delegate had registered during the lunch break which brought the number to 53 present out of a possible 74. The numbers needed to elect remained the same.

**Results of the Third Ballot:**

The Very Rev. Rich Demarest: 15 clergy, 16 lay  
The Rev. Kelsey Hogue: 9 clergy, 49 lay  
The Ven. Faith Perrizo: 4 clergy, 15 lay  
The Rev. Brian Thom: 23 clergy, 39 lay

Canon Nestler presented the next reflection which enumerated the important qualities of a bishop: articulator of the faith, being a part of the world-wide church, bringing the news of the world back to this place – reminding us of what we need to pray for.

Following the fourth ballot, another reflection focused on courage: putting oneself in the forefront, walking the way of the cross, bearing the cross of Christ, standing up for what is right – all the time remembering “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

**Results of the Fourth Ballot:**

The Very Rev. Rich Demarest: 15 clergy, 17 lay  
The Rev. Kelsey Hogue: 11 clergy, 49 lay  
The Ven. Faith Perrizo: 1 clergy, 6 lay  
The Rev. Brian Thom: 25 clergy, 47 lay

Before the fifth ballot, Bishop Bainbridge relayed a message from Faith Perrizo in which she graciously thanked her supporters and, based on the results of the previous ballots, encouraged them to cast their votes for someone else.

After the fifth ballot was taken, Canon Nestler read from the letters of Bishop Tuttle which articulated the loneliness of a bishop – distance, separation from family, to name a few instances.

### **Results of the Fifth Ballot:**

The Very Rev. Rich Demarest: 14 clergy, 14 lay  
The Rev. Kelsey Hogue: 9 clergy, 46 lay  
The Ven. Faith Perrizo: 0 clergy, 3 lay  
The Rev. Brian Thom: 29 clergy, 56 lay

After the sixth ballot, the final reflection by Canon Nestler talked about the Book of Common Prayer and noted that while it never tells one how to feel, it does speak to our souls and finds us just where we are. To illustrate that fact, she quoted a Collect for the Presence of Christ, “Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous, and all for your love’s sake. Amen.” She ended the reflection with a reference to the phrase, “...shield the joyous...” and noted that just because you win, doesn’t mean you have to make other people feel bad about it.

### **Results of the Sixth Ballot:**

The Very Rev. Rich Demarest: 13 clergy, 15 lay  
The Rev. Kelsey Hogue: 7 clergy, 38 lay  
The Ven. Faith Perrizo: 0 clergy, 1 lay  
The Rev. Brian Thom: 32 clergy, 65 lay

Following a brief conversation with The Rev. Brian Thom, Bishop Bainbridge announced Father Thom’s election as our next bishop and noted that he had accepted.

Following a standing ovation and the final prayer, Bishop Bainbridge declared the Convention to Elect adjourned. Deacon Jim Herndon blessed the group and following the signing of the Election Testimonials, the delegates were dismissed.