

Report of the Altar Guild to the 220th Diocesan Convention

The work of the Altar Guild is indeed to see that the worship of the church is set forth in the beauty of holiness. It is also to see that our personal relationship with God in Jesus Christ is deepened by what we do. This beautiful and unique ministry has continued throughout the Diocese tended with love and diligence. We are most thankful for this privilege of service.

The annual meeting was held at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton on Tuesday, October 7, 2003 following the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 10am by the Rt. Rev. David Joslin, assisting Bishop of NJ, The Rev. George Councill, Bishop Elect, assisted at the Eucharist. On display were the eight 5-piece Eucharistic Vestment Sets made by the eight Convocations this year. They continue to offer many wonderful resource books for sale at our book table including: A Working Manual For Altar Guilds, by Dorothy Digs; The Altar Guild Book, by Gent and Sturges; Flowers to the Glory of God, by Sandra Hynson; and Worship Without Words-The Signs and Symbols of our Faith, by Patricia s. Klein. Sterling Scles Altar Guild pins were also available for sale.

A lengthy and informative report was given by the directress about The General Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota this past summer. The National Altar Guild meetings and programs over eight days were marvelous. We will be making a stole for the Prison Ministry of the National Church. It is always a treat to see old friends, exchange ideas and make new friends! The daily worship is glorious.

The directress presented our Altar Guild gift to Bishop Joslin in thanksgiving for his lining care to the Diocese of New Jersey as our Assisting Bishop. He and Mrs. Joslin will always be in our hearts and prayers. We were so honored to have our keynote address given by The Rt. Rev. George Councill, Bishop elect. He was absolutely fabulous. Everyone rejoiced and said that "truly, God has blessed our diocese with our new bishop!" Bishop-elect Councill was most appreciative of the Diocesan Altar Guilds gift for his consecration. We continue to encourage all Altar Guild members throughout the Diocese and guests to join us for the Annual Meeting ever October!

We were so delighted to once again, provide a beautiful pedestal flower arrangement to Diocesan Convention done by the Directress. This will be done for the March 2004 Convention as well. We also presented the Diocese with 20 pure linen purificators, 1 lavabo towel, 1 large corporal and 1 large burse to be used at all major Diocesan Eucharist.

Our Board Meetings were held this year at the St. Bartholomew's in Cherry Hills and St. James, Yardville. We thank both of the parishes for their gracious hospitality! As always, The Diocesan Board is available for speaking engagement and workshops throughout the Diocese. Please allow us to share our gifts! Our addresses and phone numbers are listed in the ECW handbook. It is our pleasure to help in anyway.

I wish to express my personal gratitude to Bishop Joslin for his spiritual guidance and leadership this year. It is a joy to work with the fine Diocesan Board and our Chaplain, The Rev. Arthur Powell.

Each Altar Guild member is so thankful for this "beautiful privilege" of service to Our Blessed Lord!

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Harnischfeger
Director