

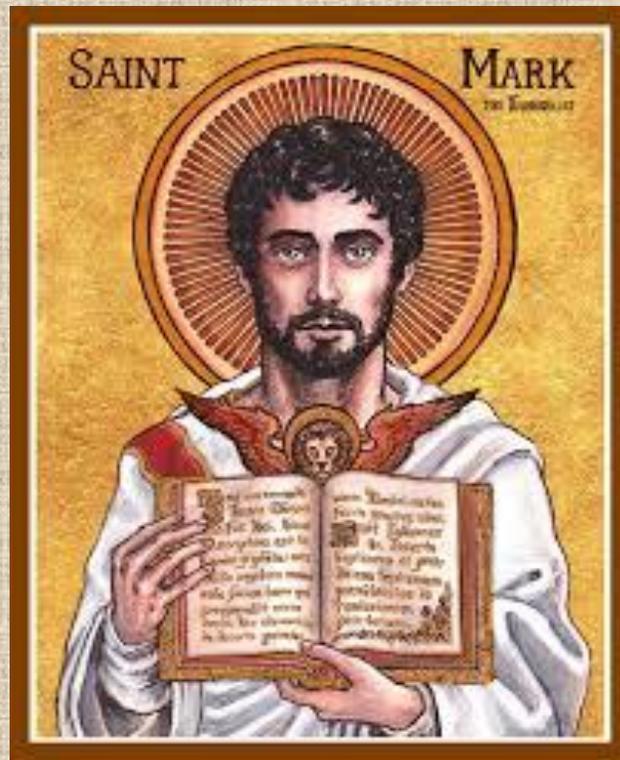
The New Epistle

a newsletter of

The Progressive Episcopal Church

Volume II Number 4

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ST MARK THE EVANGELIST
- APRIL 25 -

MARCHING INTO APRIL

As is sometimes wont to happen, as I start to work on the newsletter in the last few days of the month, Something of Great Significance occurs in the life and growth of this Church that has me scrambling to get information, fact, figures, or whatever else is needed to include these Somethings of Great Significance in the forthcoming newsletter. These events never seems to happen in the middle of the month, only in the last few days. These last several days in March have been the most extraordinary to date. With everything else that is happening not only in my own ministry but within TPEC, and around the country with a very adventurous (we'll leave it at that) political scene, the expression "the times, they are a-changin'" seems an understatement. Since the beginning of the year, I've had the very strong feeling that 2016 was going to be a very powerfully significant year in many ways, many of them good, but some not so good. The political situation in this Presidential election year certainly seems to be the latter; but in other things – positive things – there have been significant changes for the better in growth and development in many areas.

Spirit often leads us into new and unfamiliar areas, and sometimes this can happen very quickly and unexpectedly. But Spirit also provides us with all that we will need in these new places.

+Thurlow Weed
Secretary General

TPEC in the news . . .

On March 21 in Texarkana, Arkansas there was a public hearing regarding the potential repeal of a recently enacted city ordinance which extended anti-discrimination protection to add LGBT to protected classes which already included race, colour, creed, national origin, and disability, among others. Religious conservatives circulated a petition to have the ordinance repealed, and a public hearing was scheduled to allow input from the public. It will be put to public vote later this year. Amongst the many who spoke regarding the matter was our own Suffragan Bishop-elect, the Rev. Canon Rick Ward-Harder, who travelled two hours from Hot Springs to speak at this referendum. The video clip of his five-minute address quickly went around the world, receiving over five million views within two days!

Canon Rick has been an outspoken proponent of LGBT equality for many years, and indeed of equality for all people. Rick truly does speak from the heart and soul of the Progressive

Episcopal Church, which teaches that we are all God's creation and that discrimination against any segment of that human creation is unacceptable.

A pirated version of the video clip (with text border above and below) has been making the rounds online and on Facebook, but has mostly been taken down at the request of Texarkana Today news station. TPEC has received an authorized clip, which has been placed on the church's YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ATfoU614aE>

The text of the original ordinance as amended at the January City Board of Directors meeting may be found on pages 7-11 of the meeting minutes.



Texarkana AR
M-130.pdf



So, what might this foretell for TPEC?

1. Growth. As a direct result of Fr. Rick's outspoken address to the Texarkana BoD, a progressive Texarkana community of some two dozen members has desired affiliation with us, and a Parish Charter is already being requested. The community will be known by the name St. Mychal Judge; at the time of this newsletter the process of organizing has been initiated. The church will be under the leadership of Fr. Rick who will concurrently be serving St Michael the Archangel in Hot Springs; he will be assisted by Min. Tim Looper. St. Mychal's will serve the AR/TX/LA tri-state area since it sits right at the state lines.
2. Exposure. Until now, the Progressive Episcopal Church has been very little known; not surprising since not only are we still very small, but we have only existed since 2012. We will be under a spotlight of an as-yet unknown size. Fr Rick has already been contacted by the Ellen Degeneres Show. Should he be a guest on the show at some point soon, millions of people will become aware of our existence over the course of that one-hour show. While the majority of the response will no doubt be positive, we can be certain to expect some negative voices because of our radical inclusiveness, especially regarding LGBT.
3. Status. This is pretty much a combination of 1 and 2. Leadership has already been looking at re-joining the Anglican Free Communion of which we were once a part. With the revision and implementation of the AFC's new Bylaws & Canons, they are fully and radically inclusive. The AFC has a long and stable history going back 118 years. We have also been looking into

membership with the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC). This body is itself a member of the Word Council of Churches. These two affiliations are now very much high priority for the Council of Bishops, as is Incorporation.

So we are definitely looking at growth in many ways this year. How much and how fast, as well as what type of roller-coaster ride it may provide will be up to the Holy Spirit, who as we all probably know can move very quickly when we least expect Her to. We pray that we are guided safely through the approaching uncharted seas, and pray also that we may face any negativity that we may encounter along the journey with the kindness and love that Jesus asks of us as His followers.

NEW PARISH IN TEXARKANA

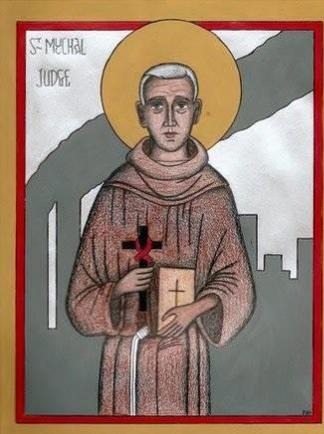
The Progressive Episcopal Community of St. Mychal Judge was formed in Texarkana, Arkansas as a consequence of Fr Rick Ward-Harder's address to the City Board of Directors on March 21, as mentioned earlier in the newsletter. The City of Texarkana is a divided city, the border between Arkansas and Texas cutting North/South through the middle of the city. Texarkana is about 30 miles from the Louisiana border to the south -- the community of Ida, Louisiana being near the state line. Shreveport is roughly 70 miles distant.

"The establishment of a new Parish in the Texarkana area is going to be able to serve not

only those immediately in Texarkana Arkansas and Texarkana Texas, but it is going to be the answer to the prayers of the many that live in the outlying communities that have no place to go and feel safe. By having a safe place to go, many, many, people will have an added positive influence to thrive and grow in directions not thought of."

St Mychal's is Chartered as of 31 March 2016.

Information for the community's Facebook page will be posted on the TPEC Facebook page as soon as this information becomes available. Website is <http://stmychaljudge.weebly.com/>



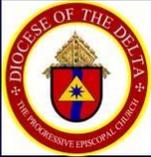
Texarkana, AR
Serving The AR/LA/TX Tri-State Region

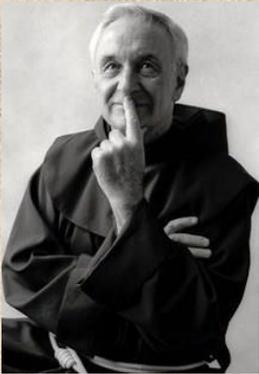
St. Mychal Judge Parish

A Parish Family Living A Message of Social Justice

Inclusive ++ Affirming ++ Open ++ Welcoming

A Chartered Parish of Diocese of The Delta
The Progressive Episcopal Church





St Mychal Judge *(excerpted from Wikipedia)*

(aka Michael Fallon Judge, May 11, 1933—September 11, 2001), was a Franciscan friar and Catholic priest who served as a chaplain to the New York City Fire Department. It was while serving in that capacity that he was killed, becoming the first certified fatality of the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Mychal Judge was born Robert Emmett Judge on May 11, 1933 in Brooklyn, New York, the son of immigrants from County Leitrim, Ireland, and the firstborn of a pair of fraternal twins. His twin sister Dympna was born two days later. Judge was baptized in St. Paul's Church in Brooklyn on June 4. They and their older sister Erin, grew up during the Great Depression.

From the ages of three to six, he watched his father suffer and die of mastoiditis, a slow and painful illness of the skull and inner ear. To earn income following his father's death, Judge shined shoes at New York Penn Station and would visit St. Francis of Assisi Church, located across the street. Seeing the Franciscan friars there, he later said, "I realized that I didn't care for material things... I knew then that I wanted to be a friar."

In 1948, at the age of 15, Judge began the formation process to enter the Order of Friars Minor. He transferred to St. Joseph's Seraphic Seminary in Callicoon, New York, the minor seminary of the Holy Name Province of the Order. After graduation, he enrolled at St. Bonaventure University in Olean, New York. In 1954 he was admitted to the novitiate of the Province in Paterson, New Jersey. After completing that year of formation, he received the religious habit and professed his first vows as a member of the Order. At that time, he was given the religious name of Fallon Michael. (He later dropped 'Fallon' and changed 'Michael' to the Gaelic form, Mychal). He resumed his college studies at St. Bonaventure University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1957. He professed his solemn vows as a full member of the Order in 1958. Following this, he did his theological studies at Holy Name College Seminary in Washington, D.C.. Upon completing these studies in 1961, he was ordained a priest.

After his ordination, Judge was assigned to the Shrine of St. Anthony in Boston, Massachusetts. Following his assignment there, he served in various parishes served by the Franciscans: St. Joseph Parish in East Rutherford, New Jersey, Sacred Heart Parish in Rochelle Park, New Jersey, Holy Cross Parish in the Bronx and St. Joseph Parish in West Milford, New Jersey. For three years he served as assistant to the President of Siena College, operated by the Franciscans in Loudonville, New York. In 1986 he was assigned to St. Francis of Assisi Church in Manhattan, where he had first come to know the friars. He lived and worked there until his death.

Judge was also well known in the city for ministering to the homeless, the hungry, recovering alcoholics, people with AIDS, the sick, injured, and grieving, immigrants, gays and lesbians and those alienated by the Church and society. For example, Judge once gave the winter coat off his back to a homeless woman in the street, later saying, "She needed it more than me." When he anointed a man who was dying of AIDS, the man asked him, "Do you think God hates me?" Judge just picked him up, kissed him, and silently rocked him in his arms.

Even before his death, many considered Judge to be a living saint for his extraordinary works of charity and his deep spirituality. While praying, he would sometimes "become so lost in God, as if lost in a trance, that he'd be shocked to find several hours had passed." Judge's former spiritual director, former Jesuit John J. McNeill, observed that Judge achieved an "extraordinary degree of union with the divine. We knew we were dealing with someone directly in line with God."

On September 11, 2001, upon learning that the World Trade Center had been hit by the first of two jetliners, Judge rushed to the site. He was met by Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor of New York City, who asked him to pray for the city

and its victims. Judge prayed over some bodies lying on the streets, then entered the lobby of the World Trade Center North Tower, where an emergency command post had been organized. There he continued offering aid and prayers for the rescuers, the injured and the dead.

When the South Tower collapsed at 9:59 am, debris went flying through the North Tower lobby, killing many inside, including Judge. At the moment he was struck in the head and killed, Judge was repeatedly praying aloud, "Jesus, please end this right now! God, please end this!" according to Judge's biographer and New York Daily News columnist Michael Daly.



Some 3,000 people attended Judge's funeral Mass on September 15, 2001, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, which was presided over by Cardinal Edward Egan, the then Archbishop of New York. Former President Bill Clinton, who attended the funeral, said that Judge's death was a "special loss. We should lift his life up as an example of what has to prevail. We have to be more like Father Mike than the people who killed him."

Judge was buried in the friars' plot at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Totowa, New Jersey. On October 11, 2001 Brendan Fay organized a "Month's Mind Memorial" in Good Shepherd Chapel, General Theological Seminary, New York. It was an evening of prayer, stories, traditional Irish music, and personal testimonials about Judge.

There have been calls within the Roman Catholic Church to canonize Judge. While there is no indication that Rome is seriously considering this, several churches independent of Rome, most notably the Orthodox-Catholic Church of America, have declared him a saint. Some Catholic leaders recognize Judge as a de facto saint. There have been claims of miraculous healings through prayers to Judge.

**Excerpts from the Last Homily of
FDNY Chaplain, Father Mychal Judge,
at Mass for Firefighters: Sept. 10, 2001**

You do what God has called you to do. You get on that rig, you go out and do the job. No matter how big the call, no matter how small, you have no idea of what God is calling you to, but God needs you. He needs me. He needs all of us. God needs us to keep supporting each other, to be kind to each other, to love each other...

We love this job, we all do. What a blessing it is! It's a difficult, difficult job, but God calls you to do it, and indeed, He gives you a love for it so that a difficult job will be well done.

Isn't God wonderful?! Isn't He good to you, to each one of you, and to me? Turn to God each day -- put your faith, your trust, your hope and your life in His hands. He'll take care of you, and you'll have a good life. And this firehouse will be a great blessing to this neighborhood and to this city. Amen.



CONSECRATION OF VEN. FRANCESCA M. FORTUNATO --- APRIL 30, 2016

The Venerable Mother Francesca will be consecrated to the Episcopacy on Saturday 30 April 2016. Please watch the TPEC Facebook page for the actual location closer to that time.

Upon her consecration, the Diocese of the Northeast will be formed and will be under her leadership. This diocese will be primarily geographic, but will also be an affinity diocese as are the other North American dioceses.

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
READINGS Mass — Year C Office — Year Two Weekly Eucharistic Readings for use throughout the year are found in LRF, pages 496-528. See Notes on Reverse [] — In some Places		Holy Week Note: The red color used in Holy Week, Passantide Red, is a deep color. It is not the more festive red used for Pentecost. Violet should be used if Passantide Red is not available. Easter Meter Readings for Easter Ferias (Weekdays) are found in LRF, pages 65-81.	Glo.— Gloria Cr.—Creed Pref.—Proper Preface of Adv.—Advent Inc.—Incarnation Epi.—Epiphany HWk.—Holy Week Eas.—Easter Asc.—Ascension	Pen.—Pentecost Tri.—Trinity Sunday A.S.—All Saints St.—Saint Ap.—Apostles Ded.—Dedication Bap.—Baptism L.D.—Lord's Day			FRIDAY IN EASTER WEEK 1 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas.	SATURDAY IN EASTER WEEK 2 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas.
The Second Sunday of Easter [Low Sunday] 3 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas.	THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD (tr. from 3/25) 4 Glo. Cr. Pref. Epi.	Feria [Vincent Ferrer, Priest, 1419] 5 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas. [Common of a Theologian II, Glo. Cr. Pref. St. 2]	Feria 6 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas.	Feria [John Baptiste de la Salle, Confessor, 1719 - 99] [Elkhan, Tsar of Russia, Confessor and Ecumenist, 1925] 7 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas. [Common of a Saint II, Glo. Pref. St. 2]	George Augustus Selwyn, Bishop of New Zealand and of Lichfield, 1878 Abstinence Dispensed 8 Glo. Cr. Pref. Ap.	Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Pastor and Theologian, 1945 9 Glo. Cr. Pref. St. 2		
The Third Sunday of Easter 10 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas.	William Lav, Priest, 1761 11 Glo. Cr. Pref. St. 2	Feria [Zeno of Verona, Bishop and Confessor, 371] 12 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas. [Common of a Pastor II, Glo. Cr. Pref. St. 2]	Feria 13 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas.	Feria 14 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas.	Feria Abstinence Dispensed 15 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas.	BVM on Saturday 16 Propers for May 31 Glo. Pref. Inc. or BVM (1A5B)		
The Fourth Sunday of Easter 17 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas.	Feria 18 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas.	Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Martyr, 1012 19 Glo. Cr. Pref. St. 3	Feria 20 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas.	Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1109 21 Glo. Cr. Pref. Epi.	Feria Abstinence Dispensed 22 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas.	[George, Patron of England, Martyr, c. 303] 23 [Common of a Martyr III, Glo. Cr. Pref. St. 3]		
The Fifth Sunday of Easter 24 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas.	SAINT MARK THE EVANGELIST 25 Glo. Cr. Pref. A.S.	Feria 26 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas.	Feria 27 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas.	Feria 28 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas.	Catherine of Siena, 1380 Abstinence Dispensed 29 Glo. Cr. Pref. St. 2	Feria [Holy Abbots of Cluny, 10th-11th Cent.] 30 Glo. Cr. Pref. Eas. [Common of a Martyr II, Glo. Cr. Pref. St. 2]		

April Birthdays	
Ven. Francesca Fortunato	25
Rt. Rev Dan Varga	27
Rev. Jarrod Cochran	29

Some April Fools' Day fun

This article includes references to works of Edgar Allen Poe and E.F. Benson. It was inspired by the famous 1957 BBC newsreel video documenting the annual Spaghetti Harvest in Switzerland. Enjoy!

Spaghetti Snails Still Thriving after Centuries

PALERMO, ITALY April 1, 2004 The Sicilian city of Palermo is celebrating today the annual Spaghetti Snail Festival, which honors a unique marine mollusk which has provided the base for culinary wonders for centuries. The festival includes the time-honored Sicilian tradition of racing snails along a grueling one-foot-long course.



Spaghetti snails

Spaghetti snails, *Spageti conchiglie*, fam. *Molusca*, (shown left) are found in all types of marine environments, from salt water to fresh. However, researchers have found the snails seem to thrive in salt water. These aquatic creatures are unique among mollusks. In the case of other edible univalves, it is the snail itself, or meat, that is considered a delicacy. Oddly, the spaghetti snail itself has been found to be quite inedible, despite countless attempts to prepare it in every manner conceivable. It is the shell of the snail, rather, that has been found to be of culinary use. Indeed, hundreds of recipes have been developed for its use.

Geological evidence suggests spaghetti snails to have originated in the Mediterranean Sea. Large wild populations may be found throughout this area, the heaviest concentrations appearing in the area between Crete and the Italian coastline.

Recent archeological excavations in Mediterranean Europe have yielded fossilized remains of these fascinating snails. These excavations have all been at fairly high altitudes, in strata that were once part of the undersea floor millions of years ago. Archeologists have made one curious observation regarding the occurrence of these beds, or concentrations, of fossilized snails: Of all the flora found growing in the vicinity of these sites, there is a significant overgrowth of the Semolina flower. Scientists are still trying to establish a connection. The Semolina flower is indigenous to southern Europe.

On the Italian coast, farmers have been breeding these snails for over 250 years. A reference to such a commercial venture is found in Hans Mueller's *Culinary History of Mediterranean Europe*. In it, he describes a double pen of about 2 acres in which the snails were raised and selectively harvested for use by the Famiglia de la Contessa Amiglia Barilla di Faraglione for use in the kitchens of this noble family's estate. The Contessa was renowned for her lavish feasts at the Castella d'Amontillado. The family also owned extensive vineyards, and the Castella was known throughout Europe for its exquisite wines, as well as for a particularly remarkable sherry.

In his book, Mueller describes how the Contessa di Faraglione constantly sought out unusual delicacies from around the world during her extensive travels. She learned of the spaghetti snails while visiting her brother Algernon Wyse in Tilling-on-Sea in the south of England and returned to the Castella with a number of recipes that called for the use of the snail. This item became a staple delicacy of her feasts, and had the pens built to ensure an adequate supply for her frequent galas.

Today, spaghetti snails are still cultivated on large "farms," actually consisting of large pens about 2500 feet square. The Risomatti family in Sicily operates one of the largest, having 1500 such pens. Each pen can produce as many as 600,000 – 800,000 snails per year. This high yield is due to the snails' extremely rapid natural growth rate, which allows them to mature in as little as three months.