

Fr. Jack Estes

Give us a little background on your education and experience in ministry.

I completed my college education in Santa Barbara, California at Westmont College with a Bachelor's Degree in religious studies - theological/historical emphasis. I then entered the process for ordination with the Diocese of San Joaquin, and we moved to Ambridge, Pennsylvania to complete a Master of Divinity Degree at Trinity School for Ministry.

Degrees and Honors:

BA Degree Religious Studies – Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA

Summa Cum Laude; Phi Kappa Phi;

Most Outstanding Student Religious Studies '97

M. Div. Degree – Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry, Ambridge, PA

Upon graduation from seminary, we moved to Bakersfield, California where I began serving in ministry at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. I was ordained as a Deacon, then six months later as a Priest by Bishop John David Schofield. I have 18 years of parish ministry which involved several transitions with the congregation. Also, I celebrated services in Spanish for five years while raising up a Spanish speaking priest. Diocesan and Provincial leadership includes president of the Standing Committee, five years on Provincial Counsel, and delegate to GAFCON 2018 in Jerusalem.

Tell us about your wife, children, and personal interests.

My wife Jenny and I have been married for 32 years. She is an avid reader and writer, currently publishing a series of books on praying with The Anglican Rosary. She enjoys dancing and hiking on the bluffs with our Jack Russell terrier. Our daughter Zoe is 30 years old and lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. She is a wonderful artist and photographer and manages a home inspection company. I enjoy gardening and have a large vegetable garden growing year-round in Bakersfield. Jenny and I also love Mazatlán, Mexico and vacation there each year. I enjoy speaking Spanish and talking with our friends that live there.

Describe the role of the Bishop in a diocese.

The role of a bishop can be summed up in three categories: 1) Growing healthy churches and expanding the Kingdom of God. A bishop provides a flow of support from the diocese to the local congregations. The understanding of the various needs comes from his relationships with the members. Spending time getting to know the people is crucial. Healthy churches, like a well-watered garden, grow and produce fruit. The Kingdom is expanded as new members come to faith in Jesus. 2) Pastoral Oversight and Administration. The bishop functions as the chief pastor of the diocese, available to listen and pray. Prayer for the churches, the clergy, and the people is

first on the agenda for every morning. Providing counsel, wisdom, and direction are a natural part of a bishop's ministry, along with the completion of the tasks required to faithfully administer diocesan affairs. 3) Connection to the greater body of Christ and defender of the faith. Bishops are the link from the local diocese to provinces of ACNA and Christendom, giving voice in the counsels of the church. Bishops are called to hold fast to the "faith once delivered to the saints" and to guard against false doctrine and practice.

How do you think God could use your gifts to make the Anglican Diocese of the Southwest stronger and more faithful?

I envision using my gifts to make the ADSW stronger and more faithful in the following manner:

Engage in Prayer

- Daily personal prayer for the needs and concerns throughout the diocese
- Monthly prayer list for the congregations, so that we may "all pray every day"
- Additional prayer opportunities

Build Relationships with Clergy and Congregation

- Spend time visiting and getting to know everyone
- Participate in continued Spanish language fluency

Encourage and Bless the Faithfulness of the People

- Bring a focus on thankfulness and joy
- Affirm the ministries and callings of laity and clergy
- Look for way to lift burdens and bring vitality

Facilitate Transitions and New Beginnings

- Help understand what is involved with transitions – spiritual, emotional, and practical
- Be available for guidance and problem solving
- Develop new churches in Mexico and the US
- Expand Youth Ministry throughout the diocese

Develop Diocesan Vision

- Focus on Healthy Congregations
- Join with God in mission and church planting
- Vocational and Theological training for new priests and deacons

Oversee Diocesan Administration

- Effective communication
- Development of resources
- Ongoing meetings of Standing Committee

What else would you like us to know?

I published a book in 2014 entitled, “Anglican Manifesto – A Christian Response to Oneworld Religion.” This work is a thesis on Anglican reformation and ecumenical unity in the 21st century. Preview at: anglicanmanifesto.com.

Additional articles and sermons of mine may be viewed on our parish website:
ascensionanglican.com

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the search for a new bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the Southwest. God bless you.