



# The Seedling

The Newsletter of the Altar Guild of the Diocese of Long Island ✕ Pentecost, 2025

## From the President...

It was “just” 90 years ago (1935) when the Diocesan Altar Guild, Diocese of Long Island, was started with the blessings of the third bishop of Long Island, Ernest M. Stires (1925-1932).

This milestone deserves a party! Your DAG Board is hard at work planning a memorable event! You, and every Altar Guild member, past and present, are invited to take part. (Actually, *everyone*, Altar Guild or not are most welcome to attend!) ), The day will start with a special 10:00 a.m. Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Provenzano at the Cathedral in Garden City. A delicious catered mea

l at The Mercer School will follow. ( If you have never seen Mercer “dressed” for a party, I think you will be very pleasantly surprised!) Please be on the lookout for your invitation.

As part of the celebration, we plan to have a pictorial display that will celebrate and tell the story of parish Altar Guilds through the years. The hope is to have the following types of photos:

✕ A current group photo ✕ Action shots of A.G. members at work ✕ Historic photos ✕ Altars/ sanctuaries set for special days.

It would be so wonderful to have every parish in the Diocese represented! Please send hard

copies of your photos - preferably 5”x7” - to me, *Jane Ames 604 Park Ave.*

*Woodbury, NY 11797 by September 15<sup>th</sup>*

I look forward to celebrating with your Guild members.

Be sure to bring your clergy along to help us celebrate!

*If you have questions, please give me a call*

*516-921-0580*

In Christ’s love,

Jane Ames  
President, Diocesan Altar Guild



*Members of the DAG with PB Michael Curry*



Save  
The Date September 27<sup>th</sup> 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
December 13<sup>th</sup> Advent Quiet Day



## IN THE GREEN OLD SUMMERTIME

### *From the Chaplain*

**A**S Eastertide comes to a close, there is lots of frontal swapping. White to red to white to green, green, green, green!

Our church buildings and the way we dress the altar, pulpit and lectern help us to tell the story of God's work through the ages. You know that. It's hardly a new or novel idea, but it is an important one. The white and gold of Easter reminding us of the purity and regal status of the risen Christ gives way to the flaming red of Pentecost that reminds us of the gift of the Holy Spirit, then back to the pure and holy white of Trinity Sunday and then one last change to the green of the Season After Pentecost (I rather wish we called it "Ordinary Time") that lasts for 22 Sundays this year. It seems a bit unimaginative to me. However, the green backdrop of the season tells a tale as well.

In the long green season, we are called to more or less get on with our ordinary lives. The trick, then, is to find the extraordinary in the ordinary.

What might that look like from an altar guild member's point of view? If your parish is blessed with more than one green set of vestments and hangings, you might consider trading them off from time to time. If you have more than one chalice and paten, consider using not just the same "10:00 Chalice" (All Saints shorthand for a particular set) but a variety. If, like many churches, you



have items that are memorials, highlight an item in the service leaflet each week. Doing so helps connect the current members with those who have gone before, and it may give them the idea to make a memorial donation of their own.

The flowers of summer present an opportunity for visual variety. If you arrange your own flowers, be creative! Use what is available in your yard or wherever. While we all want to honor God with the flowers, one does not have to be a professional florist to create something beautiful. (To be honest, I get tired of the same carnations and daisies and mums that our florist uses week after week!)

The summer is often a time for fun and refreshment. Alas, many see it as a good time to skip church. If we who are worship leaders-and altar guilds are!-look for that which is extraordinary in these weeks after Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, we will not only find it, but guide others to it. We can help the ordinary things we may take for granted including our stained glass; our cruciform buildings; our embroidery or needlepoint; or even the clippings from the back yard "tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love" in new and extra-ordinary ways.

Have a wonderful, creative Summer!

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Laurence G. Byrne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Very Rev. Laurence G. Byrne

## SING PRAISES WITH WITH FLOWERS

The Altar Guild is an essential part of the ministry of every parish within the Diocese. The volunteer efforts of the members on the Altar Guild throughout churches sustain the Sacramental life of the church.

As you have read, part of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, on September 27<sup>th</sup> is a celebratory luncheon following the Eucharist immediately after the service.

The committee is joyfully asking each church to donate a Fall centerpiece for the luncheon tables which will showcase the talents and gifts given by God to enhance this special occasion.

Let's share this day with each other as we take in the beautification of the Fall centerpieces, enjoy a memorable meal with our sisters and brothers in Christ, thanking all who serve on the Altar Guild and pray for our continued commitment.

To donate an arrangement text or call: Diane Arrigo – 631-524-9791 or Falarien Gibson - 516-819-8623

-Falarien Gibson

*Editor's Note:* There will be quite a few tables set for the luncheon so we are hoping that *every* parish will choose to offer a flower arrangement!

## CREATION CARE FLOWER WORKSHOP

**D**id you know that one of many an Altar Guild's most frequently used tools is rather nasty stuff? Oasis floral foam was invented in 1954 and has been in wide use ever since. Every bit of it is essentially still around!



Oasis contains chemicals including formaldehyde that do not biodegrade. It does break down into microplastics which

we are learning get into more and more places that they don't belong including our water and food streams. At the "Fight for the Earth Day" celebration at the Cathedral, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Irene Conte-Morgan led a workshop on foam-free flower arranging. She taught ways of arranging flowers using

natural and/ or reusable resources such as lemon leaf and floral frogs to create beautiful bouquets without damaging the environment.

As the Diocese moves toward eliminating single-use plastics, we can help by going foam-free. As a bonus, giving up foam can save a considerable amount of money throughout the year!



Photo Credit: Jen Uihlein, Girlinacamera productions



## A BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR THE CHURCH

The Feast of Pentecost (Whitsunday) is the 50<sup>th</sup> and final day of the Easter Season. It commemorates the gift of the Holy Spirit and is often called “The birthday of the Church.”

The color of the day is red to remind us of the tongues of fire described in Acts. Vestments, hangings, and flowers are traditionally red on Pentecost. But what’s a birthday celebration without a cake? Try the time-tested recipe below.

### Pentecost Cake or Cupcakes

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup softened butter	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. vanilla extract
2 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups granulated sugar	3 large eggs
2 tsp. unsweetened cocoa powder	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups buttermilk
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. baking Soda	2 Tbsp. (1 oz. bottle) red food coloring
$\frac{3}{4}$ tsp. salt	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. vinegar
3 Cups all-purpose flour	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a large bowl, beat butter, sugar, cocoa powder, baking soda, salt and vanilla until creamy. ( about 3 minutes) Beat in eggs one at a time.

Stir together buttermilk, food coloring and vinegar.

At low speed, mix in flour one cup at a time alternating with half of the buttermilk mixture. After the third cup, mix until just combined. Do not over-beat.

Pour batter into a prepared 9x13 inch pan and bake for 30-35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Let cool and frost with your favorite buttercream or cream cheese frosting. Decorate with red accents and candles. (There may not be room for 2,025 of them! ☺ )

For cupcakes: Pour into prepared or lined cupcake pans for about 15-17 minutes. Frost and decorate as you wish! (Let the Spirit move you!)

**Pentecost Cookies:** Use your favorite sugar cookie or shortbread recipe or store bought cookie dough. Roll out and cut Pentecost shapes: flames, a bishop’s miter, or a dove. Have the children decorate the cookies with sprinkles or red icing. (Amazon has many cookie cutters!)

- Joan Derle



# mighty MARTHA SACRISTY SUPERHERO



Is your sacristy cluttered up with the remnants of the busy seasons through the year? It's understandable! Who has time to put everything away especially at Easter or Christmas when

there are so many demands on your time? Why are there bits of peculiar hardware or books or orphaned Bibles here and there? Stuff just lands and stays because we are far too nice to move stuff that is not ours. What to do? Summer is a great time to do a deep clean on the sacristy.

Start with counter tops. Clear off *everything*! Toss that 1998 Almy catalogue, the 2024 Kalendars, and such. (No, the Church School Director does *not* want to cut out the pictures!) It's ok. You have Mighty Martha's permission to discard boldly! With clean work surfaces, empty the top and bottom cabinets, sort out the wheat from the chaff and organize in a way that makes sense to *you*. (It doesn't matter if Mrs. Fussington, the A.G. Directress from 1952-2012, did it a different way. Tidying the cabinets may dislodge not only dust and evidence of mice. but may also reveal the occasional treasure. Martha strongly suggests labeling the cabinets and the shelves with what belongs in and on them. (Amazon or Staples has label makers for about \$35.00)

If you have a separate safe, organize it next, but be sure to take photographs of *everything*.

For the sake of the parish history and for insurance, it is important to have an up to date inventory of your liturgical vessels and other valuables. When putting away silver, take the time to polish it with a gentle polish. (Take that ancient (or new!) bottle of Tarn-x and throw it out! It is *terrible* for your metalware.) If you have tarnish-detering bags use them. If not you can buy them or make them. Bags and material are available online

Take stock (and photos) of your linens and vestments and all textiles. Are they hanging or folded well? Does the arrangement of them make sense? Do you need to keep mice out of the drawers? Are your corporals mixed up with your credence covers? If you have room, separate each type of linen into labeled boxes with tight-fitting lids. It will make every Sunday easier.

Don't forget to clear out all the rubbish under the sink. There should be *no* harsh chemicals in the Sacristy. Bleach, Ajax, Noxon, Brillo pads and the like are disasters waiting to happen.

Finally, re-set the counter tops to have only the resources you use most frequently handy. If you discover items you no longer need, the Diocesan Altar Guild will be happy to take them to put in our resource closet to share with other parishes that might need them. Half a day spent in the sacristy will be a good investment for the Sundays and Feast Days throughout the year.





## IN CASE OF DULL SERMONS.....

### Word Search

PARAMENTS	LITANY
CREDENCE	STOLE
SANCTUARY	THURIBLE
HOST	LAVABO
CHASUBLE	BURSE
PASCHAL	AUMBRY
NARTHEX	
ALB	AMICE

PYTHURIBLE  
CAPLJQAHIS  
AHRAAJLOTA  
BUAASVBSAN  
SUMSMCATNC  
ATRBUEHBYT  
MZOSRBNAOU  
IBJLEYLTLA  
CREDENCESR  
EDNARTHEXY

### **MEMBERSHIP: ALTAR GUILD, DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND**

Annual Membership is \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a parish or mission. Your membership dollars go to support our work in the diocese; provide assistance to all altar guilds; help defray the cost of workshops, programs and field trips. We also have a presence at our Diocesan Convention providing assistance with the Holy Eucharist, sharing information, and offering a clergy vestment exchange. We are also members of the National Altar Guild Association.



**YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD**

Please make check payable to: "Altar Guild, Diocese of Long Island" and submit to:

Kyle Taylor, 95 Colonial Avenue, Freeport, NY 11520

☐ Renewal   ☐ New Member   ☐ New Contact Info   ☐ Individual   ☐ Parish

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PARISH \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_



*You are cordially invited to celebrate the 90th anniversary  
of the Diocesan Altar Guild*

*Saturday, September 27, 2025*  
*11:00 AM Festival Holy Eucharist*

*The Cathedral of the Incarnation*  
*The Rt. Rev. Lawrence C. Provenzano, Bishop of Long Island*  
*Celebrant and Preacher*

*1:00 PM Celebratory Luncheon*

*The Mercer School of Theology*

*Tickets: \$75*

*Seating is limited. Please respond by August 25, 2025*

*For Additional information Contact: Sally Bergmeyer*

*(718) 353-8406 or LongtallSally17@AOL.com*



Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Address* \_\_\_\_\_ *Phone* \_\_\_\_\_

Number of seats requested at \$75 each \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to: Altar Guild, Diocese of Long Island mail form and check to*

*Ms. Sally Bergmeyer 3370-165th Street, Flushing, NY 11358*

*Please Note: This celebration is open to **everyone**, not just altar guild members!*

# Diocesan Altar Guild Directory

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**CHAPLAIN:** The Very Rev. Laurence G. Byrne  
203-273-4909 ✉ lgbyrne1129@aol.com

**PRESIDENT:** Jane Ames,  
516-921-0580 ✉ janeames913@gmail.com

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Lula Noriega-Patterson  
516-546-1555, ✉ mslul39@gmail.com

**TREASURER:** Sally Bergmeyer  
718-353-8406, ✉ longtallsally17@aol.com

**REC. SECRETARY:** Barbara Taylor  
718-525- 2992, ✉ TYLBRB@verizon.com

**CORR. SECRETARY** Paulette Lalljee  
516-84 3175 □ paulettelalljee@yahoo.com

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**HISTORIAN:** *Open*

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Fr. Byrne

**PAST PRESIDENT and ADVISOR:**  
Joan Derle, 631-499-8234

**MEMBERSHIP:** Kyle Taylor,  
516-286-2264 ✉ [k.susantaylor@gmail.com](mailto:k.susantaylor@gmail.com)

**SILKS / LINENS:** *Open*

**BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE:** Paulette Lalljee  
516-84 3175 ✉ paulettelalljee@yahoo.com



Do you have unloved or no longer needed vestments or liturgical items ? Send them along to the DAG liturgical loot closet! They might be just what someone else needs!



**ALTAR GUILD**

DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND  
36 CATHEDRAL AVENUE  
GARDEN CITY, NY, 11530

**DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE OPEN AND  
SHARE!**