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June 2011

Dear Friends,

As Bishop of Virginia and now as the interim Dean of the General Theological Seminary in New York, I have had the privilege of knowing a dozen or so men and women who have participated in the seminarian summer program at the International Study Centre at Canterbury.

Without exception, these participants tell how their sense of the worldwide Anglican Communion was stretched and deepened. The study program, which is the major focus of fundraising for the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States, is quintessentially Anglican. It is primarily collegial and relational rather than hierarchical and dogmatic. We Anglicans are sometimes criticized for our lack of theological clarity. The accusation misses the point. Anglican theological traditions are fundamentally incarnational. We believe Emmanuel, God-with-us, means that the Divine is encountered in the ordinary realities of human life.

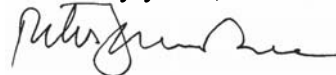
The Seminarian program does not impose a doctrinal rigidity on its participants. It invites participants to share their experience of faith from the particularities of their own contexts.

The Bishop of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe reflected on the massive media coverage of two European events this spring: the royal wedding at Westminster Abbey and the beatification of Pope John Paul II in Rome. Each was a widely reported massively attended public event. One, in Rome, celebrated heroic virtue, God's witness in an extraordinary person. The other, in London, was at its heart the wedding of two young adults, for all the royal trappings, a very ordinary event.

Anglicans tend to celebrate God's presence in the ordinary, so we welcome the privilege of discovering what is ordinary in the lives of others, that builds community, locally and globally.

So your support for FOCCUS is a contribution to our Anglican way of exploring God's presence in the ordinary, where as Anglican priest, John Keble, wrote, "the trivial round, the common task, will furnish all we ought to ask."

Faithfully yours,



Peter James Lee  
Chairman