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CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL  
*in the* UNITED STATES

November 2013

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Dear Friends of Canterbury Cathedral,

Although it is said that “a picture is worth a thousand words,” I have a particular picture that is worth far more to me.

It is a photograph of Canterbury Cathedral taken in the failing light of a cool evening in July, 2005 when I was studying at the International Study Centre as a seminarian.

I look at that picture every single day; it has been the “wallpaper” for my computer screen for the last eight years (and three laptops). It is a reminder to me of three wonderful weeks in Canterbury studying, laughing, arguing, and most importantly praying with seminarians and young priests from around the world.

However, the picture is far more than that. Looking at this picture every morning grounds me in my role as a priest within the Anglican Communion. It recalls for me that Christians have been worshiping Jesus at this site for millennia with beauty, diligence, purpose, gratefulness, and devotion. It reminds me that our beloved Anglican tradition is more than just a creature of today; it is more than the current theological preferences of one province or another. In the face of the stress of daily ministry in the parish, this picture reminds me that I am not alone, that I stand in the shoes of countless Christians who have worshipped Christ in our Anglican tradition throughout the ages.

Few experiences in my life have had as profound effect on my ministry as my time as a Canterbury Scholar. That opportunity, however, was made possible only by the generous support of the cathedral by Anglicans from around the world and especially by the financial support of the programs of the International Study Centre at Canterbury.

The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States (FOCCUS) is working diligently to support the Cathedral and to continue to make this transformative experience possible for future clergy with its financial support of the Cathedral and the Canterbury Scholars Program.

I hope that you will prayerfully consider giving generously to FOCCUS and its mission to support Canterbury Cathedral and the Scholars Program.

Faithfully,



The Very Rev. Ted H. Clarkson  
Canterbury Scholar '05 and FOCCUS Board Member