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in the UNITED STATES

November 2017

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Dear Friends,

Your gift to FOCCUS matters.

Why? It is an investment in the future of the Anglican Communion. Up to 40 potential church leaders from as many as 20 countries gather annually at Canterbury Cathedral for two weeks of intensive study in theology and ministry. These seminarians and newly ordained clergy worship, study, eat and play together despite continuing differences of opinion. They gain understanding, respect, and even love for one another. If only this could happen within our own government.

A very enthusiastic Canterbury Scholar of this past summer wrote, "One of the best parts of the entire experience was learning from other students how much our context shapes our life in the church. For example, the theology of marriage is a live question throughout the Anglican Communion but the particularities differ. In the United States the pressing issue is same-sex marriage; in Nigeria it's polygamy; in Zimbabwe it's bride price, and in India it's marriage between people from different castes."

The singular mission of FOCCUS is to provide essential financial aid to participants in the Scholars' Program who could not otherwise attend a course at Canterbury. Your generosity is extremely important and we thank you for it.

Yes, your gift to FOCCUS does matter.

With best wishes,



Barbie Harper
FOCCUS Vice President

BECOME A FOCCUS PILGRIM!

PILGRIMAGE PATHWAYS IN 2018

Art and Culture – Faith and Justice in the Deep South

An American South Pilgrimage led by The Reverend Canon Matthew Corkern

Travel dates: 28 January – 7 February

Have you ever wondered what it was really like down South? This pilgrimage opens a door onto the American South to illustrate the ideas of Southern hospitality across the last three centuries in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. We experience these amazing cultures through food, music, art, and religion. Along side the route traveled, we trace the evolution of slavery and the echo from Civil Rights to the Rights for All Humanity. This journey promises to be an adventure whereby history and faith will come alive!

Ancient Manuscripts and Modern Art across England

An English Pilgrimage co-led by The Bishop of Arizona and Canon Corkern

Travel dates: 2 April – 12 April

This is a pilgrimage co-led with Bishop Kirk Smith of Arizona and Dr. Christopher de Hamel (the Curator of the Augustine Gospels). We shall travel behind the scenes at the British Library and the museums/libraries of Oxford and Cambridge. We visit wonderful galleries of art and exquisite churches filled with masterpieces painted since the mid-Victorian times through the present. We ponder the cathedrals in Oxford, Coventry, and Lincoln. And as always, we encounter the people gathered in rectories, castles and country-homes across Oxfordshire, Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire. From a literary standpoint, we travel the paths of Tolkien, Eliot and a plethora of the great poets/writers of England to lead us to see the world anew.

Three Nations with the Viking Legacy Inspiring World Peace

A Scandinavian Pilgrimage led by The Reverend Canon Matthew Corkern

Travel dates: 24 June – 8 July

This pilgrimage traces the history, spirituality and cultural highlights of Norway, Denmark and Sweden. We visit three Scandinavian capitals, their cultural environs and each of their cathedral-seats at Trondheim, Roskilde and Uppsala. From royal personages to archbishops, from fellow parishioners with familial connections to artistic experts, a myriad of individuals will greet and host our journey! For a summer excursion, the weather will be exactly right and provide the settings by which artists and authors have created new worlds and transformed the lives of generations. Most importantly, our journey contemplates the Nobel Prizes and their influence on our global community today.

Our ancient faith calls us to encounter the contemporary world through friendships formed across these native lands of culture, history and religion. To express interest or obtain further details, please contact Matthew Corkern by email mtlc101@gmail.com or call 908-277-1814. All Pilgrimages sponsored by the trustees of the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States, with special donations given.