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Dear Friends,

November 2023

In the early 1990s, my mother's choir planned a tour to a number of English cathedrals, and since my father and I were choir groupies at the time, we eagerly signed up to accompany her. We had a demanding schedule, visiting some 18 cathedrals in only 17 days, and now that I look back on that trip, it all seems a glorious blur ... with one singular exception: Canterbury Cathedral.

On our arrival there, we received a detailed tour before the service at which the choir sang. But most importantly and memorably, we were made to feel not just like tourists visiting a historic site, but as pilgrims with a stake in the Cathedral's very existence. We left with impressions that have remained vivid to this day.

Fast forward about 20 years, and my mother invited me to join her on a FOCCUS-led pilgrimage back to Canterbury. I leapt at the chance and through that, I deepened my knowledge of the cathedral and its central position in the spiritual life of England and beyond.

I also learned about the Scholar's Program, where seminarians are invited annually from the Anglican Communion to spend two weeks living, learning and praying together. These seminarians from around the globe come from backgrounds remarkably diverse in geography, culture, doctrine and finances. For those with the least of the latter, the John Harper Scholarship Fund assists with travel and tuition to ensure that funds are not a bar to attendance at such an enriching experience for the future leaders of the Church.

Please join me in supporting the John Harper Scholarship Fund and Canterbury Cathedral. You may send checks to FOCCUS, as indicated on the attached enclosed envelope. If you prefer, you may also call 202-822-8994 or go to the website, <https://www.canterburyus.org>, to make a credit card donation. Either way, your backing is deeply appreciated. Thank you.

Peace,



Eugene Johnston
Vice Chair