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An Unofficial Letter from Bishop Suffragan Mary D. Glasspool

November 11, 2011

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In this issue: **Neighborhood Youth Association; Veterans' Day; Consecration in the Diocese of Washington.**



The Mission of the **Neighborhood Youth Association** is *To enable at-risk children and youth to achieve their personal best, by providing a comprehensive set of educational enhancement services, academic support, counseling, career planning, and cultural enrichment activities in a sustained, focused manner during their preschool through high school years.* I had the privilege of visiting the **NYA Mar Vista Learning Center** Wednesday afternoon, along with Canon Robert Williams (also a member of the Board), who took the photo at left. Pictured (from left to right) are: **Viva Krasinski**, Development Director; **Ann S. Lucas**, Community Volunteer, Board member, and Parishioner

at St. Matthew's, Pacific Palisades; **Amanda MacLennan**, Executive Director; **+MDG**; and sitting in front of the computer, **Diana Mendoza**, Senior Student, Youth Leadership Academy, whose applications to colleges include Vassar, Amherst, USC, and at least a half dozen of the California State Colleges. **NYA** was established in 1906 by the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, which has maintained strongly supportive ties ever since. While serving young people who reside mostly in the L.A. Metropolitan area and Los Angeles County, **NYA** claims no boundaries! Deanery 3 takes a special interest in **NYA** and has supported the ministry since its inception. If you are interested to learn more about **NYA**, you can certainly link to their excellent web site: <http://www.nyayouth.org>. But here are the things I will never forget: a *Robotics Class* (as in, they build robots from scratch!) for fifth and sixth graders; a *Rocket Class* (think that scene from *Apollo 13* in which the guy who plays Gene Kranz throws a bunch of parts onto a table and tells his engineers they need to use those materials to build something that will return the debilitated *Apollo 13* to Earth); online learning that literally employs games to make learning Mathematics and English fun; and the lively, engaged faces of at least 50 young people who were intent on doing their personal best. It was an afternoon well spent!

Veterans' Day is observed in a number of different ways throughout our country. I am praying and reflecting about two very particular occurrences this Veterans' Day. At St. Martin-in-the-Fields School, Winnetka, students participated in the *Flag Retreat Ceremony* following Chapel Service yesterday. The school's guest in Chapel was 22 year Marine Corps (retired) veteran Ernie Napper. One of the students at the school had an older brother killed while serving his country overseas, so the ceremony has first-hand meaning. The second event is the interment of the ashes of Canon LaRue E. Shepard, a WWII Veteran, who became one of my heroes in a very short time, and will be interred on 11/11/11 at 11:00 am. At his funeral service, LaRue requested that verse 4 from the 1940 Hymnal be added to one of the hymns we sang, to wit: *Rise up, ye saints of God! The Church for you doth wait: her strength unequal to her task; rise up, and make her great!* Amen, Canon Shepard! Alleluia!

This unofficial letter comes a day earlier than usual, as I will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Ordination and Consecration of the Rev. Dr. Mariann Edgar Budde as Ninth Bishop of Washington. More on this next week - but I ask your prayers for Mariann+ as she and the Diocese begin a new ministry together. You all are in my prayers daily.

God's Peace to all - +Mary