



## Introducing the Rector

Hello, I am the Rev. Raymond Webster, Rector of St. Chrysostom's Church, and I came to St. Chrysostom's, Chicago in May of 1993.

Some of a priest's work is very public: celebrating the liturgy, preaching the Gospel, and telling the story of Jesus. Much of a priest's work is private and indeed confidential, and an important part of my time here at St. Chrysostom's has been visiting parishioners in the hospital or nursing homes. That said, I look back on some important milestones in my time as Rector:

- In 1995, acting with the Vestry, we called The Rev. Amy E. Richter to be the first woman on the staff of St. Chrysostom's.
- In March 1999 pledging went over \$500,000 for the first time in parish history, and in March 2001 pledging went over \$600,000 for the first time.
- In 1998 we began the "*Here am I, the servant of the Lord*" Capital Campaign, and as of the annual meeting of the parish in January 2007 we had spent \$4,042,492.36, largely on renovations of our buildings.
- A major part of the "*Here am I, the servant of the Lord*" Capital Campaign was our new Fisk Organ which was delivered in the fall of 2004, and was dedicated in February of 2005.
- St. Chrysostom's Day School, totally a part of the parish, will have 200 children in their program in the fall of 2007. The Day School's own capital campaign has raised over \$1.5 million dollars (not part of the above capital figures).
- George Carey, when Archbishop of Canterbury, visited us twice, giving the inaugural Gilchrist Lecture in Mission on August 8, 2000.
- Sunday morning 10:00 AM Adult Forums and Lenten Wednesday Evening Programs have brought a rich cross section of guest speakers.
- We began the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program for our youngest church school children, and we began the Journey to Adulthood program for our teenagers.
- Acting with the vestry, in the fall of 1998 we began our schedule of four Sunday services.
- Charles H. Murphy IV began as lay Youth Minister in the fall of 2006.
- In the fall of 2006 we began the monthly Neighbors in Need dinners, for fifty neighbors who could use a meal.
- The Brunch Auction for Mission (in then immediate past years) in 2006 helped renovate St. Paul's Church, New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina; in 2005 benefited St. Gregory's School, Chicago; and in 2004 bought four pickup trucks for clergy (and provided water for one clergy residence) in the Anglican Diocese of Southeast Mexico. We have visited in Southeast Mexico, and Bishop Benito and his wife Angelica have been guests here on several occasions.

In my time as Rector of St. Chrysostom's, I served as an elected member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Chicago from 1998-2001, and President of the Standing Committee 2000-2001. From 1994-1999 I was Dean of the Chicago North Deanery and a member of the Diocesan Council. And from 1994 to 2000 I was on the Board of the Episcopal Charities of our diocese. From May 1991 I have been a member of the Fellowship of St. John (formerly associate of the Society of St. John the Evangelist). I received a grant for a sabbatical trip to Spain in May of 2003.

Born at the Chelsea Naval Hospital in Massachusetts on September 6, 1945, my mother was a WAVE and my father a Marine pilot. My parents were divorced, and I grew up with my mother in Massachusetts.

I graduated from Princeton University *magna cum laude*, majoring in Religion, in 1967, and received a Master of Divinity degree from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1970. On June 21, 1970 I was ordained a deacon, and on December 15, 1970 a priest, by John M. Burgess, then Bishop of Massachusetts (and the first African-American diocesan bishop in our church).

On June 30, 1970 I married Eve Cabaniss in Royal Oak, Maryland. Eve teaches French part time at Trinity High School in River Forest. We have two grown children, Warren, born in 1972 and Adelaide, born in 1979.

From 1970-1972 I was assistant in Christ Church, Needham Massachusetts. From 1972-1977 Rector of Trinity Church, Weymouth, Massachusetts on the edge of urban Boston. From 1977-1981 I was Bishop Rockwell's associate at St. James Church on Madison Avenue in New York, and from 1981 until coming here in 1993 was Rector of St. Peter's Church, Osterville, Massachusetts (on Cape Cod).