



Bishop Charles Vache

November 1, 2009

The Rt. Rev. Claude Charles Vaché died November 1, 2009. Born August 4, 1926, in New Bern, North Carolina, Bishop Vaché was the son of the Reverend Jean Andrew Vaché and Edith Fitzwilson Vaché .

Bishop Vaché served in the U.S. Navy during the closing years of World War II and later received his bachelor's degree with honors from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

He attended Seabury-Western Theological Seminary from the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia, earning his M. Div. degree cum laude, and began ordained ministry on June 11, 1953, in this diocese as Deacon-in-Charge and later rector of St. Michael's Church, Bon Air, during which time he also served as chaplain to St. Christopher's School, Richmond, and was recognized as Chesterfield County's Young Man of the Year.

In 1957, Charles Vaché was called to be rector of Trinity Church, Portsmouth, where he served both the parish and the city with great distinction. He wrote a history of Portsmouth Parish and opened his home, hearth, and cupboards to mostly military men who became known as the Rectory Rogues.

Charles Vaché offered exemplary leadership to the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia as a member of the Executive Board, chairman of the

Department of College Work, member and president of the Standing Committee, member and chairman of the Board of Examining Chaplains, chairman of the Commission on Ministry, frequent deputy to General Convention, and original board member of Westminster-Canterbury of Hampton Roads, of whose foundation he was later elected trustee.

Charles Vaché was elected and consecrated bishop coadjutor of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia in 1976 and became its diocesan bishop in 1978. He was known for his pastoral availability, sound learning and fair judgment and for his willingness ? shaped through persevering prayer ? to change his views on difficult issues such as the ordination of women.

Bishop Vaché served the Episcopal Church as member and chairman of the Church Deployment Office Board, member of the Standing Committee on Ecumenical Relations, and the Committee on Pastoral Development, and member and chairman of the North American Regional Committee of St. George's College, Jerusalem.

Bishop Vaché was honored as a Fellow of the College of Preachers and as a Doctor of Divinity by Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Virginia Theological Seminary, and St. Paul's College.

After his retirement as diocesan bishop in 1991, Bishop Vaché spent fifteen months in Jerusalem as a Volunteer for Mission, serving as chaplain at St. George's College, and later served nine months as acting dean of St. George's Cathedral, subsequently bearing public criticism for his advocacy for the Palestinian people.

After a brief retirement, Bishop Vaché accepted a call to serve as assisting bishop in the Diocese of East Carolina from 1993 to 1996 where he developed guidelines and procedures and training for the prevention of sexual

misconduct.

Bishop Vaché served as Interim rector of Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg, from 1996 to 1999 bringing his wisdom, experience, and healing gifts to that parish.

Charles Vaché accepted a call to serve as assisting bishop in the Diocese of West Virginia from 2000 to 2001 during a difficult time in its history, and he served as the interim rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Norfolk, from 2003 to 2004.

Bishop Vaché was a man of deep faith and prayer, broad learning and diligent labor, gentleness in strength, compassion and humility, and playful spirit. He was, a faithful pastor, wise mentor, learned teacher, gracious colleague, servant leader, and loyal friend.

Bishop Vaché is survived by his sister, Edith "Che" Spurlin, his nieces and nephews, Bridget, Peter, Andrew, Lynn, Michael, Sherry, and Laurie, and his faithful foster son, Val de France.

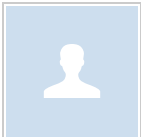
A funeral will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, November 6, 2009, at Trinity Episcopal Church, Portsmouth, Virginia. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to The Mission of the Holy Spirit Fund P. O. Box 1427. Norfolk, VA 23501 or to the Portsmouth Humane Society, 2704 Frederick Blvd Portsmouth, VA 23704.

Tribute Wall



“ I was forever changed by the love, humor and compassion of Father V. I loved him as a son, and was a brother with all the Rogues who were blessed by this most extraordinary and beautiful soul. When Father V welcomed me no more than 10 minutes after welcoming my friend Roy Legg, and said to me, "This is your home now," I had to take a moment to take it in. I sang in his choir, went to confirmation, and rejoiced in my blessings by being one of Father V's sons and Rogue. I wrote to him while he was in Jerusalem and told him how he had forever changed and blessed my life and how much he meant to me. I'll never forget how he was touched by that letter and the depth of feeling expressed. I will never forget him and his love. Even now I hear his encouragement to reach and be a better man. How can I not listen and heed such a call from my Father V? I will honor his memory by continuing my service and dedication to my calling. I'll love you forever Father V. Thank you for your love. Remember me. Your son & Rogue, Geoff##imported-begin##Geoffrey C. Ammerman##imported-end##

February 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I will always remember Fr. "V" as the most important and influential person in my development in becoming a mature man. He opened his home and allowed me to experience a home away from home, and counseled me when needed. I always enjoyed the similarities between my home church Trinity Episcopal Church on High Street in Janesville and his church in Portsmouth. Our Sunday after church dinners were always enjoyable. Over the years I have thought of him often and will miss him very much.

James G. Haney##imported-begin##James G. Haney##imported-end##

September 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Bishop Vache was a surprisingly funny, open minded, thoughtful, generous and loving spirit. He will be missed.* *##imported-begin##Fred and Sharon Byrd##imported-end##*

December 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Godspeed* *##imported-begin##Stormy Stark##imported-end##*

December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *You will always be "Father" Vache to me. I loved you the minute I met you at age 8 when Daddy Jack Chamblin became your curate. You had that special way with children that made me feel I was not small to you but your equal, and you taught me of God's love by your example and through your loving spirit. Thank you for touching my life.* *##imported-begin##Virginia Chamblin Grochowski##imported-end##*

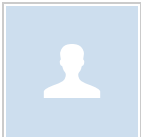
December 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *The Death of Bishop Vache took me by surprise. I extend my condolences to his family and to the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Bishop Vache sponsored me as an undergraduate student from Jerusalem, Palestine to study at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. He secured sufficient funding to support my education for a period of four years, 1979-1982. Bishop Vache arranged for me to Live at Caterbury House at O.D.U and during the summer I worked as a gardener in Diocesan center at Talbot Hall. Bishop Vache was a man of peace. He supported Israel’s right to exist and advocated for the rights of the Palestinians. I remember the vilification he received in the local newspapers for his witness to the suffering of the Palestinians. Bishop Vache’s contribution to Saint George’s Cathedral and Saint George’s College are always remembered by the local Palestinian community. Jerusalem will miss Bishop Vache. I will miss him too.*

##imported-begin##Shukri Abdallah##imported-end##

November 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *While stationed @ Portsmouth Naval Hospital in the early 70's I was blessed to get to know Father Vache. He opened the Rectory on Court Street to us Navy guys, which became our home-away-from-home. John and I took him to lunch last spring. Bishop Vache was a blessing to so many. Gilbert Douglas - ke4nrl@bellsouth.net*

##imported-begin##Gilbert F. Douglas, III##imported-end##

November 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *My dear Bishop Vache, you were a saint among men. You were my friend, my mentor, and my support for the last fifty five years. I will always be grateful to have known you for so many years. My prayers go out to your family and your dear Val.*

Nancy Burnett Driskill###imported-begin##*Nancy Burnett*
###imported-end##

November 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Bishop Vache was to me a faithful pastor and mentor. It was largely because of him that I became rector of St. Thomas', Chesapeake, VA, in 1985. He was always supportive of me and my ministry there, for which I give God great thanks. When I became a bishop, he soon contacted me to offer his support. Many times at the House of Bishops meetings he attended he sought me out to check on me with a listening ear and often a good laugh together. I will miss him and the Church will miss this good servant. May he go from strength to strength in God's eternal service.*###imported-begin##*The Rt. Rev. Gladstone B Adams III*###imported-end##

November 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Bishop Vache was a good friend. We met when I served on the Vestry at Christ & St. Luke's Church in the late 70's, and we have crossed paths ever since, including his wonderful years at Good Shepherd. Charles was the best Bishop Southern Virginia had at the time he served - and set an example for others to follow. I'm grateful to have known and appreciated his gift of friendship, leadership both spiritually and personally. He will be missed by all those who loved him. Bob and I send condolences to his family.

Emily and Bob Filer##imported-begin##Emily Harkins
Filer##imported-end##

November 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ With deepest sympathy##imported-begin##R. C.
Sharrett##imported-end##

November 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ With deepest sympathy##imported-begin##Margaret W.
Sharrett##imported-end##

November 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ You will be so Missed Father Vache,My Family went to that church over 20 years.until we moved away.
You were so kind to all of us,
God Bless##imported-begin##Sherilan HooverCotten##imported-end##

November 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *It was a priviledge to have known and have Charles as a friend. I will always remember him as a kind, giving good man to all.##imported-begin##Tom Branton##imported-end##*

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Bishop Vache will always be remembered for his wonderful smile, cheerfulness and kind words. I will surely miss his presence here.##imported-begin##Susan Pederson##imported-end##*

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM