

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH SERVING WATERLOO, BELGIUM

Chausée de Charleroi 2 1420 Braine-l'Alleud, Belgium +32 2 384 7780

Personal Reflection by Didier DePasse
Sunday, 16 December 2007
All Saints' Episcopal Church -Waterloo

Why do you worship on a regular basis in All Saints' Church ?

What a funny question ! Why not ?

By the way, I thought the reason was obvious.

When it is winter time, a long cold Belgian winter, when it is so cold outside, it is so hot inside Notre Dame D'Argenteuil !

More seriously, why do I worship in All Saints' Church ?

This kind of question reminds me « Les Lettres persanes » written by Montesquieu who asked « Comment peut on être persan ? » (letter 30).

Is it so strange, so odd that I do worship with you here ?

« Bizarre, aurais-je dit bizarre, comme c'est étrange » said Louis Jouvét as he was playing an Anglican bishop in the movie « Drôle de crime » .

Because I am Belgian and this is (or should be) an American Church ?

Of course, it is strange, it is odd.

We, Belgians, know exactly what it means « an American Church »....

...We have seen it on TV when the Reverend Lovejoy is preaching to Marge and Homer Simpson !

But let us think of someone who would ask us « what does it mean to be Anglican ? » « What do you do on Sunday morning ? »

Well, the easy answer is « come and see »

If he comes, what will he see ?

People who make the sign of the cross, and people who don't.

People who kneel , and people who don't.

People who bring their bible, and people who don't.

People who drink from the cup of communion , and people who dip the bread in the wine.

This visitor will surely think « these people have different points of view

BUT they are TOGETHER « .

If this visitor stay after the service for a cup of coffee, he will discover that not all of us are Americans :

People of different nationalities,

People of different languages,

People of different backgrounds,

People of different colours...

... AND they are TOGETHER.

It reminds me this picture in the book of Revelation (chapter 7) :

« there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne...

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...They are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night «

In a so divided land as Belgium could be today, to be part of a community where people so different from one another can and want to live together is a privilege.

It is witnessing, in a so divided land as Belgium could be today, that people so different from one another can live together, NOT one BESIDE another, BUT one WITH another.

Of course, we have a secret, « une recette de famille » : « For Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken the dividing wall » (Ephesians 2,14)

And every Sunday, this miracle occurs again.

And every Sunday, Christ is again breaking the dividing wall for :

« The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ ? Because there is one bread, we ,who are many, are one body for we all partake of the one bread (1st Corinthians 10, 16 &17)

I think it is a good reason to worship on a regular basis in All Saints' Church .

Didier DePasse, 16 December 2007, All Saints' -Waterloo