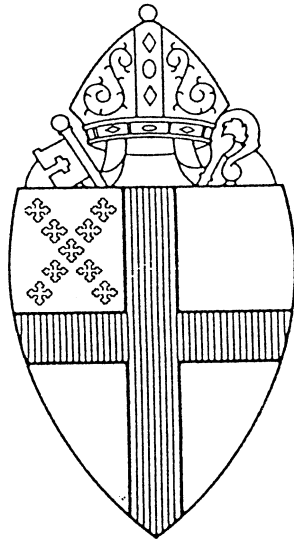


A Rule of Life



The Episcopal Society of
St. Simeon and St. Anna

She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.
Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the
child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

~Luke 2:36-38 (NIV)

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout.
He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.

~Luke 2:25 (NIV)

Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna

The Episcopal Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna was founded by The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston in 1991 with the first members inducted at the Diocesan Convention held in Fairbanks that same year.

The purpose of the society is to recognize, honor and celebrate the wisdom, experience, maturity and ministry of older persons in the Diocese of Alaska.

Members shall have at least 15 years as an active Episcopalian and be 60 years of age or older.

Nominations are by Parish Vestry, Parish Council, Church Committee or comparable body and are submitted to the Deanery.

Selection of members is prayerfully made by each Deanery at their annual meeting and submitted to the Diocese for affirmation at Convention.

Duties of the Society

The Society is a community at prayer. Members pray daily for the Bishop, Diocese and its people.

The Society is a council of elders. Members stand ready to share their wisdom with the Bishop and others when asked.

Members offer a valuable resource and model for Christian living to the church body throughout Alaska.

All persons in the Diocese are encouraged to look to the Society for images of life that are lived in imitation of Christ.

Rule of Life

Members of the Society are bound by a threefold Rule of Life:

To be constant in prayer

To be conscientious in ministry

To be compassionate in life

This rule is lived out by the Society in the following ways:

Society members pray for the Diocese of Alaska each day. Through their constant intercession, our church is supported and strengthened by the grace of God and the response of the Holy Spirit.

The on-going ministry of the Society is to serve the Bishop as a council of advice. Society members are expected to draw on their wealth of experience to assist the Bishop whenever he requests their wisdom and counsel.

Society members are to be living examples of the Christian witness. Through their compassionate lives of faithfulness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, they embody the hope of the gospel for all persons in the Diocese of Alaska.

A Prayer for the Diocese of Alaska

O God of grace and mercy, give your blessings to the Diocese of Alaska. Watch over our churches, sustain our people, and strengthen our leaders.

Through the Holy Spirit, guide and guard the Diocese, keeping it always under your care and protection.

Let us be a loving family, serving you in faithful devotion to the Gospel of your son, Jesus Christ, in whose holy name we pray. AMEN

A Prayer for the Bishop

O God of grace and mercy, give your blessings to _____, our Bishop.

Give him a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love.

Let your Holy Spirit be his companion.

Let your Gospel be always in his thoughts.

May your presence in his life be a light for all to see, in every good work for the building up of your people and to the glory of your Holy Name. AMEN

A Prayer for Christian Life

O God of grace and mercy, help me to lead a more Christian life. To the best of my ability, let me follow Jesus Christ each and every day, always striving to know him better and to serve him better.

Give me compassion at the center of all that I do: compassion with myself as a disciple still young in the Faith, and compassion with others as members of my own family in God. May I become an example to others as so many others have been an example to me, through your love and for the sake of your glory.

AMEN

A Prayer for the Society

O God of Grace and Mercy, watch over all of my brothers and sisters who are members of the Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna. If any of them are in a time of sorrow, sickness, or need (*especially*_____) give them the touch of your healing hand. If any of them are in times of joy, thanksgiving, or fulfillment (*especially*_____) give them the song of angels to praise your Name. Let our Society know you as Lord and Savior. Let us be your servants in this life, just as we will be your sons and daughters in the life to come. AMEN

Feast Day for the Society

The Feast of the Presentation (February 2nd) is the day when we remember the Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna.

All congregations are asked to pray for and with the Society on this day.

Society members should have active participation in the liturgical celebrations of the Feast.

The Bishop encourages special acts of devotion to show honor and respect to the members of the Society, men and women who are elders of our Christian community.

The Song of Simeon

Lord, you now have set your servant free
to go in peace as you have promised;

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

~The Book of Common Prayer