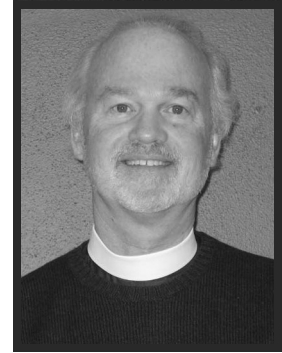


# The Reverend John Sheridan Smylie

## Bishop-elect, Diocese of Wyoming



*Prayer and ministry of the word are the foundational actions upon which my life and work are based. These two actions support and enable a sustaining and empowering relationship with God, and God's people. From the abundance found in this connectedness, all else proceeds.*

### **Rector, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Casper, Wyoming, Diocese of Wyoming— January 2007 to present**

- ◆ Led congregation in development of short-term, 2 1/2 year Ministry & Strategic Plan whose core statement is: "Into Christ, out to Serve." The plan has focused on the areas of education, outreach, pastoral care, stewardship, worship and youth. A significant portion has been accomplished.
- ◆ Helped develop and oversee teen youth program — the program has grown to between 15 and 25 youth per evening. Program includes fun, fellowship, worship, a meal and Bible study. This is a new effort for St. Mark's.
- ◆ Increased stability through a healing process and ministry of encouragement. St. Mark's experienced a serious division blamed on controversies within the larger church. Led St. Mark's into a stronger and healthier relationship with Bishop and Diocese.

### **Gift of Light Ministries—April 2005 to December 2006**

- ◆ Provided a wide range of retreats, workshops, concerts and conferences, weaving together biblical meditations and reflections, stories and original compositions designed to lead the participants to the light and presence of God.
- ◆ Offered programs in United States and Canada as well as provided music for a diocesan convention in Cairo, Egypt. Programs offered include: *Grace for Today*, *The Spirituality of Surrender*, *Spirituality in Parenting* and other programs designed for specific needs.
- ◆ Served as keynote speaker for the diocese of Wyoming 2005 convention, helped introduce and kick off the Wind and Wings program. Served as a consultant for the Bishop and Diocese of Wyoming in 2005 and 2006.

### **Dean, Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Spokane, Washington—May 1998 to March 2005**

- ◆ Active involvement in development and implementation of strategic plan. Met plan's goals in pastoral care, education, increased endowments, balanced budgets, youth program and communications.
- ◆ Developed stronger ties to the diocese through intentional welcome and education opportunities.
- ◆ Successfully led Cathedral's 75th anniversary celebration throughout 2004, which included artistic and educational events for the city, the diocese and the congregation.
- ◆ Provided oversight of staff, clergy and laity. Shared in oversight of financial responsibilities for .85 million annual budget, non-budgetary funds and several million in trust and endowment fund. Supported and encouraged increased development of planned giving and stewardship program at cathedral.

### **Rector, Trinity Church, Hamburg, New York—1989 to 1998**

- ◆ My primary task at Trinity was to love people into greater growth through lifting up Jesus Christ; bringing God's light to God's people.
- ◆ Encouraged, supported and commissioned members of Trinity in various outreach including shut-in visitations, prison ministry, feeding the hungry, etc. Trinity won the Western New York "Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award" in 1996 for its nursing home program.
- ◆ Supervised, encouraged and counseled parish interns and newly ordained persons through regular reflection and shared ministry. Offered active listening, counseling and spiritual direction to both clergy and laity inside and outside of the parish.
- ◆ Discerned, developed and taught various curricula including development of understanding of Mission and Ministry and classes on Leadership, the Epiphany, the Cross of Christ and Parenting.

**Associate Priest, Calvary Church, Summit, New Jersey**

- ◆ Organized and led weekly youth ministry beginning with an average of six teenagers which grew to over 50 youth in one year. Its structure included fun, fellowship, food, discussion and prayer.
- ◆ Shouldered and sustained parish through transitional period due to rector's wife's death and previous associate's departure by taking increased pastoral and organizational responsibilities.

**Assisting Priest, Christ Church, Ridgewood, New Jersey**

- ◆ Led and expanded existing strong youth ministry through weekly meetings, regular retreats and honest communication. Shared in and expanded outreach ministries to the homebound through personal visitation.

**Retreat Director/Composer, Ecumenical Ministry in Northeast**

- ◆ Presented unique gifts of music and writing through offering retreats, concerts, workshops, dramatic presentations and other programs designed to draw participants into the presence of God.

**Society Of St. John The Evangelist, Cambridge, Massachusetts**

- ◆ Lived with and shared in the life of the community for one year; was immersed in liturgical worship and learned contemplative prayer.
- ◆ Served and cared for past Superior who was paralyzed with a stroke, helped to restore him to fuller participation in the life of community.

**EDUCATION**

- ◆ *Master of Divinity* Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA; 1981
- ◆ *Bachelor of Arts* Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY; 1975
- ◆ Presenter, Trained to Lead Disciples of Christ in Community (DOCC), Alpha Program
- ◆ Whitworth College, Certificate in Leadership and Church Management 2003
- ◆ Private Pilot Certificate, 2006

**ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIPS**

*Wyoming*

- ◆ Deputy to General Convention 2009; President of board of directors for Thomas Apostle Center; member of Episcopal Foundation board of directors; A leader of Mustard Seed Mission; Active in apostolic team ministry in region 2

*Spokane*

- ◆ Vice Chair Bishop search, diocesan capital campaign committee; diocesan finance committee; board of trustees C.D.S.P.; board of directors Health Improvement Partnership; named "Righteous Gentile" by Jewish community in 2000; GOE reader 2001

*Western NY*

- ◆ Standing Committee; Deputy to General Convention 1994 & 1997; chair of Diocesan Total Ministry Task Force; Order of St. Luke; Cursillo; Spiritual Director; director of Diocesan Clergy Association; vice-president of the Board of Deaf Adult Services; chair of Hamburg Ecumenical Association.

**PUBLICATIONS AND COMPOSITIONS**

*Stretching the Truth*—1997, Episcopal Radio and TV Foundation.

*Christian Parenting*—Published 1991, Upper Room Books.

"Treasure," "Forward in Faith" and "Love Rise"—CDs of original songs available upon request.

*Sermons on the Gospel Readings*—2008/2009 Series III, Cycle B

Online contributor to *Story Share*—Weekly aide to preachers

*Grace for Today*—Contract pending.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**Bishop-Elect, Diocese of Wyoming**

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