



**INTERNATIONAL SYNOD OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE
AMERICAS, JULY 21-23, 2017, BARRANQUILLA, COLOMBIA**

A REPORT FROM HIS GRACE

**THE MOST REVD. DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH PROFESSOR
MICHAEL BLAND SIMMONS, BA, MDiv, STM, JWF, OAC, OSF, PhD,
PRIMATE & ARCHBISHOP OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE
AMERICAS**

July 31, 2017

Dear Brethren in Christ,

We have returned home from what was one of the most fruitful International Synods of our Church. The fellowship was superb, the food was excellent, our worship was heavenly, and our planning for ministry was substantial. The Rev. Gary Jordan, Deacon of the Holy Trinity mission in Atlanta, Georgia, represented the Archdiocese of the Alpha and Omega and his ministry was well received. We are most grateful to Bishop +Morales and his wife Sandra, their family; his mother who offered us a room to stay in and several nice meals; his brother Alberto and his lovely wife Yadira, who invited Gary Jordan to stay in their home one night; the parents-in-law of Bishop +Morales; Padre Wilmer and the leaders of the mission in Sincelejo, a four-hour trip by bus from Barranquilla, who gave us presents, a fine lunch, and provided us accommodation in a very comfortable hotel in Sincelejo; the National Police of Colombia who provided us protection and a military escort while we were in Sincelejo; the clergy who participated in the Synod from Bishop +Morales' diocese; and Bishop +Jesus Manuel Mejia Quiroz from Peru and the clergy who accompanied him to the Synod; and all the many laypersons with whom we prayed and to whom we preached the glorious

gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit produce much fruit from this Synod to the glory of Christ. Finally, my wife, who you know is Latina, sent her apologies to Bishop +Morales and all the attendees at the International Synod for not being able to accompany me because her mother, now 95 years old, has recently had serious health issues resulting in her being admitted to a Nursing Facility in Luverne, Alabama where we live.

We should now very much be blessed to share with you some of the important highlights of the Synod:

- **Early Thursday morning, July 20, 2017, Archbishop Simmons, Deacon Gary Jordan, and Bishop +Morales travelled from Barranquilla to Sincelejo four hours by bus, arriving just before lunch. After checking into their hotel, they went to the mission where the congregation was waiting to welcome them in Christ’s name. Padre Wilmer and the lay leaders helped them in vesting for the Holy Eucharist. Deacon Gary Jordan preached on the Israelites obtaining many victories to establish themselves in the Promised Land, and he related this biblical narrative to the vision of the congregation of Sincelejo who are in the process of building a cathedral. During the service Archbishop Simmons administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to several youths, served as Celebrant, translated Deacon Jordan’s sermon into Spanish, and gave an Altar Call or invitation to those in the congregation who needed blessings or prayers for various needs. After the Holy Eucharist the Archbishop blessed the cornerstone or “primera Piedra” of the future Cathedral, and a local band played instrumental music which was enjoyed by everyone. Then the congregation presented gifts to the Archbishop and Deacon Jordan and provided a very nice lunch. A local architect who is also a member of the mission shared the architectural plan for building the future Cathedral.**
- **The inaugural Holy Eucharist took place Friday evening, July 21, 2017 in the Salon of the Hotel Puerto Colombia, Barranquilla. Archbishop Michael Bland Simmons said the mass according to the Latin rite of the 1549 Book of Common Prayer and gave a message in Spanish entitled,**

“Los Cinco Pasos de Nuestra Marcha con Dios”. This sermon will be put up at our website in Spanish and English in due time.

- **After the Holy Eucharist on Friday, July 21, Archbishop Simmons bestowed an Apostolic blessing upon each attendee individually, asking God to give them a fresh anointing of His Holy Spirit upon their ministries to the Body of Christ.**
- **Archbishop Simmons conducted a blessing of the home of Bishop +Morales’ mother, Mrs. Ana Rosa Bolivar de Morales, and the home of his brother and sister-in-law, Alberto and Yadira, on Saturday, July 22.**
- **Renewal of the wedding vows of Bishop +Morales and his wife Sandra, took place on Saturday, July 22, 2017. And the Archbishop baptized their infant daughter Adara in the morning. Bishop +Morales was the Celebrant and preacher during the Holy Eucharist in the afternoon.**
- **On Saturday, July 22, Bishop +Jesús Manuel Mejía Quiroz presented on behalf of his diocese in Peru a Diploma de Reconocimiento (Certificate of Recognition) to Archbishop Michael Bland Simmons, for his pastoral ministry to the ministers and laypeople of his diocese. Archbishop Simmons expressed his most sincere appreciation for this high honor.**
- **Various presentations were given Saturday, July 22, 2017 including those from Bishop +Jesus Manuel Mejia Quiroz of Peru, Bishop +Morales of Colombia, Deacon Gary Jordan representing the Holy Trinity mission church of the Georgia Mission, Archdiocese of the Alpha & Omega; and presentations by the monks of the Sacred Heart, Medellin, Colombia: Padre Guillermo, Padre Juan Carlos, and Deacon Hector. Deacon Hector presented the Archbishop with a nice gift: A very finely made rosary. Since the presentation that Bishop +Casey Miner sent to the Archbishop arrived at his home address after the Archbishop had left for Colombia, regrettably we were not able to share this during the Synod. Archbishop Simmons presented to the bishops and clergy many new vestments and *Books of Common Prayer* in**

Spanish on behalf of the Church, and Gary Jordan gave them gold and silver crosses.

- **On Saturday, July 22, Bishop +Javier Antonio Bolívar Morales received a special blessing by the imposition of the Archbishop's hands so that he could receive *Subcondicione* the Archbishop's lines of Apostolic Succession.**
- **Also on Saturday, July 22, all who participated in the Synod had a round table discussion of the vision of our Church. We discussed the importance of improving communications, fostering a Christian fraternity amongst our diocesan families, and ways that we can improve our website. Many noted that it is extremely important for our Bishops to attend our Synods because they are the leaders of our church and this would help to create a sense of solidarity and enable our leaders to get to know each other better.**
- **Sunday, July 23, 2017. Informes from Bishop +Moreno of Brazil and Bishop +Axt from Argentina were read by Bishop +Morales. Archbishop Simmons gave a report on the ministry of the Archdiocese of the Alpha and Omega. Bishop +Jesus Manuel Mejia Quiroz was the Celebrant of the Holy Eucharist and Deacon Jordan preached on "What is Between". Archbishop translated the message into Spanish.**
- **Our next International Synod will take place in Winnsboro, Texas, United States of America, the host Bishop being The Rt. Rev. +Casey Miner. Soon we shall be announcing the dates for this meeting so that our international travelers can make arrangements, get visas, and purchase tickets.**