

Diaspora

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Circle Elects New Secretary

by Deborah Burke

Joyce L. McFadden, of Hull, Massachusetts, has been elected FCM Secretary, according to FCM Co-Presidents Michaelita and Tom Quinn.

"There is so much I could say about FCM and the evolution I have witnessed over the last 20 years," Joyce said in her letter to the Quinns when she applied for the position on the Circle of Directors. "I am drawn to greater involvement because I believe that FCM is providing a way for many called to God to minister to God's community at large . . . FCM certification allows our members to actually do something while others [in different organizations] are still waiting for permission or approval."

Joyce has been an FCM member since 1992 and became a certified member a short time later. She and her husband, Mike, conducted marriage retreats, offered pre-marital counseling, and had a wedding ministry. After Mike died in 2003, Joyce has continued a small marriage ministry.

She has had a long and successful career as a Sales/Marketing Professional/Client Relations with several healthcare systems. Since 2006, Joyce has worked as a Client Relations Executive for Allscripts Healthcare Systems in Chicago, where she has developed a client relations program to improve customer satisfaction scores. She has also worked for the Misys Healthcare Systems in Raleigh, NC. She has been recognized as a top performer in increasing sales and customer satisfaction.

Joyce will assume the role of Secretary from Mary Ann Cejka. Her three-year tenure begins on November 1, 2009.

"I love the fact that FCM is ecumenical and inclusive and has always been on the leading edge of change," she wrote. "Sharing the Good News as well as the FCM story is always a delight." ¶ *Look for Joyce's article in the January 2010 issue of Diaspora.*

Truth & Consequences

by Clem De Wall

In 1915 Alfred Wegener, a German scientist, proposed a theory that 200 million years ago there was but one continent that gradually, through continental drift, broke into smaller continents. In spite of his vast, impeccably researched arguments, his novel ideas provoked immediate scorn and criticism. By 1968, however, the scientific community stood uniformly in support of a new model called plate tectonics, based on Wegener's theories.

Lost in obscurity are those scientists who stubbornly clung to the world view of their time, though you might find a reference to one of them in a minor footnote.

According to Arthur Schopenhauer, "[All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.](#)"

Not all truth, however, fails to be acknowledged because people reject it.

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Regional News

MOUNTAINS & PLAINS REGION

by Michael Keefe



Greetings from the Mountains and Plains! We continue gathering, supporting, praying, celebrating, and being with one another.

The Mountains and Plains Regional Gathering will take place again this year during the Call To Action National Gathering in Milwaukee, WI, November 7 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the Midwest Airlines Center 103AB. We hope to see you there!

I was privileged to have been a part of the ordination of **Alta Jacko**, the first African-American Roman Catholic Woman Priest (RCWP) on October 10. The local ABC television station covered it and had an interesting article. Please see www.abc7chicago.com "Top Stories," for the article. As many of you realize, we have many members of FCM who are also members of RCWP. Personally, I am hoping they will become more active in FCM, sharing the Mts. & Plains vice-presidency and/or other leadership roles in FCM. Any takers? Let me know.

Speaking of local news, one of our newest members, **Christy Howard-Steele** had an article done on her in the Chicago Tribune September 14. Check it out, it's a great article!

The Chicago area of "Married Priests/Significant Others/Friends/Family, etc." gathered September 26 at the home of **Ed and Pat Geiss** in Lake in the Hills, IL. As always it was great renewing friendships as well as mourning passings. Thanks to Ed and Pat for their great hospitality!

I hope many of you take advantage of our new technology and renew your

membership and certification on-line. It should make renewal easier. If you have any question, or problem, please let me know.

May God continue blessing you and your ministry.

GREAT LAKES REGION

by Tom Stricker



I would first like to acknowledge **Michael Morehead**, renowned author and speaker who became a certified member of FCM in July. He was the

only new member certified in the Great Lakes Region this past quarter. Michael, we welcome you into the Federation of Christian Ministries and look forward to getting to know you better.

Please mark your calendars for the weekend of September 17 thru September 19, 2010. The Great Lakes Region will be having a retreat and gathering Friday night thru Sunday at Maria Stein Retreat Center. More information will follow. If you would be interested in leading a workshop that weekend, please e-mail me. Mark your calendars now.

This is the time of year to renew your membership and certification. If you have not yet renewed, please do so as soon as possible.

As I mentioned in the past two issues of *Diaspora*, I thought it might be good to see how communities of faith that are led by FCM members of the Great Lakes Region are developing and filling a growing need. The **Tree of Life Community** in Dayton, Ohio was featured in the last *Diaspora*. I want to tell you about another one.

Living Beatitudes in Dayton is a Eucharistic ministry of **Dayton Dignity**. Dayton Dignity was founded and

chartered in 1975; it was founded on worship, education, and discussion in responding to the needs of gay lesbian and bi-sexual individuals and their families. Dayton Dignity was expelled from Catholic church property in 1990 for affirming the sexuality of its members and affirming the right to have committed same-sex relationships. This action of the Archbishop forced the community to begin a journey that would lead them to become a full church community. In many ways they grew up! At that time they found a new home at St. Andrew Episcopal Church. As they grew they would need to find a new location.

Dayton Dignity began to connect with other disenfranchised groups and broadened their perspective. They increased frequency of liturgies to twice a month. They developed a more participatory celebration adding dialog homilies. The fledgling community began to dig deeper, opening itself up to continued growth and questioning. The community's next move was to decide to gather to celebrate mass every Sunday. They chose home masses on the first, third and fifth Sundays and continue at Christ Episcopal Church on the second and fourth Sundays. The celebrations grew in size and grew in sense of community. The size of the home celebration grew to a point that they could not remain in homes. So in 2003, during a visioning process, the community began to address specific key areas of development. The first was to address the need for a regular weekly meeting place at a regular time, in a space that would encourage growth. The community recognized the need to broaden membership, develop name recognition and market the community. All of this led to enhanced spiritual offerings.

The Dayton Dignity community renamed itself the Living Beatitudes Community (LBC), a Eucharistic ministry of Dayton Dignity. LBC moved to

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Regional News, continued

Christ Episcopal Church in downtown Dayton with weekly masses. In response to the need for greater inclusivity, they continued to work on the development of women as co-presiders, social justice issues, and a broader base of membership. They also hired a music director.

Today the Living Beatitudes Community is a vibrant community that retains their Catholic roots and calls itself “a diverse faith community from the Catholic tradition.” They maintain connection to Dignity USA: “A Eucharistic ministry of Dignity/Dayton.” LBC celebrates at 10 am every Sunday at Christ Episcopal. They are a community open to diversity of gender, sexual orientations, age, race, and religious backgrounds.

The Living Beatitudes Community expanded liturgical offerings, community activities and spiritual experiences to Advent/Lenten Programs. They volunteer for local causes and agencies. Twenty-five percent of weekly collection is tithed to local, regional, and national charities. This small faith community has found that living the beatitudes can lead to a more just society and closer relationship with God. Presently, three FCM members participate regularly with the community.

The closing of churches in Catholic dioceses is not a new experience. This is an opportunity of new wine and new wine skins. When St. Agnes Catholic Church was closed in 2007, the LBC welcomed members of St. Agnes community to consider LBC as a potential new home. LBC has benefited from those who decided to join the community. They brought their passion for inclusivity and social justice as well as their spirituality which added to the growth of Living Beatitudes Community.

Today the average attendance at Mass is 30 to 40 people. Living Beatitudes Community is proud to say that they are a fully functioning church that offers all of the sacraments to meet the pastoral needs of its very diverse community. The three FCM members of

this community have all played a role in its success.

If you, as an FCM member in the Great Lakes Region, have a community of faith in which you participate, and if you would like to share some information with the rest of the FCM community, please e-mail me your story.

PACIFIC REGION

by *Mary and Nick De Los Reyes*



As All Saints Day and All Souls Day approach, I am inspired once again by the beautiful sand-colored tapestries hanging in the Cathedral of Our Lady Queen of the Angels in Los Angeles. Created by artist John Nava, 25 fresco-like tapestries show 135 saints and blessed from around the world, from various periods of history. Each of these figures is identified with the person's name. In addition, there are 12 men, women, teens and children that are not named, who represent the anonymous saints in our midst.

Who do we remember at All Saints Day and All Souls Day? Which “Friends of God,” whether canonized or not, do we hold close?

FCM member **Bob Charpentier** of Kensington, CA, says that his favorite saint at this time is the latest one canonized: St. Damien the Leper. Bob said that he has been fascinated by Damien since he was a child. Since Damien was from Louvain, Belgium, Bob's interest was deepened when he did a year of studies in Louvain. Other well-known “saints” that Bob admires are Pope John XXIII, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Archbishop Oscar Romero. On a more personal level, Bob recalls his mother, father, and godmother on All Saints Day, all of whom passed into the world to come within the last five years.

FCM member **Sandra DeMaster** of McMinnville, OR, reports that her favorite “saint” is Martin Luther, because “he was faithful and constant in living the Church into a new way of being.” On All Saints Day Sandra recalls the saintly lives of her mother and father and the example of Christian living they gave in raising their eleven children. Sandra also recalls Matthew, her oldest son. She and her husband adopted him, after he grew up in the horrors of the Vietnam War. Although he suffered and lived a short life, by the time he left this world, he was at peace with God. With open hearts, Sandra and her husband shared his pain and his eventual peace.

FCM member **Bonnie McCulley** of Phoenix, AZ, is happy to declare that her favorite saint is Francis of Assisi. She loves his creation spirituality and his love for all people and creatures. Bonnie lives near and is frequently nurtured at the Franciscan Renewal Center. She loves the way the Franciscans continue in the spirit of St. Francis by welcoming everyone and by practicing his spirituality. On All Saints Day, Bonnie celebrates the memory of her father and her brother-in-law.

As for myself, my favorite “saint” is Mother Cornelia Connelly (1809-1879). Her life is worth reading. A brief version exists on Wikipedia. She found ways to be true to her faith and values even though her heart was breaking over many very personal losses: the death of two children; her husband leaving her to become a Catholic priest; the husband trying to take over the religious order she founded and when he was unsuccessful, taking her to court and winning custody of the three surviving children. She also had to deal with the egos and authoritarian ways of bishops and priests. In spite of it all, she nurtured her group, the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, and developed an educational philosophy based on love and respect for students – something very unusual for the times. Always

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Regional News, continued

positive and nurturing, even those who worked closest to her did not know the heroic way she dealt with her losses. On All Saints Day, I too recall my parents, my brother and my father-in-law who fell from this life into God's loving arms and eternal life.

NORTHEAST REGION

by Patricia and Paul Stubenbort



By the time this reaches you, the Northeast will have had two get-togethers. The one at

our house here, near Philadelphia, is set for Oct. 18, and so far 16 FCMers will gather with us. The second will be on November 1, in Framingham, MA. FCM and Corpus are getting together there for the second time this year, for an afternoon of catching up on one another's ministries. For our first joint meeting we had 30 in attendance. Let's hope this one is just as fruitful. For details, contact **Stu Obrien**, sobrien642@comcast.net 508 822 6710. It is still difficult for members in North Jersey, New York and Connecticut to go so far so we are looking to meet in that region this Fall yet or in the Spring.

As we reported earlier, the Northeast saw four members ordained to the diaconate, priesthood and episcopacy in 2009. **Chava Redonnet** (Rochester, NY) was ordained to the diaconate and will be ordained a priest May 1, 2010, at Spiritus Christi in Rochester, NY. We are looking forward to being there to celebrate with Chava. We'll have more details later.

You may remember **Bob Graf's** vignette on **Carl Hemmer's** significant contribution to the founding and development of FCM. It was in *Diaspora* several issues back. We were fortunate to have **Bob and Ginny** with us for a weekend in September, and we thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

In our last issue, we expanded on the ministry of **Larry Dipaul**. Today

we'd like to share something about the ministry of **Jim and Marie David**. Jim comes to us from a Notre Dame background; a Holy Cross Father. Marie came to the marriage already on the cutting edge of religious reform and ministry. She is certified as a Reiki master and is also an ordained priest and has faculties in the ecumenical Catholic Church. After trying various forms of ministry, they were both well prepared for their present experience of founding and running "Evensong by the Sea," an Ecumenical Retreat Center in Harwich Port, MA www.evensongretreat.com, where they give retreats, engage in counseling, and serve as joint pastors of St. Mary Magdala Church, an Ecumenical Catholic Community located at "Evensong by the Sea."

Their latest venture is to produce a list of intentional communities nationwide that people can reference to find an appropriate worship site. They have a website for that purpose: alternativecatholicexperience.org. This effort will dovetail nicely with the project that Deborah Burke has underway for *Diaspora* at the request of **Dagmar Celeste**, to publish a list of intentional communities. We wish Jim and Marie well as they further develop their very effective ministry.

Our hope is that all of your ministries are fruitful and effective. You do not have the support and encouragement of an institutional church, but you do have the encouragement and support of the Federation of Christian Ministries. And we think God is pleased, too.

SOUTHERN REGION

by Virginia and Robert Graf



It was difficult this quarter to make contacts for this report. We believe that's a good sign; our southern mem-

bership is busy shining light over many areas. We received a copy of **Tom Dunn's** well written essay on divine revelation. Although NCR rejected his submission for publication, we believe that Tom has genuine points to make. Thank you, Tom for your clarity of thought, your spiritual wisdom, and your courage to speak. If you would like a copy of Tom's essay, contact him at 843-215-6058, or email, r.tomdunn@mygait.com

Gloria Carpeneto, an FCM member since 2007 and an ordained priest in 2008, co-pastors **The Living Waters Community** in Baltimore with newly consecrated Bishop **Andrea Johnson**. Once a month, the eucharist is celebrated in the worship space of the United Church of Christ in Catonsville. During the rest of the month, the eucharist is shared weekly at home liturgies scattered throughout the Baltimore-Annapolis corridor. Sharing living water is the focal point of all outreach. Quarterly, the community discerns effective ways to tap its fount.

Living Waters initiated an Interfaith Peace Garden on the grounds of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Baltimore. It teaches Rei Ki, the Japanese practice of hands on healing as an alternative spiritual therapy for those in need of healing. Community members provide a day shelter, You Are Never Alone (YANA), for women who are prostituted and for those caught up in human trafficking. The day shelter offers a place to eat, rest and shower. Martha's Place, another private outreach center of 12 beds, offers women who are at least 30 days detoxed, a safe home where they can get back on their feet. Presently, the Living Waters Community is discerning how to advocate for survivors of torture and trauma. Many victims who are escapees are looking for prayer partnerships as are those still caught as victims of torture.

We congratulate Gloria, Andrea and the Living Waters Community, located in Baltimore MD. They are an inspiration. To join the Living Waters Community, or to share ideas about your ministry, contact Gloria at gcarpeneto@comcast.com
Peace to all! ¶



A Word from the Chair

by Antoinette Marold

AN AWSOME GIFT!

November seems to be the month that we most often discuss our gifts and remember to give thanks for all of our blessings. Advertisers too remind us to be grateful. Have you ever received a gift that was so GRAND that everyone who heard of your gift gave thanks? This gift is so SPECIAL that you could never repay!

By the GRACE of GOD and RALPH, our family has received that gift! Our son Jeffrey received the gift of a kidney from his friend Ralph. Jeff and Ralph are musicians who compose music and play music for their church worship services.

Ralph and Jeff were not lifelong friends and Ralph is still strong and vital. How great is our GOD that Ralph would be moved to give such a gift of LIFE! Our family will be ever grateful to Ralph for the quality of life he has gifted to Jeff.

Jeff and Ralph are recovering from the October kidney transplant; both are doing well. Many people have been praying for them and continue to pray for their recovery and we are very THANKFUL. I hope you will consider donating your organs when you leave this earth as they will provide the gift of LIFE to someone.

Thanksgiving Blessings to you and to those you love.

THANK YOU

The term of office for FCM Secretary, Mary Ann Cejka, was to end after the July 2009 national assembly. However, Mary Ann agreed to continue serving until the end of the year or until another secretary could be appointed. I am happy to announce that a new secretary has been appointed to serve for the customary three year term.

Thank you to Mary Ann for her service to FCM as Secretary and member of the Executive Committee and FCM Circle of Directors.

Mary Ann has also shared her knowledge of non-profits through her columns in the *Diaspora*; she is an active supporter of the FCM Peace and Justice movement.

WELCOME

Welcome to Joyce McFadden the newly appointed secretary of FCM. Joyce will also serve as a member of the Executive Committee and the Circle. Joyce's term will begin on November 1, 2009 and end after the 2012 Assembly. Read about Joyce in the President's Column.

ELECTIONS

The terms of Chairperson, and Vice President (s) of the Pacific region and the Mountain & Plains region will be ending at the 2010 Assembly. Nominations and Elections will be taking place for those offices. Please read and fill out the nomination form for the office of Chairperson on the next page of this issue.

At the top of the nomination form, please read the Circle of Directors Appointment extending the term of President(s) by one year. Thank you to Michaelita and Tom Quinn for accepting the additional year of service.

FCM NEWS VIA EMAIL

In addition to the *Diaspora*, FCM members will be receiving news and information via email.

Several news emails have been sent out, if you have not received them please contact the Central Office with your up-to-date email address.

WINTER CIRCLE MEETING

The Circle of Directors will meet in Cleveland, Ohio, from the evening of February 4, 2010, until the morning of February 7, 2010. All FCM members are welcome to attend the meeting at the Cleveland Airport Residence Inn by Marriott.

2010 MEMBERSHIP

Membership Renewal, Annual Report & ICCD Dues can be paid ONLINE at www.federationofchristianministries.org You can complete your form ONLINE and pay dues ONLINE or download the form and mail it with a check to the Central Office (Membership).

Ministry Listing Forms are only available on the website. Your FCM membership entitles you to three (3) free listings on the website. ¶



CIRCLE OF DIRECTORS APPOINTMENT

The three-year terms of FCM Chairperson, President and Treasurer are all co-terminus in July 2010. The Chairperson and President are elected by the national membership. To ensure some continuity on the Executive Committee, the Circle of Directors has extended the appointment of Michaelita and Tom Quinn as presidents for an additional year. Their appointed term will end in **July 2011**. Michaelita and Tom were appointed to complete the term of Clem DeWall and Eileen Mackin. The Quinns have graciously agreed to serve as FCM Presidents for the additional year.

CALL TO SERVICE

It is time for the membership of FCM to nominate a member(s) to fill the position of Chairperson(s) and for the Federation of Christian Ministries. This position is critical to the direction and vitality of FCM. In this edition of *Diaspora* we are calling for nominations for this national office on the Executive Committee of the Circle of Directors.

Any member in good standing can be nominated for this office. A couple may be nominated for the position. Any member may place himself or herself on the slate of nominations. Both talent and time are required by those who will fill this position. Service on the Executive Committee requires a substantial investment of time. The term of office for this position is three years. The term will begin after the 2010 Assembly through the 2013 Assembly.

Members holding an office can be re-elected to that office for a second term. After two terms a director must take a one year break before holding office again.

Chairperson, Antoinette Marold, is ending her first term and is eligible to serve in that position in this election if nominated.

The Chairperson(s) is responsible for:

Policy planning, formulation and evaluation; setting the agenda for Circle of Directors meetings; planning and presiding at the Circle meetings; arranging the venue for the Winter Circle meeting; chairing the nominating committee for a National Election; chairing the Executive Committee; and serving on the Development Committee.

To nominate a member for the office of Chairperson(s) complete the nomination form and mail it to:

Virginia Graf, FCM Nominations
2054 Kabletown Road
Charles Town, WV 25414-4613

or email: southernvp@FCMmail.org **NO PHONE NOMINATIONS**

All nominations must be received by **January 31, 2010**. The balloting for the National Election will be in March and the results will be published before the 2010 Assembly.

NOMINATION FORM FOR FCM CHAIRPERSON(S)

I Nominate: _____

Why I am nominating this member(s): _____

My Name: _____



Non-Profit Nuggets

by Mary Ann Cejka

This article part of a series by former FCM Secretary Mary Ann Cejka, offering brief “nuggets” of information on non-profit issues, including such fundamentals as governance, staffing, accountability, and various methods of fundraising.

When to Go for a Grant (and When *Not* to)

We’ve all been there: sitting in a board meeting brainstorming over how to bring in more income for the organization. Sooner or later, someone - maybe it’s you? - says, “I know! Let’s see if we can get a grant!”

Going for a grant can be like going for a wild ride. It’s both exciting and risky. There’s often a prize at the finish line, but you can also end up with a wreck instead. How can you increase your chances of the former outcome? Your board can consider the questions below as they try to consider whether to step on the grant-seeking gas pedal or slam on the brakes.

Is your project fundable?

Note the wording of the question: Is your *project* – as opposed to the day-to-day operations of your organization - fundable? Foundations are often more interested in funding projects than general operating expenses. While there are exceptions to this rule, it is generally more appealing to a foundation to fund a specific service program of your organization than, for example, paying for your utility bill or an office assistant’s salary.

In determining a project’s fundability, it can be helpful to consult Maslow’s hierarchy of values (see below):



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Maslow, A. (1970). *Motivation and personality* (2nd ed.). New York: Harper and Row.

Briefly stated, the needs at the base of the pyramid are easier to obtain funding for than those at the peak. The needs listed in the bottom four categories, particularly if they pertain to children, fall within the parameters of interest of many more foundations than the self-actualization needs (such as the arts) at the top. There are, of course, foundations that fund the arts, self-esteem workshops for teens, and meditation programs for seniors. But they are less abundant, and the competition for their funding more intense, than those that fund projects addressing basic needs. Top-of-the-pyramid grant-seeking efforts require access to better foundation identification tools and a higher level of grant-writing expertise than those at the bottom of the pyramid, especially if the size of the grant being requested is substantial.

Who will staff the project?

Your organization must be able to adequately staff the project for which you seek funding, and demonstrate to the foundation that staff or volunteers who will be involved with the project possess the necessary expertise. Will those staffing the project remain involved in it through the entire grant period, or is there risk of a high turnover rate? Foundations prefer to see a continuity of staff in any project that they fund.

Can you articulate exactly how grant monies will be spent?

Vague ideas – even if they are noble and full of promise - are not good candidates for grants. Think through your project’s logistics, including timeline and budget, before beginning the grant-seeking process. Most foundations will want to see a budget that details anticipated expenses as well as other sources of funding for the project.

How will you evaluate the impact of the grant on your project?

Many foundations require annual or semi-annual reports on projects they fund. Foundations are increasingly interested in measurable, quantitative results. Can you structure relevant, measurable variables into your project at the outset so that the outcomes of your project can be numerically tracked and assessed?

Is there sufficient time to for the grants process?

Grants are not a fast source of income. After your application has been submitted, it may be subjected to several rounds of review. Even if the foundation decides to fund your request, it can take another several months before the actual grant check arrives. In short, if you need cash urgently, a grant is not the way to go.

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The National Catholic Ministries Alliance

by William Manseau, Director at Large

This summary is offered in the hope that it will facilitate involvement of our members at the local level in the process of reform and renewal.

Origins

The National Catholic Ministries Alliance (NCMA) grew out of “Ministry Alley” –the name that Joy Barnes, then executive director of the Women’s Ordination Conference’s (WOC), and I gave to our WOC, CORPUS and FCM exhibits which were side by side in the Exhibit Hall at the Annual Call To Action Conference (CTA) in Milwaukee. In between talking with folks who stopped by our tables, we talked about the possibility of working together in a concerted fashion at the local and national levels.

I took the idea to the FCM Circle of Directors in February 2004, proposing that the FCM Roman Catholic Faith Community Council (FCM/RCFCC) invite CORPUS, WOC and Celibacy Is The Issue (CITI) to create a way for our groups to work together. The FCM Circle of Directors agreed and authorized Sr. Bridget Mary Meehan, then out-going FCM President—and me—to invite other associations to participate.

History

In June 2004, an initial consultation took place among the CORPUS Collegial Board and Joy Barnes from WOC and Bridget Mary Meehan and I from FCM/RCFCC. I pointed to the emergence of new Catholic ecumenical communities across the country such as Spiritus Christi in Rochester, NY, and St. Matthew’s Ecumenical Community in Orange County, CA. These communities displayed significant marks of authenticity as signs of the times with collaboration between married priests and women priests.

The CORPUS Collegial Board voted 3-0 to move forward to consider next steps.

In July 2004, Evelyn Hunt, President of WOC, Rev. Dagmar Celeste, RCWP, William Wisniewski, CORPUS Treasurer and I met at the FCM Annual National Assembly in Cleveland, OH, at Evelyn Hunt’s invitation, to consult about working together to develop the National Catholic Ministerial Alliance. We each recognized that there could be significant benefits in the kind of partnership being proposed.

Immediately, for example, CORPUS and FCM priest members could become sacramental mentors for WOC members in search of such collegial assistance. Bill Wisniewski offered to mentor Dagmar Celeste in the development of the sacramental and pastoral aspects of her ministry. In November 2004, WOC voted to approve participation in the Alliance.

Again at the initiative of Evelyn Hunt, we held another NCMA consultation in Gananoque, PQ in July 2005, on the occasion of the Roman Catholic Womenpriests’ ordinations on the St. Lawrence Seaway. Evelyn Hunt of WOC, David Gawlik of CORPUS and I representing FCM/RCFCC attended. We set up concrete plans for a NCMA Pre-Conference all-day workshop in 2006 at the Annual Call To Action National Conference.

In November 2005, in Milwaukee, official representatives of CORPUS, WOC and FCM/RCFCC reached these inaugural agreements for the Alliance. These included

- ❖ Foster the Sacramental Mentoring Program by which married priests would serve as sacramental mentors for women preparing for ordination. (This continues in a modified form today as there are now RCWP priests taking up this role.)
 - ❖ Set a principal goal to renew Church through working at systemic change in the Roman Catholic Church. (A current systemic reform project is a prayer vigil to be held on the
- occasion of the November 2009 meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, DC calling attention in this Year of Priesthood to the closing of hundreds of US parishes for lack of priests.)
 - ❖ Appoint a committee to develop a Reflection Resource for Women preparing for Roman Catholic priesthood. (This was accomplished and the Reflections Resource was published by the Alliance.)
 - ❖ Develop a Pre-Conference workshop program on the theme of creating an Alliance for the 2006 CTA National Conference. One hundred participants enjoyed the “Bridging the Gap” workshop at which Austrian Roman Catholic Womanpriest Bishop Christine Mayr-Lumetzberger presided assisted by married priest William Manseau and now Roman Catholic Womanpriest Juanita Cordero, who was a deacon at the time.
 - ❖ Undertake formal intentional networking for information sharing. Every month a conference call brings together two representatives from each of the participating organizations. This group serves as the central information sharing and coordinating body. Linda Pinto, CORPUS secretary, serves as facilitator for this group and Evelyn Hunt, WOC director-at-large, as agenda developer.
 - ❖ Share finances. (This continues on an ad hoc basis.)
 - ❖ Extend an invitation through WOC to RCWP to participate in the Alliance as a sponsored partner organization. (RCWP is now an active participant.)

During 2005, the NCMA Coordinating Group agreed to change the name

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to The National Catholic Ministries Alliance, in order to convey a broader scope than “Ministerial” provided.

Our collaboration dating from 2004 has had direct results. In 2008, the highly successful National Joint Conference of FCM, CORPUS, WOC and RCWP on the theme an “Inclusive Ministry in a Complex Age” was held in Boston, and drew international attention. A well attended NCMA workshop was held on “Emerging Models of Community Leadership” at the 2008 National Call To Action Conference.

Another outcome has been participation in FCM’s National Specialized Ministries Endorsement Program, which enables the NCMA partner members to have access to employment opportunities for institutional chaplaincies. Both CORPUS and FCM priest members have access to CORPUS’ Pensions Advocacy Program. CORPUS representatives attend RCWP ordinations and present Pyxes to the newly ordained deacons, Oil Stocks to the

newly ordained priests, and episcopal Rings to the newly ordained bishops. Linda Pinto currently coordinates this program.

Mission and Vision Statements

Mission Statement: The National Catholic Ministries Alliance (NCMA) is committed to enable and nurture inclusive Roman Catholic ministries of women and men, women priests and married priests, committed to the work of Vatican II reform and renewal.

Vision Statement:

- As ministry partners we encourage and reverence one another in mutuality.
- We strive to co-create a justice and peace-making Church.
- We work to create bridges of understanding among all faiths.
- We look for avenues of dialogue with our sister churches.
- We commit ourselves to eradicating oppressions of racism,

sexism, heterosexism and other related systems of unjust domination.

The Alliance Partners

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Women’s Ordination Conference: Erin Hanna, WOC Executive Director, Tel. 703-352-1006 and Evelyn Hunt, WOC Director at Large, Tel. 216-795-4264.

Roman Catholic WomenPriests: TBA. In process of appointing representatives for new terms; www.romancatholic-womenpriests.org ¶

ANNOUNCEMENT

Third St. Louis-area Roman Catholic Womanpriest Ordained

Deacon Marybeth McBryan of St. Louis was ordained a priest on November 1, 2009, All Saints Day. The celebration took place in her home community of Therese of Divine Peace, with Bishop Joan Clark Houk officiating.

Marybeth has been heavily involved in parish ministries in the Archdiocese of St. Louis for nearly 30 years. A mother and grandmother, she is a former teacher in both parochial and public schools, and she has also served on the Board of Education of the St. Louis Public Schools. Marybeth has a Master’s in education with secondary degrees in administration and counseling, and has accrued 40+ hours in theology, liturgy and religious education. She is currently a part of the music ministry and serves as deacon at Therese of Divine Peace, and will continue on the ministerial staff there following her ordination as priest.

Roman Catholic Womenpriests continue to validly ordain women and marginalized men to the Roman Catholic priesthood in an effort to bring reform and renewal into an unjust hierarchical structure that is increasingly misogynous and misoneist. Rather than looking backward and inward, Roman Catholic Womenpriests continue to look forward and outward in the spirit of Vatican II. We are here. We are ministering. We are growing. We are not going away.

The ordination was at 5 p.m. on Sunday, November 1, 2009, with the Therese of Divine Peace Inclusive Community. The ordination took place in the sanctuary, and a light reception followed in the Fellowship Hall

Further information is available at www.thereseofdivinepeace.org.

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Our government deliberately conceals it. In the early 20th century, scientists began pursuing antigravity science and technology. Throughout the 1950s numerous aircraft companies were holding enthusiastic press conferences on their progress. Then, in 1959, all antigravity news went silent, as the new science and technology became U.S. military classified property. Paul A. LaViolette, in *Secrets of Antigravity Propulsion*, gives in immense detail both the theory (way over my head) and the history of the development of antigravity science. If LaViolette is right, we are being deprived of access to a nearly limitless supply of energy for the sake of militarism, war and destruction.

The obsession to control people's beliefs is also prevalent in our churches. On one hand are the radical conservatives who preach biblical literalism; and on the other is the Catholic Church, which has replaced the Bible with the catechism. The distortion of truth is even more abhorrent when done in the name of religion.

But if we do not see the light of truth, let's not blame the government or the pope. And let's not delude ourselves into thinking we can attain enlightenment by voting for change or by reforming our church. We are not victims. We are responsible for our own ignorance.

Gregg Braden, in *The Spontaneous Healing of Belief*, states, "We live our lives based on what we believe." For FCM members, religious beliefs are the basis of ministry. Consequently, his follow-up question is critical: "What if those beliefs are wrong?"

There is no reason to believe that we are any better informed about our beliefs than the majority of scientists at the time of Wegener were about theirs. In the case of religion, we find the anomaly in which nearly all scholars and many pastors accept the extensive historical and scriptural research of the last two hundred years while at the same time failing to educate their students and parishioners. To remedy this neglect, Bart D. Ehrman has written another best seller, *Jesus, Interrupted: Revealing the Hidden Contradictions in the Bible (and Why We Don't Know About Them)*. I recommend that every FCM member become familiar with this author, and his latest work is a good place to start.

Ehrman anticipates that some may be uncomfortable with his book: "All I ask is that...you...approach this information with an open mind and be willing to change if change you must." (Page xii) In turn, I ask you, please do not describe this book as "interesting." That's what you say about ketchup on ice cream. If you recognize the truth, accept it and taste its consequences.

The author insists that his book is not an attack on faith—in fact, that many of his close friends and colleagues accept what he presents while retaining their faith. And when based on sound scholarship, faith ought to be deepened. We know more about the formation of early Christianity, the origin of

the scriptures, how the Bible was written and changed, and how doctrines were developed in our time than in any previous age, including the first few centuries after Jesus. We can choose either to grow our faith with new learning or squeeze our faith into a box of doctrines. To ignore current scholarship is equivalent to the Catholic Church's condemnation of Galileo while refusing to look through the telescope. At the end of his book, Ehrman concludes that "what became Christianity represents a series of rather important departures from the teachings of Jesus." (Page 267) Your beliefs may be challenged, but your faith can be renewed.

Jesus, Interrupted was written to inform those in the pews whom their clergy have failed to educate. It serves also as a wake-up call to ministers either to learn anew or to pass on what they have been reluctant to teach. We in FCM, as religious leaders, must base our lives and our ministry on the best available research in sacred scripture, history, archeology, ancient languages and other relevant studies. And if we find we have been wrong, may we have the courage to admit it.

When you read this book, drop your defenses. Look for countermending arguments to prove the author wrong, or else follow his arguments to their logical conclusions and accept the consequences. Otherwise, do not read his book at all.

Today human knowledge is growing exponentially in every field, including scripture and theology. While not every novelty will prove to be true, those who oppose and ridicule never prevail, but simply die off and pass into obscurity. And if we imitate the scholars and pastors who accept recent historical and scriptural studies while neglecting to pass this information on, we will merit not even a footnote. Which path will FCM take?

We live our lives based on what we believe. What if our beliefs are wrong? ¶ *Contact Clem at clemdewall@q.com*

IN MEMORIAM – LEO R. LYNCH

Long-time storyteller and FCM member Leo Lynch passed away October 9, 2009, at age 78. A native of Michigan, Leo was ordained a priest in Rome in 1956, and he served the Saginaw diocese for 13 years.

According to an article in the Saginaw News, Leo left the priesthood in 1969 feeling he could no longer support the church's views on divorce and remarriage, the celibacy of priests and intercommunity services. He married Judy Hayes in 1970; they have two sons, Stephen and Andrew. Leo was active in the civil rights and anti-war movements and in fighting poverty, racism and war.

Leo's commitment to social justice issues followed him when he joined a folk trio called New Image. His son Stephan is quoted as saying, "the songs were always about important things in troubled times." Leo was also active in local theater. He continued to minister, celebrating Mass with the Emmanuel Catholic Community.

The FCM community sends its deepest sympathy to Leo's family and friends.

Do you have the resources for grant-seeking?

Grant-seeking is no small investment. Access to foundation databases, a critical step in identifying the right foundations to approach, costs money. And once you know which foundation to approach, who will write the grant? Do you have a competent volunteer or staff member who is an experienced grant writer, and does that person have the time and patience to learn foundation guidelines, query the targeted foundation, and follow through with the application? If not, can your organization afford to hire a professional? Remember, grant-seeking is a competitive process. Your proposal will be compared to others that have been written by experts in the field.

A Bumpy Road or "Easy Street"?

If your nonprofit has a project that is fundable, adequately staffed, thoroughly budgeted for, measurable in terms of outcomes, and scheduled to begin a year or so in the future, and if you have someone who can research, write, and service the grant...rev up the engine and buckle your seatbelts! You're ready to roll.

If not, then use this checklist of questions to determine which wheels your organization needs to grease before it hits the grant writing road. The list may help you avoid a crash and burn ending and propel you toward success. See that blaze of glory at the end of the road? That's the award at the finish line – a grant to fund your project! 🎉

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For more information, visit web site: www.globalministriesuniversity.org

Email: GMU5053@aol.com

Phone: 866 419-8020 toll-free

FCM Certificates

These lovely certificates are available from the FCM Central Office. Please specify your choice: Baptism, Marriage, Holy Union, and the number of certificates you need. Certificates are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Each certificate is printed on certificate weight paper in blue ink; they carry the FCM logo and seal.

FCM Central Registry & Certification

The FCM Central Registry for Baptism, Marriage and Holy Unions is managed by Paul Reithmaier, 7415-K Triwoods Dr., Shrewsbury, MO 63119. Forms are available from Paul or can be printed from the regional website <http://home.att.net/~fcmmp>. A small donation to cover the cost of maintaining the service is appreciated. FCM Certification dates correspond with the Circle of Director's Meeting and is posted in the *Diaspora*.

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*Check out the
Official FCM site!*

www.federationofchristianministries.org



- Information on FCM Certification.
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