

# FCM Newsletter

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## CONTACT FCM

FCM toll-free: 800-538-8923  
Carolyn Horvath & Tom Leonhardt

Web site:

[federationofchristianministries.org](http://federationofchristianministries.org)

Online university:

Global Ministries University (GMU)  
[globalministriesuniversity.org](http://globalministriesuniversity.org)

## MEMBERSHIP

FCM Dues can now be  
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## FROM THE PRESIDENTS' DESK



## Is the Strategic Plan Being Implemented? Yes!

by Tom and Michaelita Quinn

It's time to update you again on the FCM Strategic Plan. At the Circle of Directors meeting in June, the Circle agenda included an overview of the completed Plan, a report on the implementation of Year 1 priorities, and agreement on Year 2 priorities.

It was surprising what we learned from a look at each of the Objectives that had not been tagged as priorities for Year 1. Of the 29 remaining Objectives, we found that 4 were already completed, 10 others were started, 10 more are ongoing, and only 5 had not yet been started. This was very encouraging and showed that FCM is on the move throughout the Strategic Plan.

We heard a status report on Strategic Goal 1, a priority for Year 1: **Provide for certification/commissioning and endorsement of members.** Joe Ruane led a discussion and gave a report on certification; we are now transitioning to the word "commissioning."

*continued on page 4*

## MEMBERS VOTE FOR NEW NAME

by Deborah Burke

After 34 original suggestions for a new name, after *Diaspora* was suggested as a keeper, and after three rounds of voting, the newsletter has a new name. Thanks to all who participated with suggestions. Eighty-one FCM members voted in the final round. The new "look" for the newsletter was designed by Jennell Bergwall, FCM's long-time graphic artist and designer. Thanks, Jennell!

*FCM Newsletter* was submitted as a suggestion by Gregory Rienzo of Hayward, CA, back in March. Congratulations, Greg! He will receive one free year of FCM membership! Thanks to all our members who took the time to give thought and prayer to this naming issue, for all the suggestions, for all the votes! ♪



# Regional News

## MTS & PLAINS REGION

by Michael Keefe

### PLANNING COMMITTEE BEGINS WORK

As you should know by now, the Mountains and Plains Region is in the midst of planning for the 2012 Assembly! I'm happy to present to you



all the planning committee members, in alphabetical order: Dennis Condon, Clem DeWalt, Carolyn Horvath, Christy Howard-Steele, James Hayes, Rose Hudson, and yours truly. If I've missed anyone and you are interested in being on the planning committee, please let me know. We welcome all help!

Our work to date has focused on a location, with the corresponding lodging. Initially, we considered Indianapolis, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, and Dallas/Fort Worth. However, due to the response we are now focusing on Chicago, with St. Louis and other cities as possible sites

Hopefully by the time this article appears in the *FCM Newsletter*, we will have made more progress on booking a site. Please consult the FCM website for updates. We are also linked in LinkedIn and Facebook if you prefer this mode of communication. Of course, e-mail and telephone and even snail mail is possible. So let me know of your interest, and I will pass it on to the planning committee!

I also keep in contact with other local communities. I just received a note from Jesus Our Shepherd church in Nenno, WI. Check out their webpage at [www.jesusour shepherd.org](http://www.jesusour shepherd.org). The Chicago area will be meeting in Hyde Park in Chicago Oct. 15 around 6 p.m. I know the St. Louis Reaching Out

group meets regularly as well as the St. Louis St. Therese community.

Remember to put the Call To Action annual meeting in Milwaukee, WI November 5-7 on your calendar. FCM will be meeting November 6 at 1 p.m. in room 202DE. Hope to see you there!

So keep meeting, praying, ministering and witnessing!

## SOUTHERN REGION

by Virginia and Robert Graf

### TRAVELING AND PLANNING

We have been travelling the second district of West Virginia from the



Potomac River to the Ohio River as Ginny campaigns for the U.S. House of Representatives. Because hers is a grass-roots campaign, and Ginny has refused to accept corporate donations, it has been a daunting task. We are constantly meeting people and sharing the dream that it is possible to restore Congress to respectability, to serving constituents over special interests.

We are also busily engaged in planning for next year's national assembly, which will take place at the Holiday Inn at Dulles Airport in Northern Virginia, outside Washington D.C. The Assembly will run July 22 through July 24, 2011.

We are looking for a keynote speaker to address the topic of "ministry in a shrinking biosphere." If you have suggestions about this conference or the name of a speaker, we are open to your ideas and welcome them. You may contact us at [southernvp@fcmmail.org](mailto:southernvp@fcmmail.org).

Congratulations to **Dena O'Callaghan**, RCWP (Ocala, FL) who was certified/commissioned at the June FCM Circle Meeting in Dallas, Texas.

Congratulations to **Nick and Mary De Los Reyes** for the welcoming and refreshing Assembly in Texas. The presence of both FCM and Corpus members helped make the event even more special.

## PACIFIC REGION

by Mary De Los Reyes co-VP

### WELCOME TO THE NEWLY COMMISSIONED!

On February 27, certified Pacific Region member **Merlene Olivia Doko** was ordained



the 11th bishop for Roman Catholic Womenpriests (RCWP). In solidarity with 40 of Olivia's friends, family and fellow ministers, Mary attended the ordination in San Jose and demonstrated FCM's ongoing support of Olivia and RCWP.



through her leadership role in 12-step programs and as a Prayer Chaplain at

Meet **Cheri Sadler**, who was recently certified/commissioned at the June Circle of Directors meeting. Cheri has been ministering to others since an early age

her Church, Unity of Phoenix. Cheri's parents, Carol and Jim Hushek, are long-time certified FCM members. Cheri now joins her parents as they continue to serve their community through their growing wedding, baptism, and funeral ministries.



Congratulations to **Shoshanna Porter** from Vancouver, Washington, a member newly certified/commissioned at the June Circle of Directors

Meeting. Shoshanna currently works as a Chaplain at Providence ElderCare. She has over 40 years of congregational service and leadership in multiple faith traditions. Her ministerial goals include FCM Endorsement and Certification as a Clinical Chaplain by the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy.

## **GREAT LAKES REGION**

*by Tom Stricker, VP*

## **RETREAT TIME!**

The Great Lakes Region wishes to welcome newly certified/commissioned and endorsed members **Amy Simpson Bennethum** and **Ronald Davis** and certified/commissioned member **Kathryn Christian**.



Don't forget to sign up for the **The Great Lakes Region Retreat/Gathering** will be held Friday September 17<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup> at **Maria Stein Retreat Center, Maria Stein, OH**. See the registration form at right. ¶

# **Great Lakes Region Retreat**

**September 17- 19, 2010**  
**Friday evening to Sunday**  
**11:30 a.m.**

**Spiritual Center of Maria Stein**  
**2365 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein, Ohio 45860**

**Friday: Registration**  
**4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Dinner served 6:00 p.m.**

**Evening gathering 7:30 p.m.**

**Saturday: Retreat workshops & activities**

**Sunday: Breakfast followed by liturgy**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number attending:** \_\_\_\_ X \$130 = \_\_\_\_\_

**(\$130.00 per person includes 2 nights, 4 meals, 2 social hours)**

**We would ask you to register early so we can make plans for the event. Please mail registration and check to:**

**Tom Stricker**  
**9660 Hemple Road**  
**Germantown, Ohio 45327**



# Summer Thoughts

by Antoinette Marold

Here we are at the end of Summer... I hope you took the time to smell the roses and enjoy the sunshine!

FCM and CORPUS members were greeted with nearly 100-degree temperatures when they arrived in Dallas for the June Joint Assembly. Fortunately, the conference center was comfortable and everyone enjoyed a GREAT Conference. Thank you to Pacific Vice Presidents, Nick and Mary Des Los Reyes for the great job!

Thank you also to Allen and Sylvia Moore of CORPUS for all of their work on the conference.

Congratulations to Marita and Gerald Grudzen, who were the recipients of the 2010 Anthony Soto award. Gerry accepted the award as Marita was unable to be with us this year.

The semi-annual meeting of the Circle of Directors was held for several days prior to the conference. Welcome to the newly elected vice presidents Mary & Nick Des Los Reyes, Pacific Region who are starting their first *elected* term after agreeing to fill the remaining term of past Pacific VPs Peggy and Phil Ripp.

Congratulations to Michael Keefe, who was elected to a second term as VP of Mountains and Plains. Michael's done a great job.

Also joining us at the meeting were Christy Howard-Steele and Carl Yusativz, who will become co- vice presidents of Specialized Ministries. This issue of the newsletter will update you on some of the decisions made by the Circle and the ongoing implementation of the strategic plan.

If you voted for a new name for the newsletter, thank you for your participation. The new name is on the mast head of this newsletter! Congratulations to the winner! (My suggestion did not make the final round.)

**REMINDERS:** The FCM Membership Directory is available to Members in a electronic download PDF format from your vice presidents. Thank you to Bob Graf, vice president of the Southern Region for preparing the directory.

World Day of Prayer - September 9, 2010

Are you **LINKEDIN?** ¶

*continued from front page*

Bill Manseau brought us up to date on the various topics related to endorsement including reorganization of endorsement leadership. Joe and Bill indicated that all Objectives for these two important areas will be met by the Winter Circle meeting in 2011. Stay tuned.

Strategic Goal 5 was also a priority for Year 1 implementation: **Support the establishment of local faith communities.** Tom Quinn distributed a booklet containing the results of an FCM survey from which he and his committee identified 79 local faith communities across 20 states. At the conference, which followed the Circle meeting, more members provided information about their communities. Additional Objectives will be completed by the Winter Circle meeting. **Let us know about your community.**

Tom Cusack reported on the third priority, Organizational Goal Objective 8: **Clarify FCM as an entity and review the governance structure.** This discussion included considerations of the FCM Constitution and Bylaws, the various

kinds of FCM membership, and the intent for FCM to eventually become an association of churches.

Individual and community membership will be further defined. Considerable work will still be done on this very important goal which will continue as a priority into Year 2.

Along with finalizing the implementation of Year 1 Goals, the Circle chose additional Goals to implement for Year 2. They include:

Strategic Goal 3: **Respond to needs and support members in meeting these needs.**

Strategic Goal 4: **Provide for educational & spiritual growth of members.**

Membership Goal: **Invite individuals & communities to join the FCM community.**

You'll be hearing more from us about this important work which is shaping the future of FCM. As always, we invite your comments and responses to the progress thus far. ¶

# A Close Call

by Barbara Kaplan, FCM Prayer Services Coordinator

Have you ever experienced a “close call?” As a person trained in end of life skills, I’ve been seriously ill. I remember thinking at the time that I could die—but it was a superficial thinking ... not really delving into the realities of the situation.

I had a “close call” a couple weeks ago. This time I delved deeply into the realities. What might it be like to NOT be here. Who would be affected? How might they feel? Do I have my affairs in order? What am I leaving un-done? I found myself pretty much emotionally involved in those thoughts. And I gained insight into my attachments to physical form. It was a powerful experience, giving me much more empathy into what other people may be experiencing in life or death situations.

From my experience, most people put thoughts of dying on a back burner, never really planning for that eventuality or even allowing themselves to think about it. Recently, I was in a used book store and a book popped right out at me. The guy who wrote the book had tattooed an expiration bar code on his shoulder ... would you really want to know when your last day is? Think about it. How would you live your life?

One of my pet peeves when I worked as a chaplain in a hospital was the use of this term: the patient “expired.” It connotes an image of milk that has passed its expiration date, is spoiling, and has to be discarded.

The physical body is a sacred vessel, housing soul and consciousness. When death occurs, the physical body is left behind, to return to dust. Thus, treating the body with reverence and gratitude is important.

I invite you to think or speak a prayer that comes into your heart about your own dying. Can dying be viewed as a beautiful event, a return to Source, a continuing of life, an event as welcome as the birth of a baby.

*P.S. People who prefer requesting prayer by snail mail, the prayer-request form is included in this newsletter. Please make copies of the form when requesting prayer. Mail to 3620 N. Grace Lane, Bellingham WA 98226. ♪*

## FCM Request for Prayer Support

### How to Request Prayer:

1. Each person requesting healing prayer sends in his or her own name. (If the person is too ill or in a coma and would ordinarily ask for prayer, then the one requesting the prayer may send in that person’s name.)
2. Names received are given to the FCM Prayer Support Group.
3. The names of people requesting prayer and for whom prayer is requested will be listed on the FCM Prayer Support web site link by name and the designation “direct prayer” or “transition prayer,” time of day the requester is praying, and prayer period.
4. The FCM Prayer Support Group will pray for the person for two to four weeks, unless the request is renewed.
5. Requests received the 1st through the 15<sup>th</sup> of a month will be kept in prayer for that month. Requests received after the 15<sup>th</sup> will be prayed for through the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month.
6. For emergencies, please email or phone in your request as directed, below, providing the information you would have checked on this form.

### Please check all that apply:

- Place my name on the prayer support list for **Direct Prayer**. I will also be praying for myself.
- Place the name of \_\_\_\_\_ (print first and last name) on the prayer support list for **Transition Prayer**.
- Place the name of \_\_\_\_\_ (print first and last name) on the prayer support list. This person is unable to request prayer for her/himself.
- I would like to become a regular pray-er in the FCM Prayer Support Group. Please contact me.

### Contact Information:

If you wish to request prayer for yourself and/or another, print your name here: \_\_\_\_\_ (first and last)

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Select and check one time you can pray with us:

- morning       evening       bedtime

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail form to:

Barbara Kaplan, FCM Prayer Support Coordinator,  
3620 N. Grace Lane, Bellingham WA 98226.

For emergency requests, email: [Barbara@SoulJournings.com](mailto:Barbara@SoulJournings.com)  
or call (360) 393-4619.

## New Leadership for Specialized Ministries Committee

by William J. Manseau, D.Min.

At its summer meeting, the Circle of Directors welcomed FCM certified members Christy Howard-Steele, M.Div. and Carl R. Yusavitz, D.Min. as the new Chair and Vice Chair respectively for the Specialized Ministries Committee. As leaders in training, they will assume responsibility at the 2011 Annual Assembly for FCM's Religious Body Endorsement Program for the specialized ministries of chaplaincy, pastoral counseling and clinical pastoral education.

Chaplain Christy Howard-Steele, M.Div. is an Association of Professional Chaplains' Board Certified Chaplain in the Chicago area at the Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Illinois. Born and raised in Evanston, IL, Christy graduated from Oberlin College. She then attended Carnegie-Mellon University where she earned, simultaneously, two Master's degrees: one in Statistics and one in Public Policy and Management. She then pursued a successful career in the actuarial profession as an actuary and as a departmental manager. Life events elicited a new direction and Christy decided to study for the ministry. She was active in her Baptist Church and she graduated with an M.Div. degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in 2008. She sees participation in FCM as an opportunity to give back to others individually and collectively what has already been given to her: support and

empowerment for growth in faith and ministry. She is a member of the Mountains and Plains Region.

The Rev. Carl R. Yusavitz, D.Min. is an Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) Certified Supervisor. He is employed by Penn Foundation, Sellersville, PA as Director of Pastoral Services. Carl was born and raised in a small mining community populated mainly by Polish and Russian immigrants and their children. Raised Roman Catholic, Carl studied for the Roman Catholic priesthood in the La Salette Missionary Community in Ipswich, MA. He was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1972, and received his degree in Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 1974. He also received a Certificate in Ecumenical Studies from the World Council of Churches in Celigny, Switzerland. Carl has served as the Chair of the ACPE Eastern Region Strategic Planning Committee and is currently a member of the ACPE Eastern Region Accreditation Committee. He has served as a parish priest in England, as a seminary instructor and rector as a Catholic priest; as a Mennonite Community Minister in Pennsylvania and as Mennonite Country Representative for Sudan, North Africa. He is a medical center and hospital chaplain and chaplaincy supervisor in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Northeast Region.

I believe that the work of FCM's Committee for Specialized Ministries will be in very good hands. We are grateful to Christy and to Carl for taking on these responsibilities and look forward to working with them. Please feel free to contact them at [specmin@FCMmail.org](mailto:specmin@FCMmail.org) ¶

## Gerry and Marita Grudzen Receive Anthony Soto Award

by Mary De Los Reyes, co-vice president, Pacific Region

This year's Anthony Soto Award was presented to a deserving couple: Gerry and Marita Grudzen. Although Marita could not attend this year's FCM-Corpus Joint Assembly, the plaque was presented to Gerry on behalf of both of them at the FCM Business meeting. The award recognizes FCM members who exemplify the spirit and vision of Anthony Soto.

Anthony Soto was a friar and pastor, scholar and field worker, dreamer and organizer, idealist and activist, husband and father, and a longtime member of FCM. Anthony founded an innovative job training program, "Center for Employment," that has spread to various parts of the United States and South America, including Chile. Soto was a leading figure in the struggle of Mexican-Americans to achieve justice

in the workplace. Anthony also started a retreat movement that emphasized a type of leadership that grows out of community. He and his wife Phyllis were among the founders of *La Comunidad* a small but dynamic Christian community in San Jose. His multi-faceted ministry was always focused on encouraging individuals to recognize their talents and to apply them to improve society.

Both the Grudzens were personal friends of Anthony Soto and have been and continue to be active members of the *La Comunidad* community. Side by side, Gerry and Marita were two of the first five members to be certified in 1973. They have played a major role in the evolution and growth of FCM, including serving as co-presidents. Gerry's latest contribution is the new Global Ministries University

of which he is founder and president. Currently, Marita's work as Deputy Director of the Geriatric Education Center at the Stanford University School of Family and Community Medicine, focuses on family, community, and the elderly.



Members of *La Comunidad* in San Jose, CA celebrate with the Grudzens on their selection as the 2010 winners of the Anthony Soto Award. From Left: Kathleen Dolci, Mario and Maria Christina Murillo, Phil Ripp (former Pacific Region VP), Gerry and Marita Grudzen, Linda Gonzales, Peggy Rip (former Pacific Region VP and current FCM member), and Bob Dolci. The photo was taken during the celebration in the home of Bob and Kathleen Dolci.

## Ministry of Compassion: *Interfaith Volunteer Chaplains*

by Russ Ditzel, FCM Certified Member, Northeast Region

Over the past six years, my wife, Marian, and I became particularly sensitized to the experiences of military members and their families with our son, Joseph, serving as a U.S. Navy Petty Officer. While he and his close friends returned from deployment tours in Iraq and Kuwait unscathed, others we know in our local community were not as fortunate.

Between 25 percent and 60 percent of our military men and women return home from Afghanistan or Iraq suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or with disabilities covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Walter Reed Army Hospital records that 30 percent of its incoming patients suffer from Traumatic Brain Injury. Most serious are the high numbers of suicides and unnumbered attempts among pre- and post-deployed service members, which have exceeded the number of combat deaths in 2009 and 2010. When you include the impact on spouses, children, parents and extended families, the need for support increases significantly.

There are some wonderful behavioral health programs in place for active duty military and veterans; however, medical and clinical resources are sorely overextended. Even military chaplains, often a significant first-stop support resource, are finding themselves overwhelmed by demands on their services.

I am not a trained psychotherapist or mental health professional. I am also beyond the age where I could enlist as a military chaplain even if I had the requisite “ecclesial endorsement.” However, news stories impassioned me to find a way to be of assistance. There is both a spoken and unspoken need for *people of compassion* to be ministry support. As a married priest and long time certified and commissioned member of FCM, I began looking for a way to respond to a significant pastoral need.

The **Ministry of Compassion: *Interfaith Volunteer Chaplains*** is that unfolding response. The program is beginning to pull together priests, ministers, rabbis and imams interested in collaborating to enhance the well being of military families. Trained to respond to the particular life and death experiences of combat veterans and their families, they will be providing humanitarian, spiritual and pastoral support as adjuncts to military and veterans’ administration chaplains.

A humanitarian, inter-religious Ministry of Compassion could provide bridge-building opportunities on many levels. It is an opportunity for members of FCM, CORPUS, CITI Ministries, and Roman Catholic WomenPriests to become



actively engaged with peers of all religious traditions in a community service/ecumenical support program. While not being conducted as a publicity event, this extra-canonical service could provide a positive public witness to the myriad of services that transitioned priests and spouses have provided for the last four decades. It could expand greater grass roots inter-religious dialogue. It might even speak volumes to those who have given up on organized religion.

With particular enthusiastic support from Michaelita and Tom Quinn, Bill Manseau and Tom Cusack, the Circle of Directors unanimously supported the Ministry of Compassion’s petition to become a charitable program of FCM’s Interfaith Council on June 26, 2010.

There is certainly a need nationally for a Ministry of Compassion to military families. To ensure viability, however, we are particularly focusing on New Jersey/eastern Pennsylvania where there are a number of active military bases. Our expectation is to expand as we get the proper training and funding issues resolved.

As we speak to people about this ministry we are encouraged. FCM and CORPUS members in New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania have been volunteering. Others in the Northeast have been responding to Paul and Pat Stubenbort’s distribution of informational updates. And, we are getting enthusiastic encouragement and support from both active-duty military chaplains, veterans administration social services leaders, and local clergy who see incredible value to the program.

I’d welcome the chance to be in dialogue with *you* about the unfolding Ministry of Compassion and how you might become personally engaged. ¶

*Executive Director Russ Ditzel can be reached at [crditzel@ministryofcompassion.org](mailto:crditzel@ministryofcompassion.org)*

# My Experience of the 2010 FCM/CORPUS Conference

by Nick De Los Reyes, Co-VP Pacific Region

*(Based on the structure of the poem Gratitude by Mary Oliver.)*

What did you notice?

Old friends; new friends;  
enthusiasm

What did you hear?

Laughter; sharing; great presentations; a dramatic reading on Merton; lively music

What did you admire?

The integrity, openness, dedication of so many

What astonished you?

That after all these years, the vision and spirit live on

What would you like to see again?

Everyone who was there, further along the journey

What was most tender?

The love expressed as we recalled and prayed for the departed;

The sung blessings for each other;

The awe my daughter experienced in meeting Roy Bourgeois

What was most wonderful?

That we keep coming together, nurturing and inspiring each other

What did you think was happening?

The Holy Spirit was present and working

Eighty people gathered in Fort Worth, Texas, from June 25 to 27, 2010. We came from twenty states and Canada. We came to be with each other, to hear the major speakers, and for many personal reasons. Each one was enriched and left thankful for having been there.

The entire weekend was a celebration, not unlike a liturgy with Gathering rituals, presentation of the Word, prayer, music, communing with the sacred, and commissioning to return to daily life renewed for service. Conference organizers and participants joyfully greeted old friends and made new ones as we gathered.

Those who were present before the official start of the conference, got to hear Eugene Bianchi's presentation on "Spirituality and Aging." Eugene was the first president of Priests for A Free Ministry, the organization that eventually became the Federation of Christian Ministries. A former Jesuit and Professor Emeritus of Emory University, Eugene taught courses that examined spiritual development at various stages of the life cycle. He encouraged us to continue to reflect on our spiritual life and to be actively engaged in developing our spiritual self.

The conference opened with a formal welcome and prayer, invoking God's Spirit to be with us for the weekend. We took time to remember and pray for our beloved deceased, especially those who departed during the past year. This was an emotional time as their names were read aloud. Special remembrance was given to Francis McGillicuddy, whom many of us appreciated for his gentle kindness. He and his beloved Elaine presented the Aramaic Lord's Prayer in chant and dance. Our conference program booklet was dedicated to his memory.

Following the necrology, we prayed for the healing of all present, anointing each other with oil so that we might be forgiven and freed of all dis-ease.

Anthony Padovano gave the first formal presentation. Anthony titled his talk "Encounters with Freedom." It is certainly worth reading when it is published. He delineated the fundamental changes Vatican II brought in our understanding of the Church. He affirmed that those changes cannot be undone by the powers of retrenchment. He encouraged us to be true to conscience, draw strength from friendship, keep a clear vision, and witness to what we believe. Scholarly and visionary, Anthony's presentation brought illumination to our ecclesiological history.

The second formal presentation was a sharing of heart, personal history, and vision by Roy Bourgeois. Roy is a decorated Vietnam War veteran, Maryknoll priest( who spent years with the poor in South America), organizer and leader of the movement to close the School of the Americas, and prophet who is challenging the Catholic Church to end its practice of sexism by dropping the ban on ordaining women. We experienced Roy as humble, down-to-earth, personable, sensitive, warm, sincere and courageous. His presentation was very inspiring. He is a genuine hero.

The third formal presentation was by Jan Phillips, musician, author, award-winning photographer, international lecturer and retreat leader. Jan used her artistic talents to help us get in touch with the freedom we already possess. She got us out of our chairs and into a ritual of song and movement of affirming each other. Another exercise she invited us to do was based on the

*continued on page 11*

# EVERY PERSON IS A NEIGHBOR

by Most Reverend Joseph Galante, D.D., J.C.D.,  
Bishop of Camden

*(An FCM member forwarded this article as of possible interest to our members and as a thought provoking response to a current issue. The first part ran in the July 2010 newsletter. This is the second part..-Ed.)*

Today, there are more than 10 million undocumented immigrants in the United States, most of whom have been here for some time as productive, contributing workers, many of whom pay taxes, without ever violating criminal law. They do not take jobs away from U.S. citizens, but supplement the native-born workforce. They do not burden or deplete public resources, but make a substantial contribution to the United States economy. We know that past waves of immigrants into this country—many of whom were our grandparents and great-grandparents—were not barred from entering our nation, did not require documentation, were not treated as criminals once they were here, and we know from experience how they greatly enriched our nation.

While we do not condone the unlawful entry of persons into this country, it is clear that current immigration laws are not working and actually contribute to the phenomenon of persons entering the country without proper documentation. That's because current laws keep families separated sometimes for decades and set arbitrary limits on temporary and permanent immigration that are far below both need and demand.

Further, while we must acknowledge the need to have enforceable immigration laws and must be attentive to legitimate security concerns that pertain to border enforcement, we cannot simply brand undocumented workers as lawbreakers and demand punitive enforcement actions as an excuse to walk away from our obligation to care for our immigrant sisters and brothers and to find ways to achieve meaningful reform.

Indeed, some of the measures that are being directed

against those who seek entry to our country without documentation are deplorable. A new Arizona law, for example, states, that “where *reasonable suspicion exists* that a person is an alien who is unlawfully present in the United States, a reasonable attempt shall be made, when practicable, to determine the immigration status of that person.” Since we’re being so reasonable, we might reasonably wonder how even the most well-intentioned and skilled law enforcement official might identify the person who has proper documentation without resorting to profiling or the violation of basic rights.

Of course, measures such as profiling, blanket criminalization, the mass deportation of all that are here, or the violation of basic human rights not only are impractical and ineffective, but morally unacceptable. As I have emphasized in the past, it is essential that those who have not entered this country legally be treated humanely. People do not give up their human dignity or the right to due process because they—often compelled by forces that left them with no other option—entered this country without proper documentation.

The United States Bishops are not proposing “amnesty,” but a path to citizenship through earned legalization for the undocumented persons now in this country. This process would require undocumented workers to work six years before applying for permanent resident status and they would not assume priority over immigrants who already have petitioned for permanent status. The Bishops also are proposing reforms that would increase the number of work visas awarded, reduce backlogs for families seeking reunification with loved ones, and address the root causes of migration.

I am confident and optimistic that this can occur if we engage each other with respect and civility, and if we prayerfully root ourselves in the Gospel, asking not only “Who is my neighbor?” but, “How can I be a better neighbor to every person?” [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org). ¶

## IN MEMORIAM

*Please keep these FCM members and their loved ones in your prayers:*

### **William Michael “Bill” Lally**

Beloved husband of 41 years to Lucy Anne Lally (nee Daugherty); loving father of Tim (Tammy) Lally, Rick Lally and Susan (John) Rogers. Loving Grandfather of seven. FCM minister and professor. Member of FCM St. Louis, Mountains and Plains Region. Passed to his new life on Wednesday, June 23, 2010.

### **Frank Woolever**

Syracuse, NY -- Peace activist who dedicated his life to social work died Monday, July 5, suddenly after complications from a stroke. He is survived by his wife, Meme, and two daughters, Heidi Daly and Amy Woolever and one grandson Micah. Frank wrote a book, “Ghandi’s List of Social Sins” which will be self-published this fall. Frank was a member of the FCM Northeast Region. ¶

# GROUNDED IN PERSONAL SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

by Tom Leonhardt, co-Membership Coordinator, Central Office

*This is a three-part article. The next two installments will appear in the November 2010 issue and in the January 2011 issue.-Ed.*

The Mission Statement which emerged from FCM's Strategic Planning Process is as follows: *Called by God's Spirit and grounded in personal spiritual practice, the Federation of Christian Ministries responds by worshipping God, and supporting the growth in faith and ministry of the individual and collective members. Our Christ-inspired organization does this by welcoming people of all spiritual persuasions. We offer empowerment and certification/commissioning to those who have discerned a call to ministry.*

A while back, two Jehovah's Witnesses appeared at our front door. The older of the two recounted that his father had served in the military during World War II. His father was Catholic. He asked the chaplain why Catholics were killing Catholics. The chaplain responded that he was not to worry since God was on our (the Allied) side. The soldier learned that the "enemy" soldiers wore a buckle that read (in German), "God is with us." Forthwith, the man's father became an atheist.

We all know of the long carnage in Northern Ireland – Christians killing Christians. Then there is the war in the Middle East where Jews, Christians and Muslims kill one another on a daily basis. All three traditions lay claim to the Ten Commandments, but all struggle to grasp what God might have had in mind with the seemingly clear statement "Thou Shalt not Kill."

In the United States, many Christians believe that the commandment pertains only to the unborn (except as collateral damage in war). The commandment does not apply to capital punishment or the accepted consequences of war.

Jesus' statement that "The poor you will have always with you," has, practically speaking, become the rationale for gross neglect of the needy by the government.

So this is the picture in a nation where many claim to be "Christian." Churchgoing is applauded, but pastors need to be careful not to talk about things like poverty, war, greed, gays, etc.

OK, so?

We are the Federation of Christian Ministries: good people, the vast majority Christian, most of Catholic background, very many still committed practicing Catholics. Probably none of us condone the destructive and uncompassionate behavior of institutional Christianity. Probably all of us struggle for change, struggle to embrace the non-violence of Jesus in acts of compassion toward the poor, those ravaged by war, women systemically devalued, those shunned because of sexual orientation, and those excluded because of race or religion.

It is my earnest conviction that institutional religion—

no matter which tradition — has been such an historically colossal failure because it has lost touch with and rejected its spiritual roots. Institutional religion — no matter which tradition — has fostered the illusion of collective ego and been the root of separation. The genuine practice of each religion, grounded in its particular spiritual roots fosters honor, respect, and appreciation of other traditions as equally valid paths to the Holy One.

So the key is not attendance at synagogue, church, or mosque. Not that such attendance is necessarily wrong. However, such attendance can be and often is a communal celebration of emotional comfort and collective ego. A look at history confirms this. I am not saying that people of faith, regardless of tradition, have not produced wonderful, constructive, compassionate accomplishments. They have.

The point I am trying to make is that such accomplishments arise from spiritual roots, not from institutions. Institutions may have good documents but good documents do not cut it. Jesus said, "By their fruits you will know them," not by their documents. Gandhi said, "Be the change you want to see in the world." That happens one person at a time. If Jesus and other God-sent people came to call us to anything, they came to call us to consciousness. We become conscious, not through doctrines and dogma, or attendance at religious services, but through committed, daily, personal, spiritual practice. This is the key to transforming behavior. And behavior is changed through ego awareness and ego diminishment, because ego is the greatest obstacle or challenge to spiritual growth. ¶

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- In lieu of flowers, a tax deductible donation can be made to the Federation of Christian Ministries, Central Office, 1709 West 69<sup>th</sup> St., #3, Cleveland, OH 44102-2957.

We've supported each other and our ministries in life. We're all in this together—for the long run. ¶

structure of a poem by Mary Oliver. We were given five minutes to write about a personal experience. What some people wrote and shared was very touching.

Apart from the presentations, FCM and CORPUS had business meetings. GMU had graduations. The Soto Award was presented (see article this issue) and we celebrated the newly certified/commissioned FCM members. We experienced a dramatic reading by Jason McCool on the Life of Thomas Merton, written by Anthony Padovano.

The weekend concluded with a participatory and joyous Eucharistic Celebration. Tom and Michaelita Quinn delivered an inspiring homily. We gave thanks for a wonderful conference. ¶



### CENTRAL OFFICE & MEMBERSHIP COORDINATORS

Carolyn Horvath & Tom Leonhardt

[membership@FCMmail.org](mailto:membership@FCMmail.org)  
[centraloffice@FCMmail.org](mailto:centraloffice@FCMmail.org)

1709 W. 69th. St., #3  
Cleveland, Ohio 44102-2957  
216-651-4362

### PRAYER SERVICE COORDINATOR

Barbara Kaplan

[prayersupport@FCMmail.org](mailto:prayersupport@FCMmail.org)

360-393-1270

### FCM NEWSLETTER

Deborah Burke

[diaspora@FCMmail.org](mailto:diaspora@FCMmail.org)

216-228-8800

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Qualified FCM members may apply for "Religious Body Endorsement" for the specialized ministries:

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The FCM Circle of Directors acts on endorsement applications twice yearly.

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**Global Ministries University:** GMU offers degree completion programs and individual courses online. FCM members are eligible for a 5% discount on degree programs.

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Email: [GMU5053@aol.com](mailto:GMU5053@aol.com)

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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.

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The FCM Central Registry for **Baptism, Marriage and Holy Union** is managed by Paul Reithmaier, 7415-K, Triwoods Dr., Shrewsbury, MO 63119. **All Baptisms must be registered.** Forms are now available on line at [www.federationofchristianministries.org](http://www.federationofchristianministries.org) Register online or download a PDF file, complete it and mail it to Paul.

## CIRCLE OF DIRECTORS

*Chairperson:*

**Antoinette Marold**

[chairperson@FCMmail.org](mailto:chairperson@FCMmail.org)

440-232-6212

*Presidents:*

**Michaelita & Tom Quinn**

[president@FCMmail.org](mailto:president@FCMmail.org)

203-792-4848

*Treasurer:*

**Thomas E. Cusack**

[treasurer@FCMmail.org](mailto:treasurer@FCMmail.org)

732-329-3586

*Secretary:*

**Joyce L. McFadden**

[secretary@FCMmail.org](mailto:secretary@FCMmail.org)

781-925-3400

*Chair, Standing Committee on Certification:*

**Joseph Ruane**

[certificationchair@FCMmail.org](mailto:certificationchair@FCMmail.org)

215-387-7998

*Director at Large:*

**William Manseau**

[directoratlarge@FCMmail.org](mailto:directoratlarge@FCMmail.org)

978-851-5547

**Regional Vice-Presidents:**

*Pacific:*

**Mary & Nick De Los Reyes**

[pacificvp@FCMmail.org](mailto:pacificvp@FCMmail.org)

Mary: 562-201-0914

Nick: 562-547-0910

*Mountains and Plains:*

**Michael Keefe**

[mts\\_plainsvp@FCMmail.org](mailto:mts_plainsvp@FCMmail.org)

219-221-9046

*Great Lakes:*

**Tom Stricker**

[greatlakesvp@FCMmail.org](mailto:greatlakesvp@FCMmail.org)

937-855-4874

*Southern:*

**Virginia & Robert Graf**

[southernvp@FCMmail.org](mailto:southernvp@FCMmail.org)

304-728-2829

*Northeast:*

**Paul & Patricia Stubenbort**

[northeastvp@FCMmail.org](mailto:northeastvp@FCMmail.org)

215-752-7493

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Federation of Christian Ministries  
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