



Ascension–Alliance for Spiritual Renewal

SPIRITUALITY IS A RENEWABLE RESOURCE

Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 4 • September, 2010

Father Bernie Finch is Consecrated a Bishop

Convocation 2010 *Our First Ever*



Bishop Alan Kemp and his wife, Claudia, hosted our first ever annual convocation, August 27th through the 29th, at their Hermitage on Key Peninsula, near Gig Harbor, WA. Special thanks go to Claudia for her hospitality, heart, and hard work.

Twenty clergy, seminarians, and friends attended one or more events. In addition to our own clergy and seminarians, these included “wandering” Bishop Dale Caldwell, Bishop Patsy and Father Steve Grubbs of the Church of Antioch; Mother Sandy Olson (San Francisco); and Randy Viers, Clinical Director of Olalla Recovery Centers.

Convocation 2010 was centered at our new chapel, the Little Chapel of Saint Thomas, the Doubter. The chapel and a new bell were consecrated as part of convocation.

Three new deacons, Kathy Diederich (San Diego), Douglas Walker, and Jenni Walker (Santa Fe), were ordained at mass on Saturday morning.

A highlight of convocation was the consecration of Father Bernie Finch as a bishop (see story this page).

Mailing List Corrections

You have received this newsletter because we thought you might like to receive news from us. If you do not wish to be on our mailing list please send an e-mail with your name to:

cosmas@concentric.net

In the subject line simply say, “Remove from mailing list.” We will remove you from our databases immediately. In this event, we apologize for any inconvenience.

Pictured above is Bishop Bernie Finch being consecrated by Presiding Bishop Alan Kemp (seated with miter) and from left to right, Bishops Patsy Grubbs, Dale Caldwell, and Howard Dugan.

Kathy Finch, Rev. Dr. Bernie’s wife, read the “charge of election,” which chronicles a lifetime of experience. In addition to being a chiropractor of long standing, in his youth he was a missionary in Liberia, building churches. Ordained by Bishop John Rankin, he has been a priest for over ten years.

Tax-Exempt Status Granted

On the first day of convocation, we learned that we have been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt Church.

However, in order for affiliated ministries to benefit from our tax-exempt status we will also need to apply for a group exemption letter, which carries with it a hefty “user fee” of \$3,000. Through the generous support of Bishops Howard, Bernie, and Alan we will be able to apply for the group exemption letter almost immediately.

We will give the first ten ministries to sign up the opportunity to have a “lifetime” charter for a one-time fee of \$300. Later charter holders will be assessed a \$153 annual fee.

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New Priest Ordained



Father Casey Tonrey, a married Catholic priest of Taos, New Mexico, with his family: wife Carla, daughters Kaelin and Kelly, and son Noah. He was ordained a priest in Santa Fe on June 16th by Presiding Bishop Alan Kemp. Also present were Archbishop Richard Gundry and bishops Michael Adams, Daniel Dangaran, and Mother Carol Calvert of the Church of Antioch.

About the Ascension Alliance

One small branch of the Mystical Body

- **We are about fellowship, the spiritual path, and love.** We strive to be a fellowship of spiritual pilgrims. Without imposing dogma, we give ourselves and others the freedom and encouragement we need to live the truth and become ever more renewed and transformed. For us, Christ's ministry is the law of love and truth. Saint Augustine may have said it best, "Love and do as you will."
- **A movement without walls or ceiling.** We are born of a free Catholic vision, in the tradition of a fledgling Independent Catholic movement, inspired by the intuitions of the Emerging Church, and following in the example of Jewish Renewal. We require rigorous preparation for ordained ministry but encourage maximum self-determination and a creative response to the needs of today's world. Our bishops and priests trace their apostolic succession as far back as that of even the most ancient of Christian communions.

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