



Ascension Alliance

SPIRITUALITY IS A RENEWABLE RESOURCE

Newsletter

Special Convocation Edition • Volume 2, Number 3 • August, 2011

Convocation 2011

Members and friends of the Ascension Alliance will be gathering on August 19th at the Seabeck Christian Conference Center for our second annual convocation. Nestled in an old logging community, the center sits at the foot of the majestic Olympics.

The program, coordinated by Father Tom Gallub of the Gentle Shepherd community, features two presentations in most time slots. Bishop Roberto Foss is doing a session on "Soul Retrieval in Mayan Shamanism"; Rev. Sandy Olson on "Thoughts about God"; Bishop Michael Adams on the use of Christian symbols and independent Catholicism; Rev. Bill Buehler on Ascension dynamics; Father Ted Feldmann on the Eucharist and creativity; and Bishop Jorge Eagar on "The Tree of Life and Angelic Magic."

At our Saturday morning mass, Bishop Jorge Eagar will preside at the celebration of a Malabar Rite eucharistic pooja. This liturgy is based on the Bharatija Pooja, a liturgy celebrated at the Kurisumala Trappist ashram, in the Malabar region of India.

Presiding Bishop Alan Kemp will offer some thoughts about the Ascension vision in a talk titled, "The Ark & The Covenant." This will be followed in the afternoon with a moderated discussion, which will give attendees an opportunity to share their vision for the future.

On Saturday evening, there will be a reception for our degree recipients, Rev. Cathy Chalmers and Claudia Patchen.

Rev. Msgr. Marian Kelley will preside at mass on Sunday Morning, the 21st. Bishop Michael Adams will be the homilist. On Sunday afternoon, Bishop Patsy Grubbs will officiate at our closing ceremonies.

IRS Grants Ascension Group Exemption

In December, the Alliance applied to the IRS for a group exemption. We are pleased to report that we finally received our official notification on August 9, 2011. This clears the way for all our chartered ministries to share in the organization's 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

Ten local ministries became "lifetime" or "plank holder" ministries. The IRS charges a \$3000.00 "user fee" to apply. The \$300 fee paid by each of the plank holders completely funded the expense.

The process, however, was somewhat grueling. For one, charter holders had to deal with us every time we had to deal with the IRS. Incorporation documents, leases, bulletins, photographs, and you name it were all scrutinized. The IRS contacted us several times with requests for "additional information."

At the end of the day, however, we were successful in establishing ourselves as a credible organization with viable ministries that serve their communities and the people of God.

Future charter holders will be assessed an annual fee of \$153.

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.

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Two New Graduates of Ascension Theological College

At convocation this year, two degree candidates, Rev. Cathy Chalmers and Claudia Patchen, will be awarded degrees by Ascension Theological College.

Rev. Cathy, who was recently ordained a deacon by Bishop Thomas David Siebert, will be awarded the degree of Master of Divinity. She is also completing an M.Div at Vanderbilt Divinity School. She was previously a seminarian at Sophia Divinity School. Bishop Patsy Grubbs and Monsignor Marian Kelley served on her Formation Committee.

Claudia will be the first graduate of our Pastoral Counseling Program. She did her course work at St. Stephen's College, in Edmonton, AB, Canada, but chose to finish her thesis and the rest of her requirements at Ascension. Her thesis, which will be available to look at during convocation, is titled "Finding Self: A Heuristic Study." It highlights the use of Sandplay and other creative therapies in self-discovery. Mother Sandy Olson and Bishop Patsy Grubbs served on her Formation Committee.

About the Ascension Alliance

One small branch of the Mystical Body

- **A "Free Catholic" and "Emerging" Church.** 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 Catholic and Orthodox communions.

- **We are about fellowship, the spiritual path, and love.** Honoring the legacy of Archbishop Herman Adrian Spruit, 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."

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