



Ascension Alliance

SPIRITUALITY IS A RENEWABLE RESOURCE

Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 4 • Fall, 2012

Convocation 2012 at Mercy Center, St. Louis, MO



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Pictured above are some of the many clergy, seminarians, and friends of the Ascension Alliance from across the U.S., who converged on Mercy Center in St. Louis for Convocation 2012, August 24th through the 27th. The photo is courtesy of Claudia Patchen, not pictured.

Among the highlights of Convocation was our first ever election of a Presiding Bishop and General Assembly Representative to the Board of Governors. Bishop Patsy Grubbs was elected to a three year term as Presiding Bishop and was seated in a Spirit-filled mass on Sunday morning. Reverend Mother Sandy Olson was elected as the General Assembly Representative. She will also serve a three year term. The preceding Presiding Bishop and Alliance founder, Bishop Alan Kemp, will continue to serve as CEO and Rector of the college.

The workshops were impressive. Bishop Alan presented on emerging trends in the Church and our charism. Mother Cathy tweaked our sensibilities with a look at old and new models of chaplaincy. Father Ted

led us in music meditation. Bishops Roberto and Patsy conducted a demonstration of diverse divination approaches. Rev. Don presented on prayer; Bishop Bernie on healing energy; and Bishop Daniel on emotional reactions to a changing world. Mother Leslie gave us a hands-on experience with art and spirit. Father Steve introduced us to new dimensions of energy and quantum physics. Bishop Jorge continued his tradition by leading us in an experience with angelic energy. Father Tom led a seminarian practicum and did a workshop on church planting.

Inside

Convocation 2012	1
Acolyte Carole Royal (Fero)	2
About the Alliance	2

A New Acolyte Elevated: Dr. Carole Royal (Fero)



We are very pleased to congratulate Dr. Carole Royal (Fero), pictured above, who was elevated to the Order of Acolyte by Presiding Bishop Patsy Grubbs during Convocation 2012.

Carole, who holds a doctorate in special education, has had a long career in education. She began her studies at Sophia Divinity School in 2004. She transferred to Ascension this year. Her Formation Director is Bishop Patsy. Rev. Msgr. Deirdre Brousseau also serves 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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