



## ***A WORD FROM THE REGIONARY***

### ***Growing in size and maturity***

Our movement faces a serious challenge to its will to remain part of the mainstream of the Liberal Catholic Church. A few days ago, I read an unexpected assessment of our position in an independent encyclopedia: “*It is difficult to say who continues the tradition [of the Liberal Catholic Church], and who is schismatic.*” The declaration of schism was used by a handful of upset bishops in 2003. In fact, the reading of Canon Law indicates that our movement never left the Liberal Catholic Church, and will remain part of it, as there is no provision to expel members from our church because of controversial ideas. Our movement is thus not a schism, but a Reform.

During the last year, our Province has grown from three to eight congregations, which are spread all over the country. There is no sign that this growth will suddenly stop. Our challenge is to properly minister to these congregations. Our deacons and priests make great sacrifices to serve our members, to be good workers in the vineyard of the Lord. Distance make it much more difficult to provide sufficient Episcopal ministry. This was the motive for the creation of six dioceses in the Liberal Catholic Church in the USA, to have a closer contact between the parishes and their bishops. Obviously, an Episcopal visit every year or two is insufficient to provide an adequate ministry, it is insufficient to build the kind of relationship that should exist between a bishop and those he is supposed to prepare for Confirmation and for the Holy Orders.

There are teachings that cannot be learned by books alone. The teachings *read* affect only the mind and the memory, while the teachings *learned by listening* reach the heart. Christ didn't write his message; he preached it not only to the people, but even to His closest disciples. The New Testament was written decades after His Resurrection. A bishop is also a teacher, and should have the opportunity to touch the hearts of those the Lord has placed in his care.

## ***PAST, PRESENT FUTURE***

### ***By Rev. Charles Peter Mugleston***

*Written in loving response to Bishop Allan Barns' request for ideas to help the Church move forward, and to Bishop Maurice Warnon's comments in the Spring Issue of the USA Newsletter.*

Our Church is yet a young Church, not so far from 100 years old, which is young as far as some Churches go! And, we hope, there will be much to be joyful about when 2016 comes along, it being the privilege of this, the Mother Province, to hold and share truly fitting celebrations for all that has been received and achieved. *Deo Gratias!*

The recent split of the Church in the way that it happened reveals that it is not as esoteric and mature as we have liked to believe over the years, and shows it to be what it really is - a mixture of maturity and immaturity, the sublime and the inadequate.

It has been hard, *very* hard at times to “hang on” during the years I have been associated with it, observing all kinds of goings on, including the split, but the plus side is the opportunity to learn much about human nature: *everything* surfaces on the “royal road of re-generation.”

The service of the Holy Eucharist. its purpose and the atmosphere it creates such as at All Saints, Putney, was and still is the overriding reason I joined the Church and maintain a mostly strong (though at times fragile) association with the Church in spite of the past and ongoing clashes, bashes, and bruises. Yes, thank God, the Eucharist speaks for itself - its multi-dimensional reality and largesse is beautifully self-evident - and it certainly leaves its calling card so to speak, above and beyond whoever the celebrant is, and yet...

Having read the book *Worship* by Evelyn Underhill some years ago and learning of the early church practice of the “*offering by the congregation*” I have always felt that this truly symbolic ritual action should be a vital part of the Eucharist.

If we accept that “take, bless, break, and give” are the fourfold Archetypal dynamics of this sublime act of grace, the Word translated into the words: Offertorium + Consecration + Elevation + Communion, then surely we need to *take* literally and ritually the Bread and the Wine from the congregation, to be truly enabled and privileged to be able to follow the Divine Ordering to *give* them back the now perfect, now whole - now Holy Body and Blood, completing the circle of God, squaring the circle.

That this practice has been deleted from our practice is incomprehensible to me and to others.

To some, it may seem to be a small thing, quite insignificant, but to me it has cut off the roots from the Tree of Life - the congregation from the sanctuary - and sadly the congregation look on at the doings in the sanctuary and do not feel instinctively and intuitively part of them as they should. They look on... as at goldfish in a bowl going round and round in their own little world, and as the congregation look on and feel cut off, so they walk off - rightly dissatisfied, disappointed. And when the clergy look round, some notice the withering and dying congregations and wonder why? WHY? I believe it is because the Church is not delivering the goods as sacred tradition would have us “do... this in remembrance of Me.”

Surely this oversight needs remedying sooner... rather than dead later! And in search of a suitable way to resolve this problem – I offer the following if found satisfactory.

A table in the west (representing the Mother/Feminine) holds the Bread and Wine. At the Offertorium in the Service, the priest turns to the congregation and says “Draw near to God with your Gifts - and God will draw near to you with His,” someone from the congregation then brings the Bread and Wine and *gives* them to the priest who *takes* them.

Simple and profound, and, I believe, unifying and satisfying to one and all.

Plugging that hole in the Holy Grail so to speak, mending that leak, leads to another point of major concern in the service - that of the sermon.

Surely it is timely to evolve this time of giving in the service into one of giving and receiving. Say a short sermon of five minutes - of presenting inspired ideas on the Gospel directive of the day, then, for another five minutes - an act of kenosis, of self forgetting in the service of

others, of calling forth responsible responses from the other clergy and congregation present, so we work together - pondering, reflecting, questioning, dialoguing; drawing riches from all and recognizing that God works and speaks through whom He chooses. Inspired by the service, the sermon, and the moment, people should (just as in a Quaker service) be offered a space for sharing grace - an opportunity to speak as the Spirit moves them. Priests can and should guide this time in a gentle but disciplined way to show that freedom does not mean a free for all. Experiments with this have revealed that it works, and again, people are more satisfied, having contributed more than just a few pence out of their pockets, a few set responses, and a few hymns.

To back this up, may I submit a valuable excerpt from a review by Dr Mary Tanner, former Secretary of the Council for Christian Unity, which appeared in last week's edition of Church Times newspaper, quoting Rupert Shortt from his book *Benedic tXVI: Commander of the Faith*.

*"The truth of the Gospel is grasped most clearly in dialogue with a multiplicity of contexts, challenges, and experiences. Risking being immersed in that dialogue is the life-blood of the faith."*

Surely our ideal in the celebration of a Church service is to replicate below the working together of the Tri-Unity above: "As Above - so Below." Does not the altar represent God the Father, the priest, God the Son, and the congregation, God the Holy Ghost? As the Anglican Bishop Stephen Verney used to say: "You have been given authority to give it away," that God may be "ALL IN ALL." Amen.

In Service.

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Saint Raphael  
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## **ANGELS ALL AROUND**

***By Rev. David Carpenter***

Are we surrounded by an angelic chorus? If so, why do they not make their presence known to us in more direct ways? Why should God have angels if He is all powerful?

These and countless other questions concerning heavenly beings have been asked throughout time, ever since God called Abraham to leave his family in Ur and begin the great experiment that culminated in the appearance of the Christ in Palestine over two thousand years ago, and continues in our own lives today. If we are indeed a part of this vast cloud of witnesses and the stream of living water as Christ Himself promised, then we are heirs to the entire panoply of Heaven, including the work of angels, who are all around us, indeed.

The constraints of time and space prohibit an exhaustive treatment of "angelology," so I will confine the remarks of this article to specific questions about the activities of angels in our lives.

First, do angels interact with us humans? If we are to believe the unbroken testimony of those who come before us, we will accept that angels exist to serve God, and that one of the ways in which they offer their worship is to interact with humans, sometimes guarding us, sometimes delivering divine messages. As early as the telling of the allegorical story of the Garden of Eden, angels have cooperated with the human kingdom – sometimes protecting us from our own folly, as in the Eden story.

A dear old soul, who while in incarnation was a great friend to the Liberal Catholic Church in Tulsa and elsewhere, was Bing Escudero. Bing once analogized the understanding of various esoteric concepts to the understanding of chocolate cake. Until you have tasted chocolate cake, all the explanations in the world about it, its taste, texture, and chemical composition, cannot serve to convey a true understanding of chocolate cake, which is gained only when that first tasty morsel passes your lips. The same is true of angels. All the reading and listening to stories about angels you do will never provide you with the conviction and understanding of their roles and activities, but this can be achieved in a near instant after having been “touched” by an angel. This is why so many articles of our faith remain mysteries to so many people.

But it need not be so with you. A little “head knowledge” about the functions and methods of angels will go far to open your eyes and ears, allowing a better chance to taste the angelic chocolate cake for yourself.

Why would angels interact with us? If God is all Power, which we affirm in the Act of Faith every time we attend Mass, why are angels needed at all? The same could be asked about humans, I suppose. It is said that God’s ways are above our ways as the heavens are above the earth, and that our human limitations prevent us from entering into the mind of God to know His designs. I believe that God, in His loving grace, engaged in creation to share, out of love, the highest aspect of His Being – creation itself and the creative process. All parts of creation, including you and me, carry the seeds of creation, and I believe that God, knowing that creation is the greatest act of loving sacrifice, chose to give that gift to all of creation. Is it any wonder, then, that angels share in the holy and creative work of perfecting the manifested kingdoms we see around us?

Angels work with humans for our perfection, according to the will of God. Our part in this creative work is to cooperate with the angels as far as we can, assisting them in the completion of their tasks. In this way, we can actually share in their work of creation and become agents for good and for the evolution of our planet.

I believe that angels appear to us in the way we can most readily accept their help. They will appear to us in human form, so as to prevent having the messenger get in the way of the message. Although angels have no gender, being essentially spiritual beings, they will appear to us either as men or as women, depending on our needs at the moment and how they can best perform their task. But how can I know if an angel has contacted me? Do they have wings or carry harps? Do they appear in the “flesh” or only in dreams and visions?

To answer these probing questions, I must beg your indulgence and relate from my own personal experience with angels. My personal tastes of this angelic “chocolate cake” have occurred only three times to my knowledge (though perhaps many more times of which I am not aware). The first angelic visitation about which I have knowledge (and which occurred while removed from my physical body during sleep) left a lasting impression, the type which removes all doubt and permanently opens the eyes – that first taste of chocolate cake!

Above all, the angels charged with assisting humanity demonstrate all the virtues and none of the vices. The overwhelming aspects of my first angelic visitor were love and humility. From these qualities, patience and kindness poured out upon me. While the message delivered was to teach me about certain character flaws I had to remedy in order to better fulfill God’s purpose for my life, the lesson was transmitted to me symbolically and not given in so many words. I did ask this messenger (this time in female form) if she were, in fact, an angel, to which she casually said “yes.” As happens to so many others not prepared for this experience, I fell prostrate, thanking the angel for her visitation. That is the exact wrong thing to do. Angels appear to us for our benefit, not for our worship. We too often have grown up believing the angels to be higher on the celestial “food chain” than we are, when in fact the whole purpose of angels is to serve others –

just as our purpose is to serve others. When we give too much honor to an angel, we run the risk of missing the whole point of the visit – which is usually to teach us something.

I have not seen this angel since. Most often angels are one-time visitors. They teach their lesson and go on to other service. The form assumed by this angel was not one which I would call stunningly beautiful, but the countenance and character that the angel exuded causes me to remember to this day every feature of her face, which fairly glowed with compassion for me personally. I would call the face of this angel flawless.

The great distinguishing characteristic of angels, when we meet them, whether awake or in visions, is their immense compassion and utter devotion to our well being. Meeting with an angel is like finding a soul mate in an instant. We know above all doubt and misgiving that this person loves us for who we are, warts and all, and has only our welfare at heart.

Vanity is an unknown character trait among God's angels, and so we can test a supposed angel (which is in no way disrespectful) by attempting flattery. An angel will simply not acknowledge any appeal to vanity, remaining focused instead on the purpose for the particular visitation.

Up to now I have mentioned only the angels of heaven, as that is by far the most likely spirit visitor we are likely to encounter. But other, less beneficent, spirits are empowered to enter our dreams as well. These we call demons, and they may appear pleasing to the eye and seem apparently intent on our good as well. Demons we must reject, as to do otherwise will weaken us as they lead us down paths not ordained for us by God. Another means of testing a spirit visitor is simply to ask if he or she is from God. Our loving God has so ordained that false angels cannot respond with truth on their lips, and instead of answering truthfully that a demonic "angel" is not from God, the visitor is likely to merely leave. In any event, an angel who responds that she is sent from God can be trusted. Don't trust what you can't test.

We each have the power to be a proactive participant in our visions, though perhaps few of us realize it. The next time you experience an active visitor during dream consciousness, try interacting with it. Simply ask, "Are you sent from God?" and wait for an answer. Practice makes perfect, so do not give up if your early attempts at lucid dreaming produce little results. The more you try to benefit from dream-visions, the more God will see you are ready to profit from them and the more frequently they will come to you.

I also want to touch briefly upon the Angel of Death. This topic is so misunderstood in popular culture that we should have some better understanding of this spirit. First, the Angel of Death is not a single angel – nor do they come from the realms of darkness. The Angels of Death are present in hospitals, at automobile accidents, and any place where humans pass out of incarnation. This angel performs a most holy duty of assisting us in making the passage out of incarnation into a new phase of our lives where sorrow is no more. There is nothing hideous or mysterious about her, there is no scythe or hood drawn over her face. She looks very mild and is quite humble, waiting off in a corner until the last breath is drawn to take our souls away from attachment to the physical plane. In fact, the Angel of Death is the ultimate Angel of Mercy, drawing us to the land beyond space and time. Acting as a guide to bring us to our long-awaited home is perhaps the greatest service an angel can perform for us, and we should not fear the Angel of Death.

We can, however, engage in holy battle with the Angel of Death. When loved ones are near death, this holy angel watches and waits. Our prayers may, but will not always, serve to prevent death from taking our loved ones. The proper way to engage in this battle of prayer is not to plead for "life," as life is a gift from God that does not end in physical death. What we must do, if we are to "bargain with death," is to promise that a better life will be lived here on earth – but not a

better life lived just by the one for whom we offer our prayers. We must offer *ourselves* as better human beings, as better living sacrifices, and we must then reform within ourselves the flaws that we all in our hearts know we carry. In our prayers for the survival of others near death, we also must remember to God the additional good which our loved one may do while yet on earth, and the improvements that person can make in his or her own life if granted additional time. It then becomes our karmic duty to assist the one for whom we have prayed to become the better person we promised he or she would become.

Are angels all around? Praise God, yes. Without them, what a dreary life this would be.

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### ***NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH. HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE....***

*Do you want more details about our Congregations?  
Visit our web site at: <http://TheLiberalCatholicChurch.org>.*

### ***The Province of Belgium and Luxembourg***

#### ***Provincial News***



The visit of the Regionary Bishop culminated on May 21, 2006 with the High Mass celebration in the pro-cathedral Chapel of Our Lady of Peace. Several ordinations took place, particularly the ordinations of the Revs. Line Destanberg and Sylvie Hermant. Both candidates entered the minor orders, after the meeting of the 2000 General Episcopal Synod when authorization was given to admit women as clerics. This was also the occasion for the ordination of Ariane Sauvenier as Acolyte, and Raymond Bastin as Reader.

### ***Our Lady, Antwerp***

The search for another room to install the chapel continues, after the Theosophical Society refused to rent its premises to our congregation. In a country wherein Roman Catholic Church is organized as the strongest political party (2/3 of the seats in the government), our congregation depends on the good will of individuals who are ready to suffer retaliation even in their jobs. In early June, the Rev. Eddy Doms, who worked tirelessly to find a suitable place to reinstall our Chapel and to keep the members together, has been ordained to the diaconate in the pro-cathedral

Church of Our Lady of Peace in Natoye. He is still working diligently, and displays remarkable patience and perseverance.

### *Saint Michael, Brussels*



Line Destamberg

The Rev. Line Destamberg, who was ordained cleric immediately after the General Episcopal Synod of Saint Albans in 2000 where the decision was made to allow women to be ordained, was ordained to the diaconate on May 21, 2006, in the pro-cathedral Church of Our Lady of Peace in Natoye. Line has very regularly assisted the Rev. Christian Golaire in ministering to the Saint Michael Parish in Brussels, and the Parish of Saint Lambert in Verviers after the emeritate of the V. Rev. André Alexis.

Ariane Sauvenier, after her return from Mexico, where, with her husband, she worked as a volunteer in an orphanage, has received the Order of Acolyte, also in Our Lady of Peace on May 21. She is currently completing her degree in advanced Mathematics and Astronomy.

### *Saint Lambert, Liège*

#### *In Memoriam André Alexis (1928-2006)*

On June 5, 2006, the V. Rev. André Alexis passed away in St. Elisabeth Hospital in Verviers, where he had been admitted the day before with a broken leg. The V. Rev. Alexis was born in Wierde, Belgium on February 2, 1928, and worked as an industrial designer for his entire career. He was ordained to the priesthood in the Church of Saint Michael, Brussels, in 1978 by the Rt. Rev. Augustus Goetmakers, then Regionary for the Netherlands and Belgium. He was nominated as Vicar General for the French-speaking diocese of the Belgian province in 1989, and served without interruption until his ailing health forced him to the emeritate on Aug. 1, 2004. At one time, the V. Rev. Alexis ministered alone the three congregations: the Saint Lambert Parish in Liège; the Chapel of Our Lady, Light of the World, in Spa; and of Our Lady, Mother of the World, in Verviers. The V. Rev. was known for his great kindness and devotion to his parishioners and for his deep devotion to Our Lady.



The V. Rev. A. Alexis

The Rev. Alexis was the widower of Mrs. Cécile Goubille, who passed away several years ago. The couple had no children. The Very Rev. Alexis, an exceptional student of theosophy and spirituality, conducted meditation classes and organized regular meditation group sessions. He was known, while his health permitted, to be ready to visit the sick at any hour, day or night, in any kind of weather, to provide the benefit of the Healing Service to those in need. After a long life of service, he is certainly be remembered as a good and faithful servant of Our Lord.

### *Parish news*

After several years of searching for a room to reinstall our chapel in the city center of Liège, it looks as if we are approaching the end of the tunnel. After several unsuccessful attempts to rent various premises, a room has been reserved for our Church in an independent cultural center. The last chapel was closed after we lost our lease at our former permanent location. Services were transferred outside the city to a private home in the suburban village of Housse. When the owner passed away, the chapel had to be permanently closed. The V. Rev. André Alexis opened his home

for the regular service in Verviers, but this chapel is located more than 30 miles away, and here now we report his passing.

Also on May 21, Raymond Bastin, who is spearheading the effort to find a location for our church in Liège, was ordained to reader and has been appointed the “person-in-charge” for the Saint Lambert Parish. Raymond has enrolled in the Liberal Catholic Institute of Studies, and travels regularly to other congregations for liturgical training.

### *Saint Eleuthère, Mons*

The Rev. Jean-Marc Warnon, his wife Marina, and their two boys, are moving from Culemborg, the Netherlands, to Renlies, Belgium. They have purchased and are remodeling a summer resort called *Le Soleil Levant* (The Rising Sun) that has bungalows and cabins they will rent. The Rev. Jean-Marc has resigned as priest-in-charge of the Parish of Saint Michael and All Angels in Naarden. He had also served for many years in the Parish of Our Lady, Mother of the World, Rock Tavern, NY. He plans to join the Clerical Synod of the Province of Belgium and Luxembourg, when the family’s move is complete, next September. The Rev. Jean-Marc intends to open a chapel in the region to reactivate the local parish that had been closed by absence of clergy.

Mrs. Christine Covelli also moved from the Netherlands to Renlies on June 3, 2006 and is now living at *Le Soleil Levant*. Christine, who also served at Saint Michael, Naarden, as an organist, was recently ordained to the subdiaconate by the Rt. Rev. Frank den Outer.

### *Saint Alban, Namur*

The pro-cathedral church of Our Lady of Peace is the headquarters of the LCC in Belgium. It is certainly not as pretty as most of our church buildings, as it is a “recycled” industrial building that really looks like one from the outside. But it is the only one we could secure and though unassuming, it is located in a very safe part of the country where you don’t have to lock your car or your front door.

All major events of the Belgian Province occur in this chapel/church because of the ease of transportation: It is close to the European Highway 411, a train station on the Brussels (B), Luxembourg and Basel (CH) railroad, and 2 bus lines.



May 21, 2006, was a busy day. In addition to Ariane Sauvenier and Raymond Bastin receiving minor orders, and Line Destamberg the diaconate, the Rev. Sylvie Varda-Hermant was also ordained to the diaconate. She began her work in the minor orders in 2000, and was raised to the H. Orders as recommended by our Canon Law. Sylvie and her husband the Rev. Pierre-Marie Hermant, members of the LCC in Brussels, joined the Church as early as 1966.

The Rev. Pierre-Marie Hermant is the priest-in-charge of the pro-cathedral of Our Lady of Peace, and of course welcomes the assistance of a new deacon. Sylvie has gained quite a reputation among the membership for her well prepared and interesting sermons. She is always ready to serve as the coordinator of the activities of the LCC and is managing the operations of ALBANUS in Belgium.

## *The Province of Canada*



The Church of St Marc, Valleyfield, Quebec, Canada

Subdeacon Reynoud Wijkman and his wife Gracia have successfully opened a new LCC Center in the pretty town of Valleyfield, Quebec, in the Church of St Marc, which they can use for a monthly service. They are building a new congregation and have the greatest hope for the future.

Both also conduct regular services in their oratory in Montreal during the summer months. For the last two years, and for health reasons, both migrate to the south of Texas, USA for the winter, where they join a community of other “winter residents”. They have built there a small congregation of 20 people.

Reynoud and Gracia are planning a trip to the Church of Our Lady, Mother of the World, in Rock Tavern, NY, USA, and to stay for several days for their training for the diaconate. The trip was delayed because Gracia had a bad fall that needed medical attention.

## *The LCC in the Democratic Republic of Congo aka Congo-Kinshasa*

*The Rev. Jean Pierre Kayembe reports:*

In April, our congregations celebrated Holy Week with enthusiasm and devotion. On the festival of the Resurrection of the Lord, we had the surprise of a visit by Muslim brothers representing the *Church of Awakening*, and two Orthodox priests. During the common meal after the Eucharist, we had a chance to share ideas and to tell our visitors some of the teachings of our Church. Before leaving, they expressed the desire for similar meetings in the future. Despite the hardship of our working conditions, our priests have managed to visit many sick people and give them Healing Services, in particular for the mother of a Roman Catholic bishop suffering from a long and painful illness. Her doctors and the Catholic priests were surprised by the results.

Groups of mothers in the entire Province have asked to dedicate the month of May to devotion to our Lady. They have faithfully used the *Meditation on Wisdom* sent by our bishop and ask for further teachings on Our Lady, whom they consider the Protector of our Church in the DRC.

On the festival of Corpus Christi, in Kinshasa and Eastern Kasai, thirteen children received Holy Communion for the first time.

The Rev. Kalambayi, priest-in-charge of St. Michael Parish, who was transported urgently from his home town of Muene Dito to the main hospital in Kinshasa, has been operated on successfully and is convalescing. He has returned home to his family, but will likely need six months of recovery and rehabilitation. The doctors believe that he will then be able to resume his activities. He has expressed his gratitude to all who helped him financially in these very difficult times. During his absence and recovery, the Parish is under the care of the Rev. Tshimanga

## *The deadliest war in the world.*

Simmering conflict in Congo has killed 4 million people since 1998, yet few in the press choose to cover the story. Nobody looks at a forgotten nation, and at what is needed to prevent the death of millions more.

Some wars go on killing long after they end. In Congo, a nation of 63 million people in the heart of Africa, a peace deal signed more than three years ago was supposed to halt the war that drew in belligerents from at least eight other countries, producing a record of human devastation unmatched in recent history. The International Rescue Committee estimates that 3.9 million people have died from war-related causes since the conflict began, making it the world's most lethal conflict since World War II.

Today, that conflict is no longer the playground of foreign armies. But the suffering of the Congolese people continues. Fighting persists in the east where rebel holdouts loot, rape and murder. The Congolese army, which was meant to be both symbol and protector in the reunited country, has cut its own murderous swath, carrying out executions and razing villages. Even deadlier are the side effects of war, the scars left by years of brutality that disfigure Congo's society and infrastructure. The country is plagued by bad sanitation, disease, malnutrition and dislocation. Routine and treatable illnesses have become weapons of mass destruction. Over the past six years, 1250 Congolese still die every day because of war related causes. In many respects, the country remains as broken and dangerous as ever, which is to say among the very worst places on earth.

There are no excuses for the neglect. This year humanitarian aid for Congo needs \$682 millions, The rich nations, mostly Europe, provided \$94 million - or \$9.40 per person in need, while the UN's tsunami appeal last year raised \$500 per person in need. The tsunami was reported for weeks on CNN, Congo was not even mentioned.

Congo represents the promise of Africa as much as its misery. Its fertile fields and tropical forests cover an area bigger than California, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico. Oregon and Texas combined. Its soil is packed with diamonds, copper, gold, tantalum and uranium. The waters of its mighty river the Lualaba (or Congo River) could power the entire African continent. So helping Congo is helping Africa. But nobody helps, there is no oil in Congo.... and the dying continues. The refugees fleeing fighting between government troops and rebels continue to talk about beheading, rape, massacres and torched villages. Congo provides tragic proof that in some places, peace and war look a lot alike.

Congo's elections, set for July 30, 2006, have become both the greatest hope for and the greatest threat to the country's recovery. They will be the Congolese people's first, in more than four decades. It is unlikely the news of it will reach our TV stations. The focus is now to bring the country to elections, but there is almost no interest in the impunity and human-right abuses that continues today. The truth is, Congo isn't magically going to become a democracy. If the people of good will remain silent, if the nations continue to refuse their assistance, in ten years, you may be reading another story much like this one in your papers or magazines. The only difference will be that millions more people will have died.

In spite of hunger, disease and violence, some twenty Liberal Catholic congregations have managed to survive. Some of their priests cannot be contacted for months, some do not even own a shirt, but they continue to work. They provide support to those in extreme need, they console, heal and pray, ministering in conditions most of us cannot even imagine. But the Congolese people, who maintain a sense of spirit and beauty despite the horrors around them, dare to hope for a better future. So, please pray, help, give, and raise the awareness of your friends, of the people around you. Speak up! Scream! There are millions to save.

M.H.W

## *The Province of Central Europe*

### *News from the Central-European Congress*

At our semi-annual meeting in April, we welcomed Rev. Peschel of the Austrian diocese and several guests from Sweden. Unfortunately, only after the guests had left did we find out that it was the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the pro-cathedral in Wolfenhausen.

On Friday afternoon the general-secretary Rev. van Driel gave a talk about the history of the LCC. He pointed out that the LCC has always been in a process of development and declared it impossible to expect that this had now stopped. In fact the LCC is just 90 years young and compared to the history of mankind or even to liturgical processes in Christianity, we are just beginning. We should remember that in nature every developmental and evolutionary process creates change. Sometimes the changes are good, and sometimes they are not and are dropped automatically. But still they are necessary as are the changes in the LCC. Not everything we try works out well at the beginning, but in the end something good is produced. Even the founders of our church needed some time to produce the results they wanted as we do now.

After a German "Kaffeetisch" we had services and then a reunion of all people in the clergy, from the lowest to the highest. Saturday at Holy Mass Ms. Jeanette Binder was ordained cleric and doorkeeper. Later we received liturgical training and learned the correct use of incense for several occasions (the training information as well as the opening speech is available in full text in German). For those not on the altar, Ms. Monika Schedler organized a tour to some lovely gardens and picturesque castles. Then followed an all-members synod, where we heard about the work that needs to be done in central-Europe. After evening services we went back to the hotel for our "nach(t)gespräche," which became one of the favorite times of the day. What was thought to be a casual event turned out to be important for social contact, and will be scheduled at our next meetings. "Nachgespräche" means "after talks," but the organizers called it "nachtgespräche" which means "night talks." And sometimes it was night by the time the talks were over!

Sunday morning at pontifical High Mass Ms. Binder was ordained reader and exorcist. Then at our official board meeting the church board was chosen and installed, Johannes van Driel as chairman. We were very glad that the young members of our church decided to take part as well. After services Bp. Sundien closed the official part of our meetings.

The next meeting will be on 6-8 October and we know already that more people plan to join. All are welcome. For all of you abroad we want especially to draw your attention to the new email-address: [sekretariat@liberalkatholische-kirche.de](mailto:sekretariat@liberalkatholische-kirche.de) and to the fact, that the newspaper for central-Europe "Die Kirche" will be printed again twice a year. If you would like to subscribe please mail a request.

Rev. van Driel

### *The Diocese of Germany*

At the end of April our spring meeting was held in Wolfenhausen. Ms. Jeanette Binder was ordained to the minor orders of cleric, doorkeeper, reader, and exorcist. Our next meetings will be on the weekend of 6-8 October and in spring, 2007, from 17-20 May (Ascension Day). There will also be minor ordinations at the fall meeting. Ms. Hafner from Vienna will become doorkeeper and Ms. Binder will be ordained as acolyte. We would be very glad to have guest participation from abroad.

In Wolfenhausen Rev. Kohlhoff has celebrated 50 years of dedication to the church as well as his own 75th birthday. Fortunately his health is a little bit better, and he is celebrating regularly again. For more information: : "The Rev Johannes van Driel" <[johannes@van-driel.de](mailto:johannes@van-driel.de)>

Due to the health problems of Rev. Kohlhoff there was no service in Grafing on the 9th of April. Rev. Peschel will celebrate Mass on the 30th of July and Rev van Driel on the 19th of

November. Please check ahead to see if these times are still correct by email: "The Rev Johannes van Driel" <johannes@van-driel.de>

The new chapel in Lebach has been used quite often. Rev. van Driel is celebrating regularly, every three weeks if possible. This year, for the first time in many years, we celebrated all the services of Holy Week. It was very impressive even if we are just a very small congregation. Please call the secretary at 06888/5810488 or inquire by email at : "The Rev Johannes van Driel" <johannes@van-driel.de> if you plan to participate in our services.

The dedication of the chapel in Lebach had to be postponed. If possible Bishop Maurice Warnon will now visit our congregation in October. For date and time please inquire "The Rev Johannes van Driel" <johannes@van-driel.de> or by email.

The father of Ms. Monika Schedler, the spouse of Rev. van Driel, has died and we thank all of you for your prayers and words of love and comfort. Josef Schedler himself was Roman Catholic, but he was open-minded and in times past he joined our services on occasion. May his soul rest in peace.

The Foerderverein is also active again. Due to the juristic situation in Germany this group is the official board of the LCC in our region. We will give more information about it in the next issue as well as how you can be of help to us.

Rev. Johannes van Driel  
Provincial Secretary

## *The Province of the Netherlands*

### *In Memoriam Jaap J. Kouwe (1919-2006)*



Jaap (Jacob) J. Kouwe died on May 27, 2006,, a few days after his 87th birthday. The Dutch province now misses a dedicated and devout priest who to a large extent determined the face of the Church in our country. Born in Indonesia, he came to live in the Netherlands after World War II where he became priest-in-charge in one of the main communities (Arnhem), and served for a long time as vicar-general to two regionary bishops.

His contribution to Liberal Catholic thought can be characterized as one that bridges the gap between Christianity and Theosophy that many of us felt to exist: we seem to be living, not only literally but also spiritually in a “*country between the rivers.*” His writings in local and national Liberal Catholic publications was in Christian terms, often after “translation” from ideas of the theosophical heritage.

Very few priests from the early days now are left in the Dutch province, priests who knew (although only as young men) one of our founding bishops, The Rt. Rev J.I. Wedgwood, when he lived for some time in Huizen, Holland. Jaap Kouwe was one of them. That early period shaped his life in Christ's service. May he continue such a life in serving his Lord and master, who gave him and surely will give him great satisfaction and gratitude. We owe him much, too.

**The Rt. Rev. Frank den Outer**  
Regionary Bishop for the Netherlands

My father was born May 22, 1919 in Pematang Siantar, Sumatra, in what was then the Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia. He was admitted to the first of the minor orders in 1932 and ordained to the priesthood on September 9, 1945, at the Church of St. Michael and all Angels in Naarden, by The Rt. Rev. Frans Brandt. Soon after his ordination he left Holland for Borneo where he worked in tropical forestry. After his return to Holland he served the Church in Breda till 1957, when he moved to Wageningen and became a member of the clergy of the parish at Arnhem. He served this parish for 45 years, many years as priest-in-charge. He was Vicar General for the Dutch Province when Bishop Van Brakel and Bishop Van Hoogenhuyze were regionaries. He has also been chairman of the Clerical Synod and represented our church in many events. He was dedicated to the theosophical way of thinking and living.

**The Rev. Frank Kouwe**  
Priest-in-charge of the St Martin's Chapel  
Utrecht, the Netherlands

The Very Rev. Jaap J. Kouwe was one of the most devoted priests in the Netherlands. His commitment to our Church was total and unshakeable. His father, the Rev. Jaap Kouwe Sr., also deceased, was my mentor during my training as a priest, nearly half a century ago. Both father and son were instrumental in keeping and transmitting the teachings Bp. Wedgwood gave while living in the Netherlands, particularly in the field of Liturgy. The Very Rev. Jaap J. Kouwe is survived by one brother, who is also an LCC priest and three sons, one of them also a priest, currently serving as the priest-in-charge of St Martin in Utrecht.

**The Rt. Rev. Maurice Warnon**  
Presiding Bishop

## *The Province of Sweden*

### *Announcement*

The Mission of St. Raphael finds its sacred quest to be a praying community, a beating heart of prayer, within the LCC worldwide. Since we started in October 2002, we have with increasing intensity focused on praying for people and causes. We pray several times per day, both in groups and individually. We receive prayer requests from individuals turning to us for help via phone, email, and ordinary mail, or in person when we meet. Now we want to spread the message within the LCC - to congregations, missions, and individuals - that we are happy to receive prayer requests from all over the world. We ask you kindly to forward this information to people around you

The easiest way to send us prayer requests is via email. The address is [carina@carlstrom.as](mailto:carina@carlstrom.as) and we check this address daily, often several times per day, throughout the year. If anyone prefers to use ordinary airmail, the address is: Mission of St. Raphael, c/o Sr. Carina Carlstrom, Amnevagen 34, S-54772 Otterbacken, SWEDEN Please mention the name of the person for whom you want us to pray and why. If it seems possible, also tell us for how long you think the person needs our praying support. We treat all information as strictly confidential, and no information reaches anyone outside our prayer group.

Mission of St Raphael  
The Liberal Catholic Church in Sweden

## *The Province of Sweden*

The Swedish province is happy to announce two ordinations to the priesthood this first half of 2006. On April 21st, 2006, Krister Fast was ordained a priest in the Church of St. Michael and All Angels in Stockholm. Regionary Bishop Sten-Bertil Jakobson celebrated the Mass and ordination, assisted by Bishop Evert Sundien. The next day, the new priest celebrated his first Mass in the same church.

Bishop Sten-Bertil Jakobson celebrated the Mass and Ordination, assisted by Bishop Evert Sundien. The next day, the new priest celebrated his first Mass in the chapel of Klintadal, where many Liberal Catholics from Sweden, Denmark, and the Netherlands were gathered to enjoy some leisure time together during the holidays of the Ascension of Christ. On May 27th, 2006, Stefan Brauer was ordained a priest in the chapel at Petersgarden in Lund. Regionary Bishop Sten-Bertil Jakobson celebrated the Mass and Ordination, assisted by Bishop Evert Sundien. The next day, the new priest celebrated his first Mass in the chapel of Klintadal, where many Liberal Catholics from Sweden, Denmark, and the Netherlands were gathered to enjoy some leisure time together during the Festival of the Ascension of Christ. Both men are respected and loved by the members of the Swedish province and we are most happy about their ordinations to the priesthood!



From left: Regionary Bishop Sten-Bertil Jakobson, the newly ordained Priest Krister Fast, and Bishop Evert Sundien



From the left:  
Kenneth Christensen (priest, Denmark), Eva Brauer suse of the candidate,organist, Agneta Ljungberg Geet (the Netherlands), Regionary Bishop Sten-Bertil Jakobson, Stefan Brauer, the newly ordained priest Bishop Evert Sundien, Sr. Nappe Holmström-Björnius, Krister Fast (Priest), Gudrun Fleetwood, Mikael Hallgren (priest) and Rien van Geet (priest, the Netherlands).

## *The LCC in the British Isles.*

### *The Well Chapel*

Once upon a time, many years ago - in the early 1200s to be roughly precise - a Free Chapel was built in the ancient village of Witesham, Suffolk, England.

That Chapel, built circa 1485-1505 and long since demolished, lives anew "*as gesture that rises up out of the depths of time*" (R. M. Rilke) as The Well Chapel, and serving the self-same purpose of helping souls to "Remember ME" - their own immortal self - the Christ within - setting it and them absolutely free.

At our forthcoming Church Weekend (October 28-30, 2006) Bishop Allan Barns, the clergy and congregations from around the country, and hopefully friends from abroad, ("Love bids you welcome") will gather to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, Solemn Benediction, Vespers, Compline, the Healing Service, Minor Order Elevations *and* the Bishop has consented to bless a specially commissioned icon *Christ at The Well* by the world-famous icon painter and writer Aidan Hart who has lived as a monk on Mt. Athos and who will deliver a talk on icons after the blessing.

Please see forthcoming British Isles Newsletters for details of ongoing services at Well Chapel and for the church weekend.

"*All shall be Well, and All shall be Well, and All manner of thing shall be Well.*" Mother Julian of Norwich

All good wishes and thanks.

Rev. Charles Mugleston  
Priest-in-charge

## *The Province of Denmark*



July 1, 2006, was a historic day. On this day Natascha Høyer, in the presence of 75 persons, was ordained as the first female priest in Scandinavia. The ordination took place in Copenhagen in the house of the Unitarians, which the LCC had rented for the occasion. The Swedish Bishop Evert Sundien, who had previously ordained Natascha as subdeacon and deacon, also ordained her as priest. Present at the event was also the Dutch Ordinary, Bishop Frank den Outer, who had granted her the first five minor ordinations in Arnhem.

In the choir were Revs. Chris and Elizabeth Parker from England; Revs. Krister Fast and Stefan Brauer from Sweden; Revs. Uffe Børjesen, Niels Diderik, Mogens Blichfeldt, Kenneth Christensen,

Jan Kvistborg and Mrs. Barbara Møller from Denmark.

On Sunday, July 2, Natascha celebrated her first Mass, during which there was a confirmation, spoken in Swedish, of a girl with Icelandic roots. In her honor, a hymn was sung in Icelandic. Ninety-five people attended this historic Mass.

As a special embellishment for the festival, the Danish composer Frederik Magle performed for the first time a special organ piece he had written specifically for this ordination. Later in July the piece will be recorded on the largest organ in Denmark, and the Liberal Catholic Church will then have free right to use this piece in any church context - worldwide. A CD will be sent to all the ordinaries, and anyone else who would like it, can contact me at "The Rev Kenneth Christensen" <KEC@DNLB.DK>. In these two days five different organists contributed to the beauty of the services.

Love and light,  
Rev. Kenneth Christensen

## **NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

### ***Provincial News.***

The process of decentralizing the episcopal ministry in our province is following its course. On May 15, 2006, our General Episcopal Synod has appointed the Rt. Rev. Michael Warnon, as Bishop for the Northeast Diocese of our Province. He was appointed with the approval of the priests and deacons of the Diocese.

### ***Church of Saint Francis, Minneapolis, MN.***

We continue to hold Sunday Eucharist services at 10:00 a.m. weekly. Following the Eucharist at 11:30, Rev. Richard Curney conducted a popular eight-week class on Geoffrey Hodson's book, *The Inner Side of Church Worship*. Our quarterly vegetarian potluck on May 28 was well attended with nearly 20 participants.

Rev. Lee Dunn has been conducting a *Qi Gong* class in the church parlors on Saturdays, with good attendance, and the class will continue into July and perhaps into the future as well. We have held the monthly Rosary services at noon, just before the *Qi Gong* classes.

Rev. Curney united Charley Wood and Judy Andrews in marriage at Saint Francis on Sunday, June 25, following the Eucharist service. David Cargo baked a wedding cake for this happy occasion.

We are saddened to report that our oldest member, Monica Molander, suffered a stroke on May 21 and passed over on June 28. Monica had been a member of the Liberal Catholic Church for 78 years, having been confirmed by Bishop Cooper in 1928. Monica was 91 years old and, until the day of her stroke, still drove herself to church from Saint Paul to Minneapolis on Sunday mornings. Many members visited her during her stay at the nursing home. A Requiem Eucharist was held on Sunday, July 2, in her memory.

### ***Church of Our Lady, Mother of the World, Rock Tavern, NY.***

On June 7, 2006, Bp. Maurice celebrated quietly the 30th anniversary of his Episcopal Consecration. It was a good occasion to remember those who were present on that glorious day. By coincidence, on the seventh day of the sixth month on the 76th year of the 20th century, sic bishop assembled to consecrate a 7th one. The ceremony was held in the large hall of the Saint Michael

Theosophical Center, as the Church was too small to receive the congregation of more than 400 people. The Consecrator was Bp. Adriaan van Brakel, Regionary Bishop for the then Province of the Netherlands and Belgium, assisted by Bp. Augustus Goetmakers, Diocesan Bishop for Belgium (Senior Assistant), Bp. Wil de Rijk, Auxiliary (Junior Assistant), Bp. Børge Sjøgaard (Regionary for Denmark, Norway and Iceland), André Lhote, Regionary for France and French speaking Africa, and Marijn Brandt, auxiliary for the Netherlands.

July 4 was not a good day for the Rev. Joan Warnon who was admitted early in the morning, at the emergencies of the Horton Hospital, in Middletown, NY, as she was suffering of extremely painful and constant headache. She underwent a series of tests which were all negative, and was released in the evening without any diagnosis or treatment. Her pain continued for the 10 following days, only regular accupunture treatment could bring her some relief. She is currently recovering slowly, feels very weak, but is very grateful for the prayers, good thoughts and messages received.

### *The Church of St. Sophia, Stockholm Wisconsin, USA*

The congregation at St. Sophia continues to grow and our lessons continue. We have finished our discussions on quantum mechanics and string theory and are moving into the area of spiritual reality and mystical philosophy. These next weeks in our discussion group, people will read selections from books they have found particularly meaningful or important in their lives in order to foster discussion. People have found this format stimulating and useful.

Last week the Bjurtjarn Theater Group from Karlskoga, Sweden, visited the Midwest and presented their play "They left Their Homesteads" in our Village park. It is a historical play that tells the story of those who left Sweden in 1854 and founded our little village of Stockholm, Wisconsin. The play has been done in Sweden for several years and was brought here as a gift to the residents of the village their ancestors settled. The choir and members of their orchestra attended St. Sophia on Sunday and sang three songs for us, including a moving solo of Amazing Grace by Kent Lundberg, a well-known singer in Sweden. Including the Swedish visitors, nearly a hundred people attended that day. It was a special event that will be long remembered.

One of our generous and capable parishioners built a concrete entry by our front doors. It is a much-needed improvement that makes getting to and from our driveway safer and easier, not to mention tracking in less dirt. We have also finished much of the construction in the main floor addition.

Since our beginning, a little over one year ago, we have had (in addition to our regular services) a baptism, a funeral, Christmas carols by candlelight, a healing/peace vigil, and numerous community events. We are happy to report also that our parishioner for whom many of you prayed in the past month is recovering from his near-fatal illness. We feel truly blessed for our good fortune.

We get feedback from a number of people who are thrilled that St. Sophia exists, since they have not been able to find a church like it anywhere in this area. There seems to be a need for this church, a need most people don't even know they have until they come and find what they are looking for. Perhaps it is time for the LCC to move forward as never before under the inspired leadership of Bishop Maurice Warnon.

Rev. Wally Zick  
Priest-in-charge

## *ALBANUS Press.*

The main activity of Albanus during the last three months was to translate and publish missals, booklets and works by our founder Bp. Wedgwood for use in African congregations. Most of the works which are commonly available in English were never translated into French. Fourteen booklets containing the most current Services are complete, and a new edition of the books of Epistles and Gospels as well.

The most important project, at this point of time is the translation of "Ceremonies of the Liberal Catholic Rite." commonly known as the "Blue Book." As Albanus doesn't have enough resources to publish printed copies, the translation will be made available in digital form only.

The revised Missal for the Shorter Form of the Holy Eucharist in English and French was completed in May 2006, and can be ordered at <http://TheLiberalCatholicChurch.org/ALBANUS>

## *The Liberal Catholic Church in cyberspace.*

Our Liberal Catholic web site continues to attract a large number of inquirers from all countries. Its major accomplishment, recently, was to be an effective tool in the admission of the 6,000+ members in our Liberal Catholic Province of Cameroon. But many others are contacting us on a regular basis, and other new congregations may join in the future.

The individual requests for information are answered by volunteers and redirected in preference towards existing congregations located closest to the address of the inquirer, regardless of jurisdictions. Our web site has distributed more than a half-million pages in 2005, of which a fourth was general information, and an eighth information about congregations. The rest is generated by our ever more popular Digital Library.

After considering the transfer of our site to a commercial host, we have decided to keep running it on our own equipment for the time being, as there are more and more attempts by domestic and foreign governments to reduce the free circulation of ideas. Keeping full control of the process guaranties the permanent presence of our Church on the internet.

A new section in our French speaking web pages allows visitors to download the 14 booklets with the services in French, and the pamphlets of the "Rainbow Collection" as well. Work will be done this summer to increase the number of downloadable patterns for the making of Church vestments. About 30 new titles have been added to our digital library.

On July 5, a violent storm with hurricane strength hit the area where the kingsgarden.org server is located. Felled trees and high winds cut all telephone lines and communication cables in the region. Tornadoes destroyed several houses and businesses. It took 10 days to have the services restored, and another day to get the server back to normal, as a number of files had been corrupted. We apologize for the inconvenience.

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**THE LIBERAL CATHOLIC CHURCH IN  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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**Mission of the Holy Sophia**

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**Mission of Saint Gabriel**

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This issue of NEWS was made possible by the collaboration of:  
Pat Carlson, Judie A. C. Cilcain, Wallace Zick,  
and friends from all over the Liberal Catholic world.

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