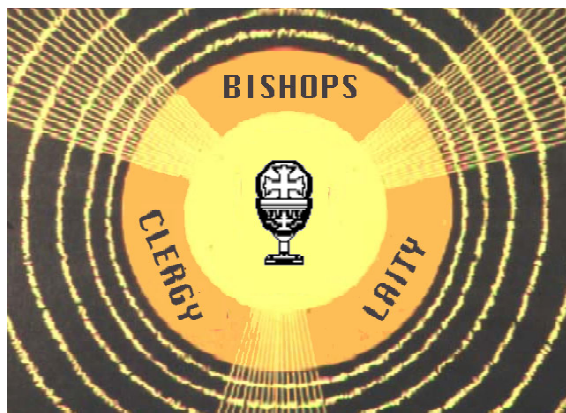


A WORD FROM THE REGIONARY

The consecration of a bishop is an excellent opportunity to remind us all of the function of the Episcopate within the structure of our movement. This is particularly important in the Liberal Catholic Church, because this Church has taken, as in many other domains, a different and original approach from the other branches of the Catholic denominations.

Most of these denominations confer to their episcopate a position of authority. Most decisions, if not all, must go through the bishops and usually their decisions are without real possibility of appeal. Their persons are often regarded by the faithful as of a higher order, and for many years, if not centuries, abuses have been ignored under the pretext that the criticism of bishops and clergy would bring discredit to their Church.



From the beginning of the Liberal Catholic Church, the position of the bishop has been very different. It has been illustrated very clearly in one of the slides of the audio-visual program *THE LARGER VIEW*, produced by the Australian Province under the direction of the Rt. Rev. Sten von Krusenstierna. This slide represents the balance and harmony of the three groups of members composing the Liberal Catholic Church, which are:

Bishops, Clergy, and Lay members, with the Lord occupying the central position in the Church. In this arrangement, the structure of the church cannot be based on authority, but on mutual respect and love. Each of the three elements is also related to time. The Bishops, depositary of the Apostolic Succession, represent the past; the Clergy whose responsibility is the ministry and distribution of the Sacraments is rooted in the present, and the lay members are the future of the Liberal Catholic Church.

The major task of a Bishop is the transmission of the Apostolic Succession as the validation and authentication of Sacramental life. To do this, the Bishop uses two Sacraments: he transmits the participation in the priesthood of Christ to the faithful

by the Confirmation, and the grace of representing Christ by the Ordinations. Exercising these powerful Sacraments is a privilege and a blessing related to the function of the Episcopate and should never serve to place its recipient in a position of power or authority.

We have to admit that from time to time the fragility of the human condition allows some bishops to forget the remarkable structure constructed by our founders and to accept for themselves the reverence and gratitude that should be directed to the Lord. Such an attitude alters the harmony of the structure of the Church and makes it inoperable. Indeed, recent events have demonstrated that the arrogance of the Episcopate may be the Achilles Heel of our Church. As long as the three components of our Church, which possess equal powers and values, continue to exercise their function in harmony, our beloved Church will have a glorious future.



NOTES ON MY CONSECRATION
by the new bishop, Rt. Rev. James Zinzow
Ordinary of the Midwest Diocese

My friends asked me, “What are you doing to prepare for your consecration...” The short answer was, “I don’t think it will really dawn on me that it's happening until I’m prostrate on the floor. And then it will be too late to run away.” In reality my whole life has been a preparation for this last chapter. Forty-five years as a Theosophist conditioned me to accept everyone as a brother or sister. Thirty-five years as a priest and rector of a Liberal Catholic Church resulted in a deep love and respect for sacramental transformation as it happened within me and all around me.

As a serious student of the human condition, I came to respect the inner magic that the sacraments wrought in myself and others. I chose the priesthood in the late 60’s because I believed it was the best opportunity for me to grow and to help my brothers and sisters.

People think I’m crazy when I say that I believe western humankind reached the moon because centuries of the faithful tasted the gift of transformation by taking Holy Communion at a million altars, millennium after millennium. It’s not the walk on the moon that was significant but the quality of the cooperation of thousands that made the impossible possible.

As I look to the future, quickened by this new sacramental transformation, I’m confident I can be counted among the millions of loving guides as humanity takes on the greatest transformation the earth and all its creatures will ever know.

If we look at what must now be done, only one path opens before us with light, hope and the glory of a bright new day. Anodea Judith put it so well in the subtitle of her book: “Humanity’s Rite Of Passage From The Love Of Power To The Power Of Love.” She also observed that “...the current crisis will call forth global

cooperation like nothing ever has before.”

For some years now, I've had the privilege of being a mentor for two new women priests as they struggled to find their wings in a male-dominated world. They have found their wings and watching them fly is one of the brightest indicators that a new world is taking flight all around us.

I pray that I am able to lend a consecrated hand as humanity now rises to this challenge of the POWER OF LOVE!



ON THE MYSTERY OF THE RESURRECTION

A Sermon by the Rt. Rev. Peter O. Baaij

Saint Alban, The Hague, The Netherlands

Dear Friends,

For me it is a great privilege to be invited by +James to do his service [Mass on Sunday]. This service is usually reserved for the new Bishop. Because he is a "servant of the servants of God" and you are more important than himself, +James gave his service over. Love that man!

In preparation for the mystery of Easter, the violent act of the Crucifixion and the mystery of the Resurrection are carried out by many images that are given to us during the preceding weeks.

In the period of Quadragesima, preparation is made for the mystery of the Resurrection. When we look at that in the right way, then it actually is the opposite of preparing new life. It is the process of letting go of form, and loosing all of the

form. Setting free matter of every form is not done in a way of disdain, but with respect. It is no longer necessary to use the form.

When we reach the height of letting go, the Resurrection is no longer the mystery; the way to get there is then the mystery. When we have reached that, the Resurrection is simple and easy.

Looking at the mystery of Easter from the point of view of letting go, the Crucifixion is no longer an act of horror. It is no longer anything we have to suffer; people will no longer be responsible for a horrific act and are no longer guilty or should regret it. The Crucifixion is then the height of getting free from your own will. The body no longer controls, but it is the spirit that is leading. The soul is then the mediator between body and spirit and at that point the mission is complete.

Looking at the calendar in the church year, the Resurrection is the highest experience in the range of coming closer to God. The Resurrection goes on for five Sundays after Easter, followed by Ascension Day, Pentecost, Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi!



The Rt. Rev. Peter Baaij

The weeks of Easter give us the opportunity to make a spiritual journey along the essential mysteries. Today, at Low Sunday, we get the chance to see a new spiritual state of mind. When the disciples are going to Emmaus they meet Master Jesus, the spiritual source, the healing of love, the spiritual renewal in the truth of the spirit, the spirit wherein God is clear to the person who is ready for it. They recognized him in the breaking of the bread. By that act of recognition, their love is perfected. But they went back to Jerusalem as He requested of them. On the way to Jerusalem, they recognized the inner connection between the lower and higher consciousness, the way to a higher evolution. This way that was opened for them they took into their hearts after they were transformed by divine love.

The following Sundays give us the opportunity to make the journey to the understanding that Jesus Christ has come by water and blood; the ultimate integration of body and spirit. And again Master Jesus, the Christ who became human, shows himself out of the unknown. He does that every time we come home, every time inside each person, at the inner side. After that we will be initiated, when he will reveal the scriptures, when he teaches us to understand the Gnosis, the knowledge of the heart.

As the weeks of Easter pass on, it is more and more made clear that Christ will only manifest inside each of us. That gives us great knowledge, that when we want to love it is only possible by loving each other.

That will continue to Ascension Day when we see the transformation of the outer to the inner beauty, and finally we come to Pentecost, when we really get the

opportunity to experience the descending of the Holy Spirit and find true Divine Love and understanding.

A "YOU-ARE-THERE" REPORT

by Rev. Diana Cabigting

Saint Uriel, Wheaton, IL

Dear Friends,

Wow! What a weekend we had at the Consecration of Bishop James Zinzow. All the out-of-town guests were gathered at the same hotel making conversations easy and frequent.

On Friday morning was the customary rehearsal with all the players present. Our Presiding Bishop, who is also the Regionary Bishop, Maurice Warnon, guided us through the movements for many hours, answering questions, giving suggestions, and helping us learn more about the significance of what we were doing. Add to that the presence of two other bishops who have also made this journey and it added up to an ice-cream sundae for all of us.

It may not be known by many that it is a special time when many bishops come together for ceremonies such as this. Bishop Peter Baaij and his wife Gerda traveled all the way from the Netherlands for this grand occasion. They had a lost-luggage problem upon arrival, which made life tense for a while. No clothes but those on your back does give rise to emotions. Thankfully the episcopal bag came first! Traveling with a crozier provides the best opportunity for practicing patience. The large tubes of metal are always a concern to airport security. No matter where you hide them in your luggage or carry-on, it will be inspected, with great interest and concern. After all, it is a weapon!

Bishop Michael Warnon brought two of his lovely children, Sophia and Jonathan, and they had many interesting things to share about their lives. Both served at the altar for the services and their knowledge of the rituals was most impressive. They added that extra touch of completion and gave us some calming influence. Their entire family is now living with Rt. Rev. Maurice and Rev. Joan at King's Garden in New York State.

Bishop-candidate James was still in recovery from pneumonia, which made this an even more difficult time for him, well beyond the usual anxiety and stress of anybody traversing the path up the mountain. Rev. Joan Warnon also had her hands filled regarding her husband's health and need for rest and sustenance throughout the weekend. It is always easy to see the final result on the day of the Consecration, watching everything move along smoothly throughout the Eucharist. It is those beforehand rehearsals and all the days and months of preparation that slip notice.

The first thing one noticed on entering St. Francis was an additional small altar placed in the Sanctuary where the bishop candidate copied all the movements of the Consecrating bishop (+Maurice). This was the final time in the life of James that he

censed an altar as a priest. Another unusual portion of the ceremony is the candidate lying face down on the carpet while the Litany is being sung. I wonder what thoughts ran through the mind of James. Or did he fall asleep from exhaustion after all the stress?

The most significant portion of the service is one that many did not see, or could not see, because it all took place with James kneeling in front of Bishop Maurice to have his hands anointed. Special oils were spread on his hands in a particular motion and the magic of the Episcopate then ran through his palms and fingers. It is this action which makes the difference between ordinary hands and those of one who has been consecrated.

One portion that WAS visible to all was the laying on of hands to James. After the consecrator said the magic words over James, the other two bishops also placed their hands upon him. Imagine the beautiful energy that was being transmitted to the candidate at that moment!

The final act of the candidate was to make three advancements across the Sanctuary to the three bishops on the other side. Three times he proclaimed "Ad Multos Annos" and was then received by each bishop with the special Bishop-to-Bishop embrace.

The next time you encounter Bishop James, you will notice that his right hand will now bless you with a different hand gesture. It looks like a Star Trek hand now, with thumb, pointer finger, and middle finger extended upwards, and the other two downwards. This is the Episcopal position. And I'm sure that we will all feel an additional blessing coming to us from our dear friend who is now the "Servant of the Servants," the official title of a Bishop.



After the service ended we all enjoyed a delicious meal in the church parlors downstairs, where beautiful new wooden floors were recently installed. Towards the end of the day, Bishop Maurice introduced Bishop James officially to the gathered

group. His words were that of hope, love, and continuing guidance for our daily lives. Now, Bishop James will serve the Midwest Diocese directly, giving Bishop Maurice more time for other things. Bishop James told those gathered that it was very special that Bishop Newton Dahl was from St. Francis as this figure had always been a guiding Light to him.

The floor is now to Bishop James. His love and devotion to the church has culminated in this beautiful ceremony. The wonderful blessings from Bishop Maurice Warnon, Bishop Peter Baaij, and Bishop Michael Warnon have been handed over to Bishop James and will continue to bless all of us.

It is important to know that our new movement in the realm of the Liberal Catholic Church has been made possible by the love and devotion of these wonderful people who have dedicated themselves to serve humanity all over the planet. They are a fine example of the inner side of Christianity to which we all aspire.

So many people were involved in preparing for this special day. Without their help and dedication the ceremony could not have taken place and run smoothly. We must not forget those who work closely with the church, who may be in the background and sit on the sidelines, or so it may appear. To these gifted people we owe our deepest gratitude. One cannot climb the mountain without the cheering squads and the stage crews to assist in the success story. To them go the deepest thanks.

May the Love we experienced on that day, and the Guiding Light of those who have walked on the path before us surround us always.

BREAD FROM HEAVEN, BREAD FROM EARTH

by David S. Cargo

Saint Francis, Minneapolis, MN

As a layperson involved in a ceremony that goes back millennia, I was honored and pleased to be involved in even a small way. When I heard that part of the ceremony required a couple of loaves of bread, I immediately said that I would make them.

On Friday, while the rehearsal was going on upstairs, I worked downstairs on the rehearsal luncheon, along with St. Francis member, Jon Robelia. The original plan had been to bake enough bread to offer fresh bread for the sandwiches. But because of transportation issues due to late breakfasts at the hotel, that plan had to be set aside, and we used great bread from a favorite local bakery-cafe.

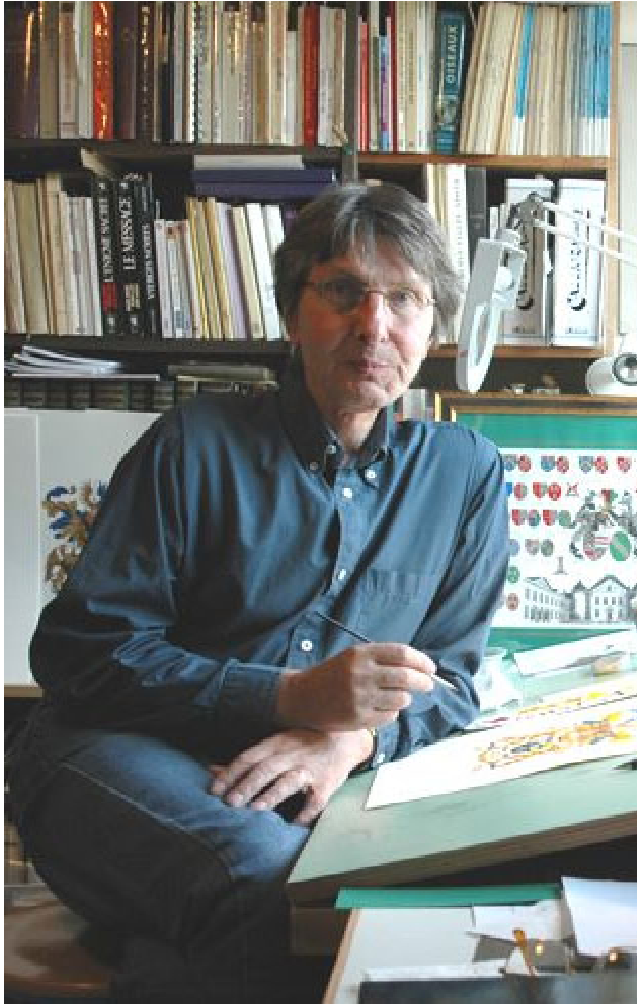
I was still able to make four small loaves for the ceremony, enough so that they could choose which two they wanted to use in the symbolic presentation of the loaves.

Those of us who labor in the background appreciate being a part of something larger. It's part of the contribution made by those who work to those who pray. I was happy to play a small part in opening the next chapter in the history of St. Francis.

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

The Province of Belgium and Luxembourg

IN MEMORIAM



The Rev. Didier Némerlin has lost his long battle against cancer. He passed away to the Eternal Light on May 12, 2008 surrounded by his family. The Rev. Didier was born in 1942, and was ordained to the Liberal Catholic priesthood on July 21, 1983 by the Rt. Rev. Maurice Warnon in the St Lambrecht's parish in Liege, Belgium. Although inactive during the last years of his life, he must be credited for his dedication and devotion as the priest-in-charge of the St Alban Parish in Namur. He also served as the President of the Belgian Clerical Synod with distinction.

A remarkable artist, he enjoyed a well-deserved international reputation in the domain of Heraldry. See some of his works at: [<http://kingsgarden.org/English/Didier.GB/Didier.html>]. He is the author of a large number of Coats of Arms, ex-libris, genealogy trees, monograms and drawings of castles and churches.

He is survived by his wife Véronique, a daughter Ludivine and a son Thomas.

The LCC in the British Isles.

The Liberal Catholic Church in the British Isles is now in communion with two parishes celebrating their Services according to the Liberal Catholic Rite;

These parishes are:

Oratory of Our Lady Theotokos

Brookdale, Quarry Lane, Heavitree,
Exeter. EX2 5JR

Holy Eucharist, & Healing Services

Clergy: The Rt. Rev. John Wheaton

Telephone: 01392 275878 for details

Oratory of Our Lady of Compassion

Flat 2, Abbeyfield Court, Station Road,
Sidmouth. EX10 8NW

Holy Eucharist, Benediction & Healing

Clergy: Rev. Albertha Meyer

Telephone: 01395 577164 for details

The Province of Canada

The Rev. George Duguay passed away on January 29, 2008, in Ontario, Canada. He leaves behind his wife Louise and a daughter Jessica. The Rev. George served as priest-in-charge for the Church of Our Lady in Montreal, and later in Saint Gabriel the Archangel in Toronto. He was granted emeritate status some years ago and devoted his time to assisting his ailing wife and as general Secretary of the Theosophical Society in Canada. The Rev. Eric Archambault traveled from Magog to Toronto to celebrate the requiem service for family and friends

The Province of Central Europe

The Province of Central Europe will hold its annual Congress from May 21 till May 25, 2008, in Weilmünster, Germany. Many members of the clergy from other countries have announced their attendance, in particular: the Rt. Revs. Frank den Outer and Peter Baaij from the Netherlands, Evert Sundien, from Sweden, the Revs. Diana Cabigting from the USA, Kenneth Christensen and Jan Kvistborg from Denmark, making of this event an international gathering.

During this Congress, Mrs Elfriede Hafner, acolyte will be ordained as a deacon and the deacon Bertil Tedehall will be ordained to the priesthood. The event will be ended by a meeting of the German Clerical Synod.

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

The Rev. Jean Pierre Kayembe and his wife joyfully announce the birth of their daughter Raisa, last April 30. Mother and child are in good health. The couple has already two sons, respectively three and one year old.

The Rév. Sébastien Mansini was found unexpectedly and totally blind in his home. The Kinshasa parish managed to find the funds for urgent treatment and diagnosis. However, they couldn't raise the money for the needed surgery in time to avoid permanent blindness. Our members in Greece have again manifested their generosity and made an important contribution allowing surgery. The Rev. Mansini was operated on one eye at the beginning of May.

Some news has reached us from the Kasai Province. The social and economic situation of the Province has degraded below poverty level. The Rev Augustin Nkoléla, for example, has been without a job for many months. He has now to work in a diamond carry and is paid only a fraction of the value of what he finds. He is in total misery, but manages to minister to his parish every first Sunday in the month.

When the Province was under the jurisdiction of the General Episcopal Synod presided over by Bp. Wale, the clergy was led to believe that the priests would be remunerated by the LCC. This never happened, of course, but a number of them resigned from their jobs and are now in extreme poverty. The recent increase of

the cost of food, due to the international shortage of grain has affected many of the members of the Church.

The LCC in the Republic of Congo aka Congo-Brazzaville

The Rev. Noël Loulendo, from Brazzaville announced the demise of his young niece last April. She left behind three children who are now under his care.

The Rev. Etienne Matouba was hospitalized and treated for acute diabetes. He had been sick for more than a year, and is no longer able to serve in the Church. A wound he incurred many months ago is still open and cannot heal.

The wife of the Rev. Justin Manouana was also hospitalized in critical condition. She seems now to have recovered and will return home very soon.

The country is in turmoil with tribal and regional fights. As in other Central African countries, the high inflation and shortage of food creates a difficult social situation. The Rev. Noël works for a security firm and he sometimes feels it difficult to combine his secular profession with the ideal of the Liberal Catholic priesthood.

The Province of Denmark

The Church center St. Knud, in Vordingborg, South-West Zealand has found a new and permanent residence. The new chapel is close to where Rev. Uffe Børjesen lives. The Rev. Uffe has been appointed as priest-in-charge of this center.

The church center in Hillerød, North Zealand has also found a place for its activities, and it is being prepared for regular services. The chapel will be dedicated to Mary Magdalena. Deaconess Birgit Adelsteen Ljungdahl is taking care of practical things such as the calendar, and will also be officiating at services other than those reserved to priests. When needed, the Rev. Kenneth Christensen will be available. Birgit has experience from the old Saint Alban chapel in Copenhagen in the 90's. She is appointed as deaconess-in-charge.

The Church center Støvring was opened by the Rev. Asbjørn From Jørgensen, priest-in-charge. Services are held regularly on the first Sunday in the month, in the chapel dedicated to our Lady and all Angels. During the Danish clerical synod meeting at Easter, it was decided to appoint the Rev. Asbjørn as national librarian and national archivist of the Liberal Catholic Church in Denmark, as his knowledge and remembrance of the history of the church is beyond comparison. He also is in correspondence with a few interested people in Oslo, Norway, and is working on the re-establishment of a church center in Oslo.

The house of the Rev. Mogens Blickfeldt, priest-in-charge of the church of Saint Gabriel in Århus, was partially destroyed by a car accident, forcing him and his wife Barbara to move to another residence. Subsequently, Barbara suffered serious health problems. They may not be able to return to their home for several months.

The Province of the Netherlands

The Dutch Province - known as 'The Liberal Catholic Church in the Netherlands' - again has two events this year to look forward to. Both these events take place in Naarden where we have a church on the premises of the International Theosophical Society. Members from all church communities in Holland will meet, attend the liturgical services, and take part in the exchange of ideas.

On Monday after Whitsunday there will be our 'Landdag' (Country Day) gathering; this year will be slightly different from other years. The main points of the morning sermon during the pontifical High Mass will be given in writing (after a common lunch), to help to give structure to the exchange of thoughts on Whitsuntide in the afternoon session. Because the sermon will be the subject of discussion later in the afternoon it will have a somewhat deviating character.

The second annual event in Naarden will be our Church Congress that takes place during St. Michael's week at the end of September, Friday to Sunday inclusive. The theme of the Congress has been decided: 'To bring sacredness in daily life' rather than the initial 'To unveil the unseen'. It is intended that our national quarterly magazine Reflectie will publish articles on this theme in its summer edition.

Finally I would like to say a few words about our LC Institute of Education that will start its fifth year in September next. There are eight monthly education weekends per year, attended by course members who generally are those who serve at the altar; liturgical training in the church is part of the education.

During the first four months of 2008, five minor orders have been conferred, from doorkeeper to subdeacon. It seems there will be fewer ordinations this year than in 2007, which may be due to 'catching up' after 2003 when our Church opened all orders both to men and women.

Although attendance at our church services and activities in Holland generally is satisfactory, there seems generally a slight decline in attendance, as is the case everywhere with respect to churches - people are not less religious now but much less church minded, and this tendency also affects our LC church. Our Liturgy Committee regularly meets to reflect on the liturgy to try to find new forms and language more appealing to people from this age, realizing adaptations should not deviate fundamentally from the original, profound and beautiful Liturgy, now already a century old.

Frank den Outer, Regionary Bishop

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PROVINCIAL NEWS.



The Rt Rev. James Zinzow, newly consecrated bishop is congratulated by the Rt. Rev. Maurice Warnon, Consecrator and Presiding bishop.

The major event in our Province was the consecration of the Rt. Rev. James Zinzow to the Episcopate as Diocesan Bishop for the Midwest. The consecration took place on March 29, 2008, in the Church of Saint Francis, Minneapolis, MN. The consecrator was the Rt. Rev. Maurice Warnon, assisted by the Rt. Revs, Michael Warnon and Peter Baaij. All the members of the clergy of the diocese were in attendance. Since the event has already been commented and reported on in this issue by several attendants to the ceremony, there is no need for further comment here.

DIOCESE OF THE NORTHEAST

Church of Our Lady, Mother of the World, Rock Tavern, NY

We have welcomed last March, a new member in our Parish. Her name is Donna Mellan. She is a very smiling, dynamic and motivated person. Within a few days, she managed to inspire a number of our members to reclaim the little garden around our church, which had been neglected for years. Under her guidance, the ground was tilled and bulbs planted. Now the garden is full of beautiful and bright flowers that make our church more attractive to all. Thank you, Donna!

The Mission of St. Raphael, Montrose-on-Hudson, NY

The Rev. Edward Fagan continues his ministry, and has agreed to celebrate once a month at the altar of Saint Mary in Rock Tavern. He is often called to serve as Chaplain in local hospitals and in the Veterans' Hospital of his town. His assistance will help the Parish to continue the weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharist after the departure of the Rev. Joan Warnon to Belgium. The condition of the Rev. Edward's wife, Sidell, has deteriorated and she now needs to use a wheel chair inside and outside her house.

DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Church of Saint Francis, Minneapolis, MN.

After months of planning and behind-the-scenes work, all the planets were in alignment and everyone involved came together at Saint Francis on Saturday, March 29, 2008, for the consecration of Rt. Rev. James Zinzow to the episcopate. Others have written about this special event at length, but here I wanted to give

thanks...

Thanks to Bishop Maurice and Rev. Joan Warnon for coming in spite of health challenges and for the excellent rehearsal they led us through on Friday so that the day of the consecration everything went perfectly. Thanks to Bishop Maurice also for preparing the consecration booklet for everyone's use.

Thanks to Rt. Rev. Peter and Gerda Baaij for coming the farthest to take part in this wonderful event and to Bishop Peter for the inspiring sermon on Sunday. We all loved receiving communion in Dutch! Thanks to Gerda for the wonderful photos.

Thanks to Rt. Rev. Michael Warnon for being co-consecrator, and thanks to Sophia and Jonathan Warnon for their able assistance on the Altar. You two are pros!

Thanks to Rev. Jim White for agreeing to be Master of Ceremonies, for doing it so well, and also for your cool-headedness in attending to innumerable details as well as providing transportation, especially during the Monday snowstorm!

Thanks to Rev. Diana Cabigting for also attending to innumerable details, including making the side Altar perfect in every way.

Thanks to Rev. Wallace Zick and Pat Carlson for their efforts in helping with transporting our guests, for keeping things running smoothly, and for the return of the loaned chairs so that we had adequate seating on the Altar at Saint Francis for all of our distinguished clergy.

Thanks to Rev. Lee Dunn for helping on the Altar in spite of his damaged shoulder. Thanks to Jodi Christenson for being crozier bearer without any notice ahead of time and doing it so well. Thanks to Maceo Dunn for passing his "trial by fire" by being the second thurifer. Thanks to Noah Strom for his expertise on the organ—it wouldn't have been the same without his magnificent music.

Thanks to Vicki Lublin for keeping people on track, for photos, and for transportation too!

Thanks to Saint Francis' members ReAnn Dargus–Robelia and Jon Robelia for their help in providing transportation to and from the airport and the church for our guests. Jon also helped with the Friday meal preparation. Also thanks are due to David S. Cargo for the same and more, especially the acquiring of the special congratulatory cake that displayed Bishop James' coat of arms perfectly. David, our resident Master Baker, also baked the miniature loaves of bread used in the consecration ceremony. Thanks to Edna Hartman for her invaluable work on the meals.

Thanks to our new member, Charlotte Smith, for coming from the Milwaukee area to be with us.

Thanks to Rev. Richard Curney for being able to be with us in spite of his

workday's job's demands and especially for opening Saint Francis' doors to serve as the cathedral church of our new Midwest Diocesan bishop.

Last but not least, thanks to Rt. Rev. James Zinzow for accepting, at the *right* time, the yoke of a bishop in Christ's service. "My yoke is easy and my burden is Light."

I have a personal thought to share: At one moment on Sunday, after the three bishops' consecration of the bread and the wine, when we were all standing and singing the *Adeste Fidelis*, I felt an immense, golden presence among us, and I felt that all of us who were in the church were individual cells in the one great body of Our Lord Christ Himself. It was a magical moment that will ever remain in my heart!

Judie A. C. Cilcain
Deacon

The Church of the Holy Sophia, Stockholm WI

News from St. Sophia

The Church of St. Sophia continues to hold services each Sunday of the month except on fifth Sundays when they occur. Our congregation is holding steady at about 15-20 people per service with a total of about 40 interested persons and members. For a small rural church, especially a Liberal Catholic Church in an area with no history of one, I find this remarkable. Some persons have come from as far as 65 miles for services and others routinely drive 25 miles. It is the only church of its kind in western Wisconsin.

Our second and fourth Sundays discussion group has been studying "The Power of Now" by Eckhart Tolle. To our surprise, after we had chosen this book to study, Tolle became quite a phenomenon, as a result of his new book being featured on Oprah. Our next book or discussion topic has yet to be decided and we will have to see if it also turns out to be the next big thing.

Our church was moved into place in the middle of a field in 2003, and has needed landscaping ever since. We recently had a landscape plan done by a local professional and planted a variety of trees and shrubs, including maples, crabapples, evergreens, lilacs, hydrangeas, and viburnums. Also part of the plan is a magnolia tree given to St Sophia from our friends at St Francis on the occasion of its consecration, as well as mugho pines donated by Judie Cilcain and David Cargo. As part of our overall landscape plan we will also enlarge the parking lot and put a driveway all around the building.

A handicapped accessible ramp has been designed for the rear entrance since the main floor of the church was remodeled for handicapped access at the time of the move. We are investigating the possibility of an elevator to transport wheelchairs from the first floor to the basement, in order to have handicapped access to the basement where we hold many functions. Our long mentioned project to replace the posts in the basement with overhead beams has been on hold for some months

as we try to get firm bids on materials costs.

Last but not least, a great big welcome to our new Regional Bishop James! And a fond farewell (sort of) to our dear Bishop Maurice who we were so fortunate to find when we had a new church building but no Church! It's been a wonderful series of fortunate events.

SOUTHERN DIOCESE

The Church of St. Raphael, Tulsa, OK

The Rt. Rev. John Schwarz III was taken by ambulance to St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa with pneumonia and a serious kidney infection. Initially it was thought he might have had another stroke, but this now seems not to be the case. Extensive tests are now being run to determine the extent of his problems.

The Mission of Mission TX.

A number of senior citizens from Canada have the strong urge to emigrate to a warmer climate during the Nordic Winter. This is the case for the Deacons Gracia Chatel and Reynoud Wijkman from Montreal. For a number of years they have resided in the Bentsen Palm Village RV Resort in Mission, TX. As the Village has no church service from any denomination the residents have elected the Liberal Catholic deacons as their *de facto* ministers. Below is a report of their activity during the last winter:



Mission Texas Advent - to - Easter 2007 – 2008

Bentsen Palm Village RV Resort.

We, Gratia and myself, arrived early this year in Texas. We started our services at the first Advent Sunday and since this year Easter was also very early, we finished on Easter Sunday. We were very happy to see a lot of familiar faces arriving and filling their old chairs on Sunday mornings. Of course since this is a campground the group of participants changes from week to week. If you look at the photo you may be able to recognize some of the core group. We have been together for the last three years.

What did we do? Well, every Sunday we had morning prayers with open communion (Prime & Communion). This year we have succeeded in singing, a cappella, opening & closing hymns.



We added “Amazing Grace” during the preparation for the communion. Everybody thought this was a good addition, an improvement on the service. After the service we had our usual fellowship meal with coffee, tea, and the now famous baked goodies. I was good and did not gain any weight this time. Melinda (front row at the far right) organized our annual Church breakfast, which was again a success.



Here is a photo of Melinda making "omelette in a bag." You put two eggs and dressing to taste and two tablespoons of water in a zip-lock bag and you boil it in water till done. An amazingly easy way of making twenty-five omelettes at the same time. It sure is GOOD!!!

This season however was not all pleasant. Melinda’s husband Tom had a massive heart attack and went three times into the hospital. Four blockages were treated and a pacemaker was put in. We visited him at the hospital. During one of the visits I brought him communion and the nurses asked if I had some spare to give to the other patients. Luckily I had filled my pyx. The hospital lost its contract with the Roman Catholic Church for a visiting chaplain, so they had not seen anybody for a long time. It was wonderful to be able to be of service.

All in all, it was a very busy and good season. We learned a lot and grew closer to each other. We had good celebrations, conversations and support within our little “Rio Grande Valley Parish “

Rev. Reynoud Wijtman

THE LIBERAL CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CYBER SPACE..

The Liberal Catholic Church in the British Isles announces the opening of their new Provincial web site at: www.lccinbi.org

The Austrian web site, which was no longer maintained by its provider has been successfully transported onto the kingsgarden.org server. The information can now be updated without problems. All the information is in German and its address is; <http://DieLiberalkatholischeKirche.org/Osterreich>

The German web site offers news about the Province of central Europe in German, English, and French and may be accessed at: <http://Liberal-katholische-Kirche.de>

In order to support our emerging congregation in Athens, Greece, a new web site is now in construction in modern Greek at: <http://kingsgarden.org/eke>. This site also assists our dear brother Demetre Polychronis in the lengthy and ungrateful task of translating the Liberal Catholic Liturgy into modern Greek.

The Provincial web site of the Swedish Province may be found at: http://www.lkk.se/sve/index_s.htm

The Provincial web site of the Danish Province may be found at: <http://DenLiberalKatolskkirke.org>

The spelling of the name of our Church in various languages makes it difficult to locate all the Liberal Catholic web sites using the commercial search engines. In order to facilitate the search a Liberal Catholic Search Engine was created, which is maintained by its users. It can be accessed at:

<http://TheLiberalCatholicChurch.org/LCCwebring>

Our digital Library has again been expanded and now contains more than 170 works which can be downloaded free of charge.

Our web site contains basic information on all the Liberal Catholic congregations. Because of their large number, the pages are very simple and sometimes a little crude as there is not enough time to give them a nice presentation. Please remember that the space provided on our web site is your space, and that you are welcome to upload improvements and corrections. If you want to do so, please contact the webmaster at webmaster@kingsgarden.org to obtain access to your pages.

A new option headed "DONATIONS" has been added to the menu of the Home Page of our web site at: <http://TheLiberalCatholicChurch.org>. Its purpose is to facilitate the collection of funds for assistance to needy congregations or members of our Church. Normally our church suggests to its members to use well-established charity organizations, but certain cases need to be helped with our direct intervention. Please consult this option regularly to see the various current projects. Thank you for your help.

**THE LIBERAL CATHOLIC CHURCH IN
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Email: lcc.minneapolis@kingsgarden.org

Parish of Saint Raphael, Archangel

2714 East 15th Street,
Tulsa, OK 74104

Rector: The RT. Rev. John Schwarz III
1-918-749-3580

Email: lcc.tulsa@kingsgarden.org

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Montrose-on-Hudson, NY 10548

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Oratory of St Raphael

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Priest-in-charge: The Rev. Rith Mathews

Parish of Our Lady, Mother of the World

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OUR DIGITAL LIBRARY

<http://TheLiberalCatholicChurch.org/LIBRARY>

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