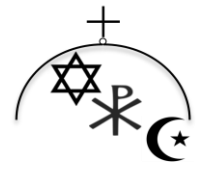




Newsletter for



Parish Ecumenical Representatives to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

January, 2012

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News:

- Vicariate Coordinators.....Page 1
- Celebration of faiths.....Page 1
- Living Word in Christian Worship
Day.....Page 2

NOTE: Coming Events:

- Monday, Jan. 16, 7:00 PM**
– Linconia Tabernacle, Trevoese
- Tuesday, Jan 17, 6:30 PM**
– BAPS Swaminarayan Temple, Bristol
- Wednesday, Jan 18, 11:30 AM**
– Thai Buddhist Temple, Bensalem
- Wednesday, Jan 18, 6:30 PM**
– Faith United Islamic Organization, Bensalem
- Thursday, Jan. 19, Noon**
– St. Ephrem's Roman Catholic Church, Bensalem
- Friday Jan. 20, Noon Conference**
– Shrine to St. Katharine Drexel
- Saturday, March 24 8:30 AM**
Living Word in Christian Worship,
– Archdiocese Pastoral Center,
Center City, Philadelphia
- Sunday, April 29**
– Interfaith Peace Walk
(<http://www.interfaithpeacewalk.org>)

INTERESTING LINKS:

- Compare Religions:**
<http://www.religionfacts.com/> ;
<http://www.patheos.com/library/lenses/side-by-side.html> ;
<http://www.religioustolerance.org/relcomp.htm>

Hello...

I am writing this on January 6th, when we celebrate the feast of the Three Kings. So it is still appropriate to wish you a *Merry and Blessed Christmas!*

I also pray for you to have a prosperous and enlightening



Until they are on the Diocese website, I added an archive for the previous newsletters on: <http://www.JAOMAD.com/PER-ArchNewsletters.htm>

➔ I heartily encourage notice requests, but ask that they be sent at least two months in advance so that I have a chance to create another “as needed” issue.

➔ We encourage you to share this newsletter within your parish, among your parish council, and perhaps have copies of this included with the literature available for all your parishioners. Short excerpts can be included in your parish bulletins to promote understanding among others in your congregation. Consider sharing this as well among your neighboring congregations of other faiths, perhaps through your local ministerium.

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Changes coming for number of Vicariate Coordinators

Msgr. Michael Carroll tells us that there is a proposal to restructure our Coordinators of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs to parallel the new structure of deans. If the proposal is accepted, the number will go to 12 coordinators as a result.

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Event: A Celebration of Several Faiths

29 Dec 2011 — *The Intelligencer* — By James McGinnis, Staff writer (w/slight modification)

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "God has no religion."

This January, residents of Bucks County are invited to experience a bit of them all.

Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim communities in Lower Bucks will all open their doors to community events inspired by the life and message of Martin Luther King Jr.

Unity Week was started five years ago by the nonprofit Building a Better Bensalem Together.

Each of the participating religious organizations typically hosts a short open house. For some visitors, it's a rare chance to experience a Hindu ceremony, participate in a Buddhist meditation, or tour a synagogue.

The festival begins **Monday, Jan. 16th at Linconia Tabernacle** in Trevoise. The historically black church at 2460 Paris Ave. will host a **7 p.m. service** honoring King's message in words and song.

The celebration moves next to the **BAPS Swaminarayan Temple** at 1561 S. Woodbourne Road in Bristol Township. Services are scheduled for **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday Jan. 17th** inside the temple, which is decorated with many statues of Hindu deities.

Buddhist monks and Muslims join in the celebration **Wednesday, Jan. 18th at 11:30 A.M.** Monks from the order Mongkoltepmunee will chant for peace inside their **Thai Buddhist Temple** at 3304 Knights Road.

Later, on **Wednesday, Jan. 18th 6:30 P.M.**, the **Faith United Islamic Organization** plans a celebration inside the Newport Fire Company hall at 5961 Bensalem Blvd.

A **noon service on Thursday Jan. 19th** is planned for at **St. Ephrem's Roman Catholic Church** at 5340 Hulmeville Road in Bensalem. And Tifereth Israel plans a celebration at 6:30 p.m. in its synagogue at 2909 Bristol Road, also in the township.

The celebration ends **Friday Jan. 20th with a noon conference** inside the **Shrine to St. Katharine Drexel** at 1663 Bristol Pike.

→→ Saturday, March 24, 2012 – The Philadelphia Liturgical Institute
invites you to a Day of Ecumenical Conversations on
The Living Word in Christian Worship

At Archdiocesan Pastoral Center 222 North Seventeenth Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
Parking is available on the Archdiocesan parking lot which is attended by our security staff. Entrance is from 17th St. near Vine St.
Please use this link for directions: <http://maps.google.com/>

Online registration available at www.philadelphialiturgicalinstitute.org – see accompanying flyer for mail-in version

(This was an extremely well done event last year at Rosemount College – worthwhile for your parish ministries to attend!) ...Sam

Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Arrival, Registration and Coffee
- 9:30 a.m. Prayer and Welcome
- 10:00 a.m. Keynote Address: Dr. Gail Ramshaw
- 11:15 a.m. Interactive session with Dr. Ramshaw
- 12:00 noon Lunch (*included in registration fee*)
- 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Conversations:

Dr. Gail Ramshaw is a scholar of liturgical language and professor of religion at LaSalle University, Philadelphia.. She is a graduate of Valparaiso University (BA), Sarah Lawrence College (MA), The University of Wisconsin-Madison (PhD) and Union Theological Seminary (M.Div). She is past president of the North American Academy of Liturgy and member of *Societas Liturgica*.

Dr. Ramshaw has published books on the meaning of liturgical language, including *A Three-Year Banquet: The Lectionary for the Assembly* (Augsburg Fortress 2004); *The Three-Day Feast: Maunday Thursday, Good Friday, Easter;* (Augsburg Fortress 2004); *Reviving Sacred Speech* (OSL Publications 1999) and others. Her works on liturgical

- The Living Word: Exploring the Three-Year Lectionary* with Dr. Gail Ramshaw
- The Living Word: Proclaiming and Hearing the Word* with Rev. Dr. Deborah Rahn Clemens
- The Living Word: The Singing Assembly* with Normand Gouin
- 2:30 p.m. Closing Remarks and Prayer

spirituality include *A Metaphorical God* (LTP) 1995) and the Words series: *Words Around the Fire, Words Around the Table, Words Around the Font and Words That Sing* (LTP 1990, 1991, 1992, 1995). Her children's books include *1-2-3 Church, Everyday and Sunday Too, and Sunday Morning*. Gail has prepared numerous liturgical helps, including *Richer Fare for the Christian People* and *Between Sunday*. She collaborated with Paivie Jussila on *Koinonia*, a worship resource published by the Lutheran World Federation, and with Gordon Lathrop on inclusive language revisions of the Sunday lectionary texts, in *Psalter For the Christian People* and in *Readings for the Assembly, Years A, B, C*.

Rev. Dr. Deborah Rahn Clemens is currently Senior Pastor of New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ, East Greenville, PA, as well as former adjunct professor of Worship and Preaching at Moravian Seminary. Dr. Clemens received a PhD as well as a Master of Philosophy from Drew University, an M.Div. from Moravian Theological Seminary, B.A. from Ursinus

College. She serves as President of Mercersburg Society and was former Moderator of the NE Region Princeton Center of Theological Inquiry—Pastor Theologian Program. She is Chairperson of Hope for Families: Substance Abuse/Recovery Support and a member of PA Families of Addiction.

Normand Joseph Gouin currently serves as the Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Music at Old St. Joseph's Church in Philadelphia. For the past 20 years, Mr. Gouin has engaged in full-time pastoral ministry, specifically in the areas of liturgy and music ministry. He has served as liturgy and music director in a variety of church settings. As a composer of liturgical music, he has been commissioned to write works for churches and religious communities throughout the country. Most recently, he has worked as lead composer and editor for

the Liturgy of the Hours project, a joint effort of St. Norbert's Abbey in DePere, WI, and Daylesford Abbey in Paoli, PA. GIA Publications has published Mr. Gouin's music and he is a contributing writer for the GIA Quarterly. He has served on several diocesan liturgical commissions and has been a member of the Philadelphia Liturgical Institute. He is a graduate of The Catholic University of America (BM in Composition and Theory) and the University of Notre Dame (MA in Liturgical Studies).

Philadelphia Liturgical Institute Mission:

The Philadelphia Liturgical Institute is an ecumenical foundation that endeavors to cultivate the renewal of Christian worship in local congregations through educational events and parish visitations as a means of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Philadelphia Liturgical Institute Vision:

The Philadelphia Liturgical Institute, guided by scripture and tradition, is committed to promoting authentic Christian liturgy for the praise of God and the sanctification of all people.

Philadelphia Liturgical Institute Board is purposely ecumenical in composition and includes clergy, religious, and lay persons in a broad spectrum of ecclesial and liturgical traditions: Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, Orthodox, Reformed, Roman Catholic.

Registration Fee \$40.00 Pre-registration online, by mail or at the door *Includes full lunch* **\$20.00** Student rate

→→ Sunday, April 29, 2012 Ninth Annual Philadelphia Interfaith Peace Walk
→→ Saturday, May 12, 2012 Interfaith Peace Walk Annual Retreat

PEACE WALK MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS:

Mission: To facilitate peace, justice and reconciliation by engaging faith groups and other communities in dialogue, reflection, action and an annual Interfaith Peace Walk.

Vision: To nurture a transformative process of reflection, relationship-building and action among faith and secular groups working toward peace and justice through periodic dialogues about challenging issues; community service; outreach to religious and ethnic groups experiencing intolerance or persecution; and an annual Interfaith Peace Walk.

For additional Peace Walk information and archives, please see: www.interfaithpeacewalk.org

Lance Laver for the Interfaith Walk for Peace and Reconciliation planning group

Gateway to Religious Communities



The Interfaith Center's upcoming 'Gateway to Religious Communities' program provides an opportunity for you to visit your fellow Council members' communities. It included a visit to Kol Tzedek synagogue in October, Imam Anwar's mosque in November, the Sikh community in December, and Rev. Lawrence's church in January! See below. Each visit includes an orientation, an opportunity to observe and/or participate in a worship experience, and a safe space for asking questions of community leaders afterwards.

We've found this congregational visitation program to be a really rewarding 'first step' for inter-religious beginners as well as an opportunity to go deeper and meet a new tradition for some of our more experienced inter-religious bridge-builders.

It would be wonderful to have you and / or members of your community participate! Youth and adults are welcome, and they may participate in just one session or all four. Please feel free to share this invitation widely within your networks.

Recent visits shown on-line at: <http://www.interfaithcenterpa.org/involved/gateway-reg.php>.

→→ Gateway visits will resume in the Spring of 2012, watch this site ↑ for more information.

Holiday Fun

We all know the Hallelujah Chorus. What if it were sung by monks with a vowel of silence? On this link we see a very creative effort by some high school students portraying such an event. Note the showing of high and low notes... such as the use of feet by those on the left... and yes, you do need to turn the sound on to fully appreciate this: <http://voxcispublicus.homestead.com/Index.html>

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Two buddies Chris and John were two of the biggest baseball fans in America. For their entire adult lives, Chris and John discussed baseball history in the winter and they pored over every box score during the season.

They went to 60 games a year. They even agreed that whoever died first would try to come back and tell the other if there was baseball in heaven.

One summer night, Chris passed away in his sleep after watching the Yankee victory earlier in the evening. He died happy. A few nights later, his buddy John awoke to the sound of Chris's voice from beyond. "Chris is that you?" John asked. "Of course it's me," Chris replied.

"This is unbelievable!" John exclaimed. "So tell me, is there baseball in heaven?" asked Chris.

"Well I have some good news and some bad news for you, John. Which do you want to hear first?"

"Tell me the good news first," Asked Chris.

"Well, the good news is that, yes, there is baseball in heaven, John."

"Oh, that is wonderful! So what could possibly be the bad news?"

"You're pitching tomorrow night."