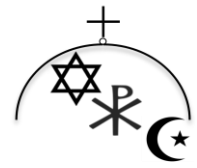




Newsletter for



Parish Ecumenical Representatives to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

January, 2011

Msgr. Michael J. Carroll, Director;
Phone: (215) 587-3624
e-mail: ecumen@adphila.org

Sister Judith Kreipe, IHM, Assistant Director
FAX: (215) 587-3561
website: <http://archphila.org/evangelization/ecum/ecum.htm>

Article:

Future of Church – Speakers say Lay Persons are Key.....Page 1

Obituary:

Joseph W. Lonergan, Sr......Page 2

NOTE: Coming Events:

Sunday, January 16, 2011 –
Ecumenical Service in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther KingPage 3

Monday, January 24, 2011 – Pro Life March in Washington, DC.....Page 3

Saturday, January 29 & Sunday, January 30, 2011 – Third International Day of Intercession for Peace in the Holy LandPage 3

UN Resolution proclaimed January 31-February 4, 2011 World Interfaith Harmony Week.....Page 3

Saturday, February 5, 2011 9AM-12 – Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Doylestown's annual Super Bowl of Catholic Thought

Saturday April 2, 2011 from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM – PER Workshop! ...Page 4

Gateway to Religious Communities:

Sunday, March 13, 9:30 AM

- Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Friday, April 1, 2011, 6 to 9 PM

- Main Line Reform Temple

Sunday, May 1, 2011, 6 to 8 PM

- Baha'i Community of Phila.

Sunday, May 29, 2011, 12 to 2 PM

- Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Fellowship & Mosque.....Page 4

Interesting Link:

MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS:

<http://www.stthomas.edu/mcdc/links/default.html>

Hello...

I trust everyone had a blessed and cheerful Christmas. I spent "critical time" fully reconstructing a unique row house shaped dollhouse for my granddaughter which was originally built from scratch for my daughter also for Christmas 35 years ago. Whew!

I wish all of you a very good New Year (dare I say... even prosperous as well?).

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 our neighboring congregations of other faiths, perhaps through your local ministerium.

+++++

Report on – The Future of the Church: A Woodstock Forum on Sources of Hope

If you asked Catholics in 1910 what the Church would look like for their great-grandchildren, they could hardly have imagined how much the world and the Church would change. A century later, do we have any better signs of what the face of the Church is going to look like for the next two generations? How will we minister? With whom? What will insure vitality? How might political, population, and cultural differences affect us? Are there reasons for hope? Are there challenges that may prove life threatening? What opportunities for the Gospel are present? Woodstock Senior Fellows weigh in on what the future holds for the Church... and what the Church holds for the future.

This significant discussion among Senior Fellows Rev. Raymond B. Kemp, Dolores R. Leckey, and Thomas J. Reese, SJ was co-hosted by St. Joseph University and moderated by Chestnut Hill College's President, Sister Carol Jean Vale.

Here is a report by David O'Reilly, Staff Writer for Philadelphia Inquirer - Posted on Mon, Dec. 6, 2010, the day after the session in Mandeville Hall - Wolfington Teletorium of St. Joseph's University in connection with Woodstock Theological Center of Georgetown University, Washington, DC.

Speakers say Catholic laypersons are key

With American Roman Catholics leaving their church in record numbers, it will be up to laypersons - not just bishops and priests - to revitalize the faith, a panel of speakers told an overflow audience Sunday at St. Joseph's University. "The church has acted like a lazy monopoly," the Rev. Thomas Reese told the crowd at Mandeville Hall, noting that one in three baptized Catholics now leaves the church in adulthood.

Reese, a senior fellow at Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University and former editor of the Jesuit magazine *America*, was one of three panelists invited by the university to discuss "The Future of the Church."

The topic's subtitle was "Sources of Hope," and after airing their grievances with their church, the three unabashedly progressive speakers pointed out ways they believe the nation's largest denomination can remain attractive and relevant.

"The Catholic Church is confronting a real crisis" of eroding membership, Sister Carol Jean Vale, president of Chestnut Hill College and moderator of the two-hour program, said in her opening remarks. "How can we form Catholics for the future?" she asked.

Reese, who is a Jesuit priest, laid much of the blame for the erosion of Catholic identity on what he described as a "culture of clericalism" in the church.

Too many priests and bishops seem to believe that "we know better" than the laity "and we don't need to listen to them."

Reese, a prolific author, also opined that "our churches and our liturgies are boring." Seventy-one percent of ex-Catholics who join a Protestant or evangelical congregation report that the Catholic Church "wasn't meeting my spiritual needs," he said.

Parishes need to do a better job of preaching, offer better music, be more welcoming, and provide engaging programs for children, Reese said.

But the folks in the pews cannot wait for the pastor to create, or authorize, every feature of parish life, Reese said.

"Want a youth group? Start one!" he told the crowd of 321.

"Want a book club? Do it! You don't need the pope or a bishop or a priest to be Christian," he said. "We're becoming a do-it-yourself church."

Reese was followed by Dolores R. Leckey, another research fellow at the Woodstock Center and former adviser to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the national organization of the Catholic hierarchy for articulating church teaching.

"What reason do I personally have for hope?" she began.

The answer lay, she said, in the reforms of the Second Vatican Council of 1962-65, which she described as a "monumental change in consciousness" for Roman

Catholicism because it "looked at *who* is the church, not *what*."

The Second Vatican Council was emphatic, Leckey said, that "lay life is a true vocation."

She opined that "new life has emerged" out of the "earthquake" that was the clergy sex-abuse crisis because some lay Catholics are channeling their frustration with church leadership into a recognition that they must play a greater role.

She was followed by the Rev. Raymond Kemp, also a senior fellow at Georgetown's Woodstock Center and a former pastor in the Archdiocese of Washington.

Microphone in hand, Kemp rose from the dais and strolled down to the floor of Woffington Auditorium.

"My spiritual director and my shrink told me to be optimistic," he said, to laughter.

He would later echo Leckey's observation that the sex-abuse crisis had emboldened some lay Catholics to "build the church from below."

But Kemp began by emphasizing the need of parishes to "find a kind of hospitality" that asks of each member: "What do you want to do with the gospel?"

He cited Old St. Patrick's Church in Chicago, which, under dynamic leadership, grew from a handful of parishioners 20 years ago to more than 6,000, with 120 "peer ministries."

"You get a sense of a parish that's doing things and having fun doing it," he said.

Kemp also said he believed the way for the Catholic Church to attract and keep young people is to appeal to their idealism.

"The untold story in the Catholic Church" is the amount of social services it provides at home and abroad, Kemp said.

"We feed, house, clothe, and resettle more people than any other nongovernment agency in this country."

"Who's attracted to this?" he asked. "Young people" who "want to realize what it means to be Catholic by putting their bodies" in service to those in need.

"I pray," Kemp said, "that we listen to young people."

Contact staff writer David O'Reilly at 215-854-5723 or doreilly@phillynews.com.

Obituary: Joseph W. Lonergan, Sr.,

Father of Deacon Joseph W. Lonergan, vicariate coordinator for Montgomery County, he was from South Philly, served in WWII and had been extremely active in many church and civic functions too numerous to list ([click here for more](#)). Sister Judith attended the funeral at St. John Neumann in North Cape May. It was a beautiful testimony to a man of deep faith, resilience, and attention to detail. Mr Lonergan was true to his patron St. Joseph as a teacher of carpentry to his family, especially his grandson Joseph Lonergan III. May he rest in peace. May his family be comforted in their sorrow. – *Sr. Judith*.

New Coming Events:

→→ Sunday, January 16, 2011 – Ecumenical Service in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

at St. Malachy Church 1429 N.11th St. 19122 at 3 PM

→→ Sunday, January 18-25, 2011 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme this year chosen by the Jerusalem Church is " One in the Apostles Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of Bread and Prayer (Acts 2:4W)

→→ Monday, January 24, 2011 – Pro Life March in Washington, DC

Late in October 1973, grassroots prolife leaders became concerned that January 22, 1974, might come and go without properly memorializing the Supreme Court's infamous abortion decisions, Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton, and without petitioning Congress for redress.

→→ Saturday, January 29 & Sunday, January 30, 2011 – Third International Day of Intercession for Peace in the Holy Land – The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace patronizes this prayer initiative celebrated simultaneously in 2000 cities all over the world "Prayer for peace is of major importance"

(*Relatio post disceptationem* of the Special Assembly for the Middle East of the Synod of Bishops)

On the 29th and 30th January 2011, during the month dedicated by the Church to Peace, we shall celebrate the **Third International Day of Intercession for Peace in the Holy Land**, an initiative of prayer born from the inspiration of some Youth Catholic Associations.

In this third edition, two thousands cities all over the world shall be simultaneously participating, so that this prayer – as the organizers hope – "*will reach the heart of the Lord who shall give peace to His land again*".

The **Third International Day of Intercession for Peace in the Holy Land** is patronized by the **Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace** and is a

(More: <http://www.zenit.org/article-31247?l=english> ; <http://www.papaboys.it/ufficiostampa/doc.asp?ID=166>)

→→ UN Resolution proclaimed January 31-February 4, 2011 World Interfaith Harmony Week.

United Nations created World Interfaith Harmony Week to be held each year in the first week of February. The United Nations Annual World Interfaith Harmony Week goes a long way towards ending religious war, violence and crime. It means that people will be able to live in safety and peace and have food to eat. There is a saying, "It is time to stop worrying and do something about it."

World Interfaith Harmony Week is the idea of Jordan's King Abdullah and Jordan's Prince Ghazi. A few years ago Jordan's Prince Ghazi wrote a letter called "A Common Word Between You and Us Love." This letter was signed by over 100 Muslim Scholars and political and religious leaders and sent to the leaders of the other religions. Prince Ghazi also created a website called "A Common Word Love" <http://www.acommonword.com> 'A Common Word Love' was greeted enthusiastically by the leaders of Christianity and the other religions.

'A Common Word Love' has spawned numerous interfaith meetings around the world led by Pope

way to commit for and to concretely live a day of profound prayer and intercession. For this third edition, in the follow-up of the Special Assembly for the Middle East of the Synod of Bishops held on the theme

"Communion and Witness", *with the help of the Lord*, the *24 uninterrupted hours of prayer* of the International Intercessory Prayer Day for Peace will very significantly start in coincidence with the Fifth Extraordinary Prayer of all Churches for Reconciliation, Unity and Peace, *beginning in and proceeding from Jerusalem*, and with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Jerusalem, on Saturday 29th January 2011, at 5-6 p.m. (Holy Land time). The Extraordinary Prayer of all Churches will be broadcast worldwide.

Benedict, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Saudi King Abdullah, Jordan's King Abdullah and Prince Ghazi. In September Jordan's King Abdullah spoke to the annual meeting of the UN General Assembly and proposed 'World Interfaith Harmony Week.' In his speech, Jordan's King Abdullah said, "Humanity everywhere is bound together, not only by mutual interests, but by shared commandments to love God and neighbor... What we are proposing is a special week during which the world's people, in their own places of worship could express the teachings of their own faith about tolerance, respect for the other and peace. I hope this resolution will have your support."

United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution of Jordan's King Abdullah and Prince Ghazi and proclaimed the first week of February of every year "World Interfaith Harmony Week" among all faiths and beliefs.

→→ Saturday, February 5, 2011 9AM-Noon – Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Doylestown's annual Super Bowl of Catholic Thought [http://www.ourladymtcarmel.org/Super_Bowl_of_Catholic_Thought.pdf]; [<http://www.ourladymtcarmel.org/home.asp>]
 Msgr. Michael J. Carroll & Sr. Elaine ASSP will be participating. Sister does retreat work and care for the elderly. She and several members of her community - All Saints Sisters for the Poor (ASSP) - came into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church in September, 2009.

→→ PER Workshop will be on Saturday April 2, 2011 from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

It will be held in the college auditorium on the first floor of the lower side at St. Charles Seminary. Enter by front door and go straight ahead to the last room- the auditorium.

Gateway to Religious Communities – Learn about other faiths!

[Sun., Jan. 16, 2011 – 10 AM – Closing of 2010 Events ceremony at the Medical Mission Sisters, 8400 Pine Road, Phila.]
 Sister Judith is on their board of directors. Some background, and the 2011 coming event:

A program from: **The Interfaith Center** - 3723 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia. PA 19104 (215) 222-1012
www.interfaithcenterpa.org

Archdiocesan Vicariate Coordinators for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

Bucks County : gola1223@comcast.net
 Deacon John M. Golaszewski - 215-357-5905

Chester County: chuck.polley@verizon.net
 Deacon Charles W. Polley Jr. - 610-363-6536

Delaware County: Deacon_Delucca@msn.com
 Deacon Daniel N. DeLucca - 610-259-1169

Montgomery County: jlonergan@CHS-adphila.org
 Deacon Joseph W. Lonergan - 215-362-7400

Philadelphia-North: hapcpa@comcast.net
 Deacon Homer A. Panganiban - 215-329-8100

Philadelphia-South: jimsem94@verizon.net
 Deacon James J. Stewart - 215-334-3755

Visit religious communities in Philadelphia!

- Receive a tour of the congregation
- Attend a service with members of the religious community
- Ask questions, enjoy a reflection session and refreshments

Deepen your interfaith experience!

- Meet members of different religious communities
- See and participate in religious services of different faiths
- Opportunities to ask questions

Coming Featured Religious Communities:

→→ Sunday, March 13, 2011, 9:30 AM to Noon

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church [<http://www.bmpc.org/>]

→→ Friday, April 1, 2011, 6 to 9 PM

Main Line Reform Temple [<http://mlrt.org/>]

→→ Sunday, May 1, 2011, 6 to 8 PM

Baha'i Community of Philadelphia

[<http://www.phillybahai.org/>]

→→ Sunday, May 29, 2011, 12 to 2 PM

Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Fellowship & Mosque

[<http://www.bmf.org/mosque/>]

Register on-line to attend this event!

<http://www.interfaithcenterpa.org/involved/gateway-regphp>

+++++

→→ Mark all the above dates on your calendar ←←

Squirrel Problems

There were five country churches in a small Texas town:

The Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church, the Catholic Church and the Jewish Synagogue. Each church and the synagogue was overrun with pesky squirrels.

One day, the Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about the squirrels. After much prayer and consideration they determined that the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

In The Baptist Church the squirrels had taken up habitation in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a cover on the baptistery and drown the squirrels in it. The squirrels escaped somehow and there were twice as many there the next week.

The Methodist Church got together and decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creation. So, they humanely trapped the squirrels and set them free a few miles outside of town. Three days later, the squirrels were back.

But -- The Catholic Church came up with the best and most effective solution. They baptized the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas and Easter!

Not much was heard about the Jewish Synagogue, but they took one squirrel and had a short service with him called circumcision and they haven't seen a squirrel on the property since.!



Editor: Sam Herb – SamHerb@comcast.net