



Newsletter for



Parish Ecumenical Representatives to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

March, 2011

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- Main Line Reform Temple
Sunday, May 1, 2011, 6 to 8 PM
- Baha'i Community of Phila.
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Interesting Link:

Anti Defamation League Walk Against Hate:
<http://regions.adl.org/eastern-pa/events/walk-against-hate.html>

Hello...

Again, unexplained computer “events” delayed publication & lost me several days! SIGH! The article is another response to our deacons for help in our works with communities.

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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→→ PER Workshop for all Parish Ecumenical Representatives will be held on Saturday April 2, 2011 from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

It will be 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. (You should have already received a letter).

Topic: The ecumenical movement since 1910

Speaker: *Rev. Dr. Norman A. Hjelm*, an executive of the Lutheran World Federation, Director of the Commission on Faith and Order National Council of Churches; charter member of the Philadelphia Liturgical Institute, an ecumenical liturgical group.

Register by March 25th on line at: (needed for campus security)
http://archphila.org/evangelization/ecum/parish_events/events.htm

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Catholic Church Statistics on Abuse

Even though the Church is getting some bad press there are some positives as pointed out by Sam Miller, a prominent Cleveland Jewish businessman. Here are excerpts with one corrected statistic indicated:

"Why would newspapers carry on a vendetta on one of the most important institutions that we have today in the United States, namely

the Catholic Church?

Do you know - the Catholic Church educates 2.6 million students everyday at the cost to that Church of 10 billion dollars, and a savings on the other hand to the American taxpayer of 18 billion dollars. The graduates go on to graduate studies at the rate of 92%.

The Church has 230 colleges and universities in the U.S. with an enrollment of 700,000 students.

The Catholic Church has a non-profit hospital system of 637 hospitals, which account for hospital treatment of 1 out of every 5 people - not just Catholics - in the United States today.

But the press is vindictive and trying to totally denigrate in every way the Catholic Church in this country. They have blamed the disease of pedophilia on the Catholic Church, which is as irresponsible as blaming adultery on the institution of marriage.

Let me give you some figures that Catholics should know and remember. For example,

12% of the 300 Protestant clergy surveyed admitted to sexual intercourse with a parishioner; 38% acknowledged other inappropriate sexual contact in a study by the United Methodist Church, 41.8% of clergy women reported unwanted sexual behavior; 17% of laywomen have been sexually harassed.

[Meanwhile, according to Philip Jenkins, a professor of Humanities at Penn State University, between 0.2 and 1.7 of Catholic priests are pedophiles, while the figure among Protestant Clergy is between 2 and 3%. In their 2002 survey, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) reported that, 13% of educators

**News Item:
North African Bishops Analyze Events in Tunisia**

Visit Monastery Featured in Of Gods and Men
ALGIERS, Algeria, FEB. 6, 2011 (Zenit.org).- The demands for liberty and dignity, which have caused revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt, will influence the future of Muslim-Christian dialogue, the North African bishops are affirming.

The Episcopal Conference of the North African Region (CERNA) gathered in Algiers last week to analyze "the seriousness of the events taking place at present in the Arab world, in particular in Tunisia, but also in Egypt and other countries, to make a first discernment."

The final communiqué of the five-day meeting, which ended Wednesday, stated that in the social movements the bishops recognize "a claim for liberty and dignity, in particular on the part of the young generations of the

reported sexual interaction with their students (unclear if pedophilic).] *

This is not a unique Catholic Problem. All houses of worship & educators should work this out together.

A study of American priests showed that most are happy in the priesthood and find it even better than they had expected, and that most, if given the choice, would choose to be priests again in face of all this obnoxious PR the church has been receiving.

The Catholic Church is bleeding from self-inflicted wounds. The agony that Catholics have felt and suffered is not necessarily the fault of the Church. You have been hurt by a small number of wayward priests that have probably been totally weeded out by now.

Walk with your shoulders high and you head higher. Be a proud member of the most important non-governmental agency in the United States. Then remember what Jeremiah said: 'Stand by the roads, and look and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is and walk in it, and find rest for your souls'. Be proud to speak up for your faith with pride and reverence and learn what your Church does for all other religions."

**A misleading statistic has been researched, removed and replaced with these more correct ones. ...Sam*

Full Text of his original rather strong & much longer article, which includes that misleading statistic since changed:

<http://fratres.wordpress.com/2008/06/24/redemption-comes-through-the-jews-jewish-businessman-sam-miller-whaps-anti-catholic-bias-in-news-media-full-text/>

region, which is translated as the desire that all be recognized as citizens, and responsible citizens."

The prelates analyzed the events in the light of Benedict XVI's message for the World Day of Peace, celebrated Jan. 1, on the theme of religious liberty and peace. They affirmed that "religious liberty is the guarantee of complete and reciprocal respect between persons."

The final statement, signed by CERNA's president, Archbishop Vincent Landel of Rabat, Morocco, noted: "It is translated above all in liberty of conscience, attributed to every person, the liberty to seek the truth. It implies respect of the other, of his dignity, foundation of the moral legitimacy of every social or juridical norm."

It added, "Liberty of conscience and citizenship will undoubtedly be increasingly at the heart of the dialogue between Muslim and Christian believers who live in the Maghreb."

The bishops explained that the Church is "at the service of essentially Muslim inhabitants of countries in which these Churches live, of their development and of their aspirations to greater dignity."

"They stress the quality of the ties of friendship that are interwoven with the citizens of these countries, and they attest with joy to ever more numerous occasions to engage in these ties," they noted.

Common commitment

The prelates affirmed, "Yes, the Muslim-Christian dialogue is possible, the common commitment to the service of the neediest persons, the work with associations of the civil societies of the Maghreb allow us to learn to know one another, not just tolerate each other, but also to respect and understand one another in search of the will of God."

Archbishop Landel reported that CERNA's bishops traveled through the snow to visit the monastery of Notre Dame de Tibhirine, the home of seven Trappist monks who were kidnapped and killed in March of 1996.

The monks were recognized for their courage in staying with the people during a tumultuous time in that region. A new film, "Of Gods and Men," which will debut in the United States this month, recounts their story.

The archbishop stated that the prelates "prayed in the chapel in which the brothers sang the Psalms and sought the will of the Lord for whom 'there is no greater love than to give one's life for one's friends.'"

He added, "The film 'Of Gods and Men' allows many to perceive the meaning of a presence of the Church in the Maghreb."

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Coming Events:

Hatfield Community Lenten Series on the Wednesdays during Lent with the theme "The Story of Salvation" covering the topics of *Incarnation, Passion, Resurrection, Ascension, and Return* to be held **7:30 PM** along with **Holy Spirit Anglican Church** at:

→→ Wednesday March 16 – Hatfield Church of the Brethren 1333 Cowpath Road Hatfield, PA 19440-2620 (215) 855-3064 [speaker: Pastor Glenn, Lambert Emmanuel E.C.C] (directions: <http://www.hatfieldcob.org/home.html>)

→→ Wednesday March 23 – St Maria Goretti RC Church 1601 Derstine Road Hatfield, PA 19440-1799 (215) 721-0199 [speaker: Pastor Daryl Nelson, Grace Lutheran] (directions: <http://www.stmariagoretti.net/smglocation.html>)

→→ Wednesday March 30 – Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 25 Forty Foot Road Hatfield, PA 19440-290 (215) 855-4676 [speaker: Fr Andrew Brownholtz, St. Maria Goretti] (directions: <http://www.gracelutheranhatfield.org/index.htm>)

→→ Wednesday April 6 – Heidelberg United Church of Christ 1101 Cowpath Road Hatfield, PA 19440-2616 (215) 368-0442 [speaker: Pastor Ruby Bean, Church of the Brethren] (directions: <http://www.gracelutheranhatfield.org/>)

→→ Wednesday April 13 – Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church 100 South Main Street Hatfield, PA 19440-2503 (215) 855-2540 [speaker: Pastor Bob Tufton, Holy Spirit Anglican] (directions: <http://www.emmanuelecchurch.org/?page=map>)

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→→ Good Friday April 22 at 7:30 PM – Chal-Brit Ministerium will join together with their clergy and combined choirs to observe Good Friday as they have for four decades (along with Thanksgiving eve service) as recognition of their common belief. Chalfont United Methodist Church, Chalfont, Lenape Valley Presbyterian Church, New Britain, New Britain Baptist Church, New Britain, New Life Assembly of God, Chalfont, Pleasantville United Church of Christ, Chalfont, will be hosted this year by Pleasantville United Church of Christ, 3424 Limekiln Pike, Chalfont, PA 18914-3608. [Directions & map: <http://www.pleasantvilleucc.org/contacts>]

For many years, they have shared in regularly supporting the community Food Larder located in the New Britain Baptist Church, which provides food for both individuals and families in need of assistance in Central Bucks County. The Food Larder is a designated food distribution site of the Opportunity Council of Bucks County.

Faith Immersion Series 2011: Navigating Religious Diversity

This timely and relevant training, designed for professionals in health, faith and human services settings, offers a series of one-day intensives to learn more about the religious backgrounds of our colleagues, clients, patients and other constituencies. [flyer also attached]

Cost: \$75 per day or \$300 for the full series. Students with current ID, \$25 per day. Upon application, limited scholarship can be requested.

Credits (Earn up to 30 CECs): Each full day completed awards 6 Continuing Education Credits through LaSalle University's Social Work Program for those holding an LSW, LCSW, LMFT or LPC, plus all participants receive an interfaith training certificate from the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia. **REGISTER NOW at:** www.interfaithcenterpa.org [Click on the FAITH IMMERSION SERIES link].

For More Information: Contact Sr. Maria Hornung, MMS, Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia 215.222.1012 or meh@interfaithcenterpa.org

Series at a Glance: [Registration 8:30 AM, Workshop 9 AM to 4 PM]

→→ SATURDAY MARCH 19, 2011

Catholic Intensive At Lasalle University, Philadelphia

→→ SATURDAY APRIL 9, 2011

Bahá'í Intensive At Bahá'í Community Of Philadelphia, Philadelphia

→→ FRIDAY APRIL 29, 2011

Jewish Intensive At Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Wyncote

→→ SUNDAY MAY 15, 2011

Muslim Intensive At Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Fellowship Mosque, Philadelphia

→→ FRIDAY JUNE 3, 2011

Baptist Intensive At American Baptist Churches Mission Center, Valley Forge

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Gateway to Religious Communities – Learn about other faiths!

Sister Judith is on their board of directors. Some background and the final spring coming event:

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

www.interfaithcenterpa.org

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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:

→→ 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>

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



Editor: Sam Herb – SamHerb@comcast.net

Why go to church? One Sunday morning, a mother went in to wake her son and tell him it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied, "I'm not going." "Why not?" she asked. "I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "(1), they don't like me, and (2), I don't like them." His mother replied, "I'll give you two good reasons why you SHOULD go to church: (1) You're 49 years old, and (2) you're the pastor!"