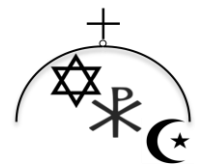




# Newsletter for



# Parish Ecumenical Representatives to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

November, 2010

Msgr. Michael J. Carroll, Director;

Sister Judith Kreipe, IHM, Assistant Director

Phone: (215)587-3624

FAX: (215) 587-3561

e-mail: [ecumen@adphila.org](mailto:ecumen@adphila.org)

website: <http://archphila.org/evangelization/ecum/ecum.htm>

## Hello...

Sorry for the delay. I expected this newsletter to be "As Needed" but did not expect so much was "to be needed!" ☺ Ideally I then made an effort to get out an October issue. My delay was due to a business trip, an unplanned medical procedure (are they ever?), and helping a family member who was seriously injured. Soooo... this October issue became a November issue. My equally good intention to report on the wonderfully productive day at Rosemount College, and one of the evenings at St Joseph University will also have to wait until the next issue.

By the way, I had several requests to send notices to many October events, but could not "turn them around" fast enough to meet their respective times. **I heartily encourage these 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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## Medical Mission Sisters, Who Hold 85-Year History with Muslim Women, Call on People of All Faiths to Openness and Dialogue

Founded in 1925, Medical Mission Sisters have had 85 years of life experiences with our Muslim sisters and brothers around the world. In fact, the impetus for our existence as a Catholic Community of Sisters, devoted to being a healing presence among those in need, was the tremendous lack of professional health care for Muslim women and children in the early 1920s in what was then North India. Thousands of mothers and mothers-to-be and their children were dying because there weren't enough women doctors to care for them at one of the most important times of their life.

Our Founder, an Austrian doctor named Anna Dengel, came to the United States and made known the critical need for health services for Muslim women and their children. She saw this care, for this large group of women, and for anyone else in need, as "a matter of justice, not charity."

Today's emotional exchanges over the Park 51 site for an Islamic Mosque in New York City also call for justice. We need to discover that life-giving

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common ground that will make us proud to be American people who pursue life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness together. We Medical Mission Sisters have done this thousands of times the world over and know that being open and staying in dialogue are at the heart of what is needed now.

Throughout our 85 years, we have lived and worked among women and men of many faith traditions, cultures and nations. Our own membership today encompasses women of 22 different nationalities, all of us striving to work together for the good of all. Our Community's presence is now felt in 17 countries on five continents around the world. The internationality and cultural diversity we have experienced have shown us each day how very much people are alike, how very much we want the same basic things in life for ourselves and our families.

Our encounters with Christians, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Animists and people of no faith base at all have stretched us as persons. They also have enriched our lives. Because of our long history with our Muslim sisters, Medical Mission Sisters have entered into their lives, learned their languages, studied their culture and faith, taught and been taught...and become true sisters.

Let us try to learn more about people of other faith traditions and what they really believe. Let us not be swayed by one "side" of the media's portrayal of the truth, or the other. Medical Mission Sisters encourage prayerful, open dialogue about the current, and all other, interfaith issues. Honoring our diversities, affirming the goodness in others, respectfully challenging ourselves and our neighbors to be the best, most loving human beings we can be can only enrich us and make us all better children of God.

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### **Obituary: ARTHUR J. KANE**

Long term faithful PER died on Sept. 30, 2010. Owner of Kane Real Estate of University City. Art was a graduate of West Catholic High School and St. Joseph's University, also a WW II Army Vet. Beloved son of the late Arthur and Mary (nee Reilly). Devoted brother of James T., Ann Burke, Peggy Duffy, Sister Marie Arthur I.H.M. and the late Mary T. Deegan. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Relatives and friends are invited to his Viewing Tuesday 9:15 A.M. to 10:45 A.M. Divine Mercy Church, 6667 Chester Ave. Funeral Mass 11 A.M. Int. Holy Cross Cem. In lieu of flowers, donations to Camilla Hall, P.O. Box 100, Immaculata, PA 19345 would be appreciated.

We will surely miss his smiling countenance. His sister is an IHM and I know she will miss him as well. Peace! *Sr. Judith.*

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### **New Coming Events:**

**→→ Sunday, November 21 at 3:00 PM – Fifteenth Annual Thanksgiving Service** at Old School Baptist Meetinghouse, Second Street Pike and Maple Avenue Upper Southampton Township 18966.

This service of thanksgiving that has become a tradition in the Upper Southampton community. Clergy and people of all faiths and organizations are sincerely invited to join in prayer. Homilist this year will be Rabbi Elliot Strom of Congregation Sher Ami. Clergy will join in procession and reading of Sacred Scripture. Each person attending is asked to bring items of non-perishable food or infants and toddlers needs. All foods and a plate collection are donated to local charities.

**→→ Wednesday November 24 at 7:30 PM – Chal-Brit Ministerium will join together with their clergy and combined choirs to observe Thanksgiving** as they have for four decades 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 by St. Jude Catholic Church, 321 Butler Ave. Chalfont 18914. 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.

**Directions & map:** [http://maps.google.com/maps/place?rlz=1T4ACGW\\_en\\_US356&um=1&ie=UTF-8&q=St.+Jude.Chalfont+18914&fb=1&gl=us&hq=St.+Jude&hnear=Chalfont,+PA&cid=13751444303113924458](http://maps.google.com/maps/place?rlz=1T4ACGW_en_US356&um=1&ie=UTF-8&q=St.+Jude.Chalfont+18914&fb=1&gl=us&hq=St.+Jude&hnear=Chalfont,+PA&cid=13751444303113924458)

**→→ Wednesday, Dec. 1, 7:00 PM – "The First Night of Hanukkah"** at Old St. Joseph's, Fellowship Hall— Our third session for the fall season will depart from the earlier theme and will focus on the holiday of

Hanukkah. Our speaker will discuss the history, meaning, tradition, and symbolism of Hanukkah. Bring all your questions, bring your friends who are interested in interfaith relations, and be prepared for a lively discussion. Snacks will be served. For further information please contact Diana Schrader at 215-423-4525 or by e-mail at [dschrade@temple.edu](mailto:dschrade@temple.edu)

➔➔ **Sunday, December 5, 2010 from 2-4:00 PM – The Future of the Church: A Woodstock Forum on Sources of Hope** at Mandeville Hall - Wolfington Teletorium St. Joseph's University Philadelphia, PA 19131. [click here to download a printable poster to share with your community \(pdf, 737KB\)](#)

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 is co-hosted by St. Joseph University and will be moderated by Chestnut Hill College's President, Sister Carol Jean Vale. I hope you will consider attending.

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**Gateway to Religious Communities – Learn about other faiths!**

Sister Judith is on their board of directors. A few PERs were able to attend as everal events this past Autumn.. Some background, and the final autumn coming event:

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

<p><b>Archdiocesan Vicariate Coordinators for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs</b></p> <p>Bucks County : <a href="mailto:gola1223@comcast.net">gola1223@comcast.net</a> Deacon John M. Golaszewski - 215-357-5905</p> <p>Chester County: <a href="mailto:chuck.polley@verizon.net">chuck.polley@verizon.net</a> Deacon Charles W. Polley Jr. - 610-363-6536</p> <p>Delaware County: <a href="mailto:Deacon_Delucca@msn.com">Deacon_Delucca@msn.com</a> Deacon Daniel N. DeLucca - 610-259-1169</p> <p>Montgomery County: <a href="mailto:jlonergan@CHS-adphila.org">jlonergan@CHS-adphila.org</a> Deacon Joseph W. Lonergan - 215-362-7400</p> <p>Philadelphia-North: <a href="mailto:hapcpa@comcast.net">hapcpa@comcast.net</a> Deacon Homer A. Panganiban - 215-329-8100</p> <p>Philadelphia-South: <a href="mailto:jimsem94@verizon.net">jimsem94@verizon.net</a> Deacon James J. Stewart - 215-334-3755</p>
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**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:**

➔➔ **December 11, 2010**

– **Mishkan Shalom Synagogue** – *Reconstructionist Jewish*

<http://mishkan.org/> - 4101 Freeland Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19128

The service begins at 10:00 AM and goes till noon. We will need to arrive there at 9:30 AM.

**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 – <a href="mailto:SamHerb@comcast.net">SamHerb@comcast.net</a>
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