



INDEX

1
**THIRTY-FIVE YEARS
A BISHOP!**

3
**REFLECTIONS ON THE
PRIESTHOOD**

5
BIDDEN?

6
**PROVINCIAL NEWS
PARISH NEWS**

7
ORDINATION PHOTOS

8
**TRIENNIAL
PUBLICATION DATA**

Thirty-Five Years a Bishop! Congratulations to the Rt. Rev. Robert S. McGinnis Consecrated to the Episcopate on June 22, 1979



The Rt. Rev. William S.H. Downey recalls:

I was there as chaplain to Bishop E.M. Matthews. Bp. Sten von Krusenstierna was consecrator, Bp. Gerritt Munnik was Senior Assisting Bishop, Bp. Matthews was Junior Assisting Bishop, and Bp. Will Pitkin also assisted. It was even before +Lawrence Smith had been consecrated to the episcopacy! The place was packed and all the old timers were there, now most have gone home, but those were the days!

more photos on the following page...



Left: Bishop Robert McGinnis on his Consecration.

Below right: The newly consecrated bishop with Bp. Sten von Krusenstierna standing, and Bp. Gerrit Munnik in the background.

Below left: Bishop Robert's coat-of-arms.



“try to build the bridge and keep it clean and maintained”

Reflections on the Priesthood

*The Rev. Robert Ellwood
Sermon, July 13, 2014*

NOTE:

On July 13th, The Reverend Robert Ellwood celebrated his last Holy Eucharist as an active priest in the Province. Fr. Robert has been a valuable member on the pastoral staff of the Church of Our Lady and All Angels in Ojai for many years. He will be greatly missed on the celebrants schedule but we are confident he will be regularly in attendance and available to us as needed.

Fr. Ellwood was originally ordained to the sacred priesthood of the Episcopal Church on December 21, 1957, in Trinity Cathedral, Omaha, Nebraska. In the early nineties he was accepted by the then Regional Bishop of the Liberal Catholic Church in this country, Bishop Lawrence Smith, and re-ordained sub-conditione on February 25, 1996.

Fr. Ellwood served as full professor of Religion at the University of Southern California until his retirement a few years ago. Dr. Ellwood's accomplishments as an author and educator in the academic world are unparalleled. He has for many years been an active member of the Theosophical Society serving nationally and internationally in positions of responsibility and well known as a national lecturer and author. Fr. Robert currently is Director of the Esoteric School and resident at Krotana School of Theosophy in Ojai. Space does not allow a complete list of his accomplishments.

Below is a short synopsis of remarks he delivered on the occasion of his retirement Mass. We bid him farewell and many thanks for a job well done and look forward to many more years of fellowship and service to the Master.

~ Bishop William Downey

As this is my last celebration before retirement, I would like to offer a few reflections on the ministry or priesthood, based on my more than 50 years as a priest, in the Episcopal and LCC.

First, being a priest doesn't mean you have all the answers. At first I thought I had to give the right answer out of the book for questions and problems people came up with. But in time I came to realize the important thing is not having all the answers, but asking the right questions — and when occasion permits helping others to ask the right questions too: why am I here, why has my life taken the course it has, how am I supposed to live and love my life, how can I know the divine mind that is its source?

Answers not always in words, but in deep understanding, even better deep inner joy that says one is in harmony — the church has ways to help — but ultimately the answers are discovered within.

Second, being a priest doesn't mean you are better or more righteous than anyone else. You try, of course, as I think most people do in their way, but the more you advance, the more self-knowledge you gain, and the more you realize how much work on yourself remains to be done, with God's help. The point is not to present yourself as a model saint to your church and community, which most likely would turn people off, but to be able to share in love your struggles and insights, your failings and victories, in the model of the wounded savior we follow who bore our infirmities and shared our grief and apparent failures.

What then is a priest? Two words come to mind. The first is the Greek word that “priest” comes from, *presbyter*, which just means an “elder.” There is more to the priesthood in our church than that, but it’s a good place to start. An elder — and it’s not just a matter of chronological age — is one who has seen and understood a lot. He therefore has wisdom, which means seeing things as they really are, in right relationship to each other — and that means just seeing yourself and your role as part of the whole picture, not with yourself in the center.

I recently read an account of a young man studying with a shaman, who gave him a mirror on a stick, and as he held it up to his face when outdoors, he always saw not only himself, but all the nature around him, so that he was always just a part of the whole, fitting in with the trees and animals and all as a part, not the main focus. As elders we should have learned how much we are part of the world, with a vital role unique to each of us, but not its masters or the center around which it all revolves — and not destined to go on forever in this lifetime or role. It’s just a part we are playing on the stage for a time, till the curtain rings down, then rises to other plays, other roles, other lifetimes. The older I get, the more I sense this elder-wisdom at least seeping into consciousness, wanting to be heard. As priests we ought to hear it, and let others hear it too.

The other word is from Latin, and was the title of the high priests in ancient Rome, and has also been taken by the Pope, but I think is a good concept for all priests — indeed all faithful people — to think about. That is *pontifex* or pontiff, and literally means “bridge-builder.” That is what we are meant to be — bridge-builders, between people, between people and the world, between people and God. We are not the bridge — that is love and God’s grace — but we try to build the bridge and keep it clean and maintained. It means administering the Sacraments, which are special highways across the bridge, but also communicating and encouraging love and understanding in all times and places. But again, it’s not the bridge which is important of itself, but where it goes and who goes across it. One thing you learn in the priesthood is that you can do an awful lot if you don’t care who gets the credit, besides the divine power — you just put it out there.

And now to God the Father . . .



Also I heard the voice of the LORD, saying,
Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?

Then said I, Here am I, send me.

Isaiah 6:8

“wholeness is primary”

Bidden?

The Very Rev. Alan Clute

Bidden or Not Bidden, God is Present

~ Erasmus

“The Miracles of the Church seem to me to rest not so much upon faces or voices or healing power coming suddenly near to us from afar off, but upon our perceptions being made finer, so that for a moment our eyes can see and our ears can hear what is there about us always.”

~ Willa Cather, **Death Comes for the Archbishop**

For many, the presence of the Divine — if even acknowledged or thought about — seems to be non-existent or far off. Even much of Christianity talks about God’s presence on earth as a super-natural phenomenon unique in history.

But if God is All in All, then we are literally made out of God-Stuff, just as most of the atoms in our bodies have once been part of a star. More than that, those elements which are heavier than Iron — i.e. the vast majority of elements — were forged in the cataclysmic flash of a super-nova. Think about that the next time you admire your Gold or Silver jewelry.

There is no part of us that is not, at some level, in touch with the Divine nature of life.

Western thought tends to be in terms of objects and separation, and so it is with much of Western religious thought. But in the Eastern traditions, and in modern Western science, Wholeness is fundamental. The Absolute unfolds universes from within Itself while remaining unchanged; photons are simultaneously particles and waves; the Quantum Void fills empty space with intense levels of energy and intelligence; Gravity, Hydrogen, and the vast Intelligence of Natural Law are sufficient initial conditions to create the Universe you see all around you. All these spring from a reality where wholeness is primary and separation is illusory.

The opening quote from Willa Cather appeals to me because it describes what I feel is the point of spiritual development: to strengthen us and cleanse the windows of our perception so that we can appreciate life for what it really is — inherently Divine.

The tools of inner development, such as meditation and liturgical work, have real effects on us and on our world. The Holy Eucharist, in particular, radiates a tremendous positive influence into the community and rewards our efforts with a grace that elevates our lives and moves us forward along our individual paths. More and more, we see what is there about us always: the beauty and power that animates the world in which we find ourselves.

“...by Him were all things made, yea, all things both in heaven and earth;
with Him as the indwelling Life do all things exist,
and in Him as the transcendent Glory all things live and move and have their being...”
— The Liturgy according to the use of The Liberal Catholic Church

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Kathleen Clute and Parish Correspondents

Provincial News

General Episcopal Synod, 2016

For the one hundredth anniversary of the Founding of The Liberal Catholic Church, the General Episcopal Synod will meet at Our Lady Queen of Angels Church, Rio Rancho, New Mexico, in February, 2016. It is a very great honor for our Province to host the GES. While only bishops participate in the GES sessions, many services and other events will be planned, at which all laity and clergy are welcome. We hope that you will come as well.

Many volunteers will be needed for our Province to give the visiting Bishops the wonderful experience they deserve. If you are interested in assisting—as clergy, server, musician, host, or in any other capacity, including before the GES—please contact Kathleen Clute, Provincial Secretary, secretary@thelccusa.org.

Triennial

Nearly 40 clergy and laity have already registered for the Triennial Provincial Assembly and Clerical Synod of The Liberal Catholic Church, Province of the United States, to be held at Our Lady Queen of Angels Church in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, October 16–19. If you haven't yet registered and you plan to attend, please visit our Provincial website: <http://www.thelccusa.org/triennial/>

That page contains detailed information about the Triennial. In the Registration section of the page you will find the link to the online registration form. It is easy to fill out!

We look forward to seeing you in October.

Parish News

The Church of St. Francis, Villa Park, Illinois

Those of us here at St. Francis LCC in Villa Park, IL are having a slow summer. There are a few things happening. First we are thankful for Bishop Ruben, who was kind enough to celebrate Mass with us a few times. We give him many accolades for blessing us and sharing his vast knowledge with us. Thank you, Bishop Ruben.

We are proud to welcome back Reverend Jeffrey who is again serving Mass at our parish. It is a pleasure to have him back in our midst. So here's a big thank and a welcome back to Reverend Jeffrey. We are also welcoming two new church members and servers, John Conway and Chris McNamara. We are excited to have them both with us. Both are doing well in their training as servers.

In addition, we have a group of adventurers. Dawn Regnier, Rebecca Collin, Annie Pepich and Vicki Fitzmaurice have traveled to Fairfield, Iowa, a couple times, to visit St. Gabriel and All Angels.

We ask for prayers for several of our church members: one is recovering from cancer surgery, another has given up driving, and several members are experiencing an exceedingly rough summer due to allergies from all of the excessive pollen in the midwest this year.

We pray for everyone to have health, happiness, and a close spiritual relationship with the Lord.

Sandra Brigando



Additional photos from the ordination to the priesthood of Rev. Douglas Bess and Rev. Richard Ellwood, December 9, 2013.

Top: Bishop William S.H. Downey reads the charge to the ordinands. Also pictured are (*left to right*) Fr. James Voirol, Fr. William Binder, Rev. Eddie Gonzales, and Fr. Brian Satterlee.

Middle: The Veni Creator Spiritus being sung.

Bottom: Final benediction with +William and 2 new priests: Fr. Bess (*left*) & Fr. Ellwood (*right*)!

Triennial Provincial Assembly & Clerical Synod
October 16–19, 2014

Our Lady Queen of Angels in Rio Rancho, New Mexico

Join us for fellowship & inspiration!

Highlights

Presiding Bishop Graham Wale

Regionary Bishop William S.H. Downey

**Altar Training for Clergy during the day, Thursday 10/16
Provincial Assembly opens Thursday evening**

Liturgy

Holy Eucharist

Offices

Rosary

Vespers

Music in the Liberal Catholic Church

Esoteric Christianity in Modern Life

Bishop's Hour with Bishop Wale

**Complete Triennial information
can be found at**

<http://www.thelccusa.org/triennial/>

**The registration form is there as well.
After August 15, the registration fee is \$55.**

UBIQUE

The newsletter of
The Liberal Catholic Church
Province of the United States.

Published quarterly online, at
<http://www.thelccusa.org/ubique/>

Rt. Rev. William Downey
Regionary Bishop
w.downey@sbcglobal.net
1206 Ayers Ave.
Ojai, CA 93023

Kathleen Clute
Editor
herself@ackc.name

Contributors

Sandra Brigando • Church of St. Francis

Fr. Alan Clute • St. Michael the Protector Church

Fr. Robert Ellwood • Our Lady & All Angels Church

Front page Altar Photo:
Our Lady & All Angels, Ojai,
California; December 9, 2013.

Contributors freely express their opinions and beliefs. The Liberal Catholic Church, Province of the United States, is responsible only for statements or information marked "official."

Next issue: Christmas 2014
Deadline for submissions:
Monday, December 8, 2014