



Ubique



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“God can always help us find God”

Confidence

by Rev. Robert Ellwood

Sermon for the Ninth Sunday after Trinity

The theme for today is Confidence. What does this mean? The word Confidence comes from Latin words meaning “with faith.” That observation leads to the next question, What is faith? Faith is one of those words, like love, God, hope, you think you know the meaning of, till you try to give an absolute, complete definition of them, and find it’s surprisingly hard. Just when you think you have it, you realize some aspect has escaped the trap, or it just doesn’t have the right tone. In the end, you may realize that for words like these, everyone can only have his or her own definition.

My daughter, Fay Ellen, is now teaching Bible and English at Hope University (Fullerton, CA), and recently had to prepare a lesson plan on the Book of the prophet Jeremiah. She told me her favorite passage was Jeremiah 31:31-34, in which the writer speaks in soaring terms of the new covenant God will establish between himself and his people. I think this passage has wonderful application for understanding faith and confidence. It goes like this:

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Remember that in the esoteric Christian tradition of our church, we recognize that what may be presented as happening over time, over past, present, and future, is like myth in the positive sense of the word — not as some idea which is not true, but as narratives which tell in story form truths that are true all the time. So it is that this new covenant which God will write in our hearts is really there now, already, if we look deeply enough. Faith is believing that this prophecy is fulfilled in you and me now; that if we look far enough into our hearts, around all the corners and complexes, we can see the writing already emblazoned there. Confidence means that we can know the right thing to do, not by some externally imposed law, whether religious or civil, but because you and I see there carved into the bedrock of our own consciousness, and thereby know what is right.



One implication, the prophet tells us, is that we don't need to teach someone else, our neighbor or our brother or sister, about the law of God, because it is already inscribed in his or her heart as much as in our own. We need to trust, and to give that person space to find it even as we have found it. This is in the spirit of Jesus saying, "Judge not, that ye be not judged."

Jeremiah goes on to have God say he will forgive their iniquity; in this same spirit, we can and should forgive, even as we are forgiven. This is again reflected in Lord's Prayer, where Jesus teaches us to say, "Forgive us our trespasses, even as we forgive those who trespass against us."

True, we may not all be there at this point in time. In some of life's difficult dilemmas, external law, religious or otherwise, can be a help by getting in touch with the wisdom of the community and of our spiritual tradition. In present-day real life, others may need to be told some hard truths, or even restrained. It is not a perfect world yet.

Our theme for today, however, is Confidence. Living with confidence,

living with true faith, must mean above all else believing you can find, and then finding, the law of God for you written in your own heart, in the deep places of consciousness.

This means being who you are, not trying to be someone else. Too many people mess up their lives, and those of others around them, by trying to be someone other than who they are — the person their parents, their lovers, their community, even themselves seeking an ideal, wanted them to be — rather than the person God has written in their hearts they are to be. That other person may be a good person, but she or he is not you, and that life will not work for you in the long run; in the East they say you must live your own dharma or path, not another's.

Confidence in the law written in your heart also means being accountable to yourself and God for your actions, not rationalizing and explaining them away. This is also something we do too often, saying “I didn't understand the consequences. . .” “Nobody told me. . .” and the like. But if it is actually written within, we have no excuse for not understanding, or not being told externally.

Then as you learn the law of God within you are to follow, another discernment must come: knowing the part of the path laid out for you that is also right for all people, and that aspect of it which is special to you. None of us are to lie, steal, or kill. But each one of us may have a special calling as to what truth particularly to proclaim, or how to keep the peace or bring peace to the world.

How do we find this law of God written within? Remember, God can always help us find God. The God we honor here in church, above all on the altar, will be with us when we leave the precincts and meditate at home, seeking the divine within.

There, the best way is prayer and meditation, above all the prayer of quiet listening. Sit still until the mind clears and what is deep down in it becomes visible, and you can see the writing. The practice is like placing a jar of muddy water in a still place; in time the mud will sink to the bottom and the water will become clear. This is one thing you can try at home. Do so.



“To serve and adore”

Devotion

By Rev. Terrence Metz

Sermon for the Tenth Sunday after Trinity

There is one path for true devotion to God and that is the Service of Man. As God is one who became many, so we are the many who aspire to become one. Today’s intent of devotion is so wonderfully summarized with an indirect reference to the Seven Rays, at the conclusion of our Holy Eucharist. Did you realize that the Post Communio, captured today in its original source from St John the Divine in Revelations, reflects all seven rays? When we sing “Amen: Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving, and honor and power and might,” our words reflect the seven as one — much like a prism shows the rainbow coming from one light.

Let’s take a closer look at the Sixth Ray of Devotion, also viewed as Reverence, to see how it can help us in the Service of Man. Here I will borrow from ten different sources, all subject to the bias and error of human interpretation.

Yoga: Sixth ray of Devotion – Bhakti yoga

The yoga of Devotion — the act of feeling love and devotion for a divine object or person.

Bhakti Yoga is the Yoga most practiced by people in India, and is at least 3500 years old. The object of love and devotion may be God, a deity such as Devi (a Goddess), a Spiritual person such as a guru (teacher), or the supreme being which is beyond words and concepts. The goal of Bhakti Yoga is communion with or total merging with the divine. The chakra represented is the third, or the solar plexus, that corresponds to Manipura in the Vedic tradition.

The planet associated with Devotion is Mars, the red planet. Not surprisingly, the ruby is the gem representing devotion, and a ruby sits in the lower left of our altar stone, as well as the candle to the far left. Our sixth ray cross hangs in the church in the back of the church on the far left as you face the altar, making it geographically the northwest. While the ray is called devotion, when the altar candle is censed, we should fill our minds with thoughts of Service to Man, such as “I will enfold within myself the mighty power of devotion that through it I may bring others to Him.”

The human principle represented is the emotional body as the color of the ray is a fiery rosetta. The symbol is a four-petaled flower such as a rose. It has been suggested that the best retreat location for a Sixth Ray individual is the Hawaiian archipelago or Islands, particularly for the influence of its etheric plane. For other representations we have the art form as Architecture.

Master Jesus is the head of this ray, and while reflecting most religions, certainly embraces Christianity in particular.

Zadkeil is called the “Benevolence of God,” the ray through which God’s devotion is poured out upon man and in reverse, we call devotion. Zadkiel stands both as recipient and transmitter of that devotion.

The Sixth Joyous Mystery

The Resurrection or Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Meditation: As in the Holy Eucharist the substance of bread and wine transcends time and space to become His Real Presence, know that in the Holy Eucharist Christ greets us again as He did His followers at the first Easter.

Prayer: O Lady of Triumph, send your angels to raise our hearts and let us feel the same joy which you felt when you were greeted that Easter morn by Him Who was both your Son and Master.

Quest, Challenges, and Attributes

“To serve and adore, to worship the Cause.” Some Types associated with the Sixth Ray of Devotion include the mystic saint, martyr and reformer, such as St Francis, St Clare, and in modern day, St Teresa. The primary challenges include the need to overcome impulsiveness, intolerance, or to ignore the intellect. On the positive side, attributes include reverence, gentleness, sincerity, one-pointedness, ardor, fiery enthusiasm, sacrifice, love, loyalty, selfless devotion, goodness, and lofty idealism.

Destiny

The Sixth Ray Path is to become part of the Spiritual Forces of God and to take the Nirmanakaya Vesture. He resides normally in the Causal body though retaining the astral and physical permanent atoms, so that he can at any time supply the reservoir from which spiritual power can be poured over the world. C.W. Leadbeater writes in ***The Master and the Path***: “The Nirmanakaya is to supply a great store of Spiritual Force for the helping of men. All the time They generate this Force taking no part for Themselves, but putting it all at the service of the Brotherhood for Their use in lifting the heavy burden of the world.”

Finally, one of those few memories permanently etched in my feeble mind is a picture of our Regionary Bishop jumping into action to be of service. We sat in a Chicago diner by the window and I noticed a lady in wheelchair being pushed by a friend into the restaurant. They were having problems opening the door. Rather than sit in wonder as they struggled, the Bishop jumped into action, went to the door and assisted them. I sat in stupor. To this day I wonder why I was not the person who jumped into action, but this I do know. While I was incompetent, I was also conscious, and consciousness precedes competence. Hopefully, if I take the Intent of Devotion seriously, I will be the one who next jumps into action to be of service to the Many, thus proving my devotion to the One.

I never look at the masses as my responsibility.
I look at the individual.
I can love only one person at a time.
I can feed only one person at a time.
Just one, one, one.

You get closer to Christ by coming closer to each other.
As Jesus said, “Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do to me.”
So you begin...I begin.
I picked up one person—
maybe if I didn't pick up that one person I wouldn't have picked up 42,000.
The whole work is only a drop in the ocean.
But if I didn't put the drop in, the ocean would be one drop less.
Same thing for you, same thing in your family, same thing in the church where you go.
Just begin... one, one, one.

Mother Teresa

BOOK REVIEW

The Source of Miracles: 7 Steps to Transforming Your Life Through the Lord's Prayer *By Kathleen McGowan*

Reviewed by Mary Donovan

Kathleen McGowan is a writer of religious and historical fiction who can captivate her audience with her stories. She is able to blend known history, orthodox religious beliefs and what-if storytelling skills to create a story that keeps you coming back for more.

In this partially autobiographical, partially self-help book, McGowan weaves some of her story and experience with miraculous results from praying the Lord's Prayer as a way of transforming unfortunate experiences into something wonderful. As she explains her situation, she asks questions and presents scenarios to bring the reader into a contemplative state that brings better understanding of the prayer's possible meanings. She attempts to not guide the reader, but does not always succeed in being unbiased.

There are seven chapters that each focus on one part of the prayer, with questions for inner work and contemplation.

Because of this inner work, I have not finished the book. I get to a place where I need to do some work, and I stay there until I am comfortable. I think I will be returning to this type of internal work many times in the remainder of this life. As I experience more living, there will be changes that I make and understandings that I acquire and these will affect my relationship to the Divine and to this prayer.



Stained Glass Window, Shalom Center, Dubuque, Iowa

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Kathleen Clute and Parish Correspondents

News from the Presiding Bishop

Recent Ordinations

The Rt. Rev. William S.H. Downey, Regionary Bishop, ordained Douglas Bess and Ted Ichino to the Diaconate in June at Our Lady and All Angels Church, Ojai. The newly ordained Deacons serve in the parish of St. Alban Church, Los Angeles.

Provincial News

Website All sound files on the [Provincial website](#) are now in an easily downloadable format. This includes the music for Prime, Complin, the Eucharist, and the sung version of Our Lady's Rosary of the Seven Rays.

Facebook In addition, a Facebook page has been created for The Liberal Catholic Church Province of the United States. If you are active on Facebook, please take a moment to "Like" our page at <https://www.facebook.com/TheLiberalCatholicChurchProvinceOfTheUnitedStates>

LCIS The Very Rev. Alan Clute, Provost and LCIS director, has announced that the LCIS website is now open for access by those in Minor Orders, members of the Order of Our Lady, and all members of The Liberal Catholic Church who would like to study the LCIS materials in order to deepen their understanding of our church and its history and teachings. If you are in Minor Orders and need to begin your LCIS studies, please contact [Fr. Alan](#) for more information.

Retreat Announcement

Order of Our Lady, New Mexico

The Order of Our Lady in New Mexico will hold our second retreat this year, returning to the Norbertine Abbey in Albuquerque, Friday, November 1, to Sunday morning, 11/3. We will conclude by attending the celebration of Holy Eucharist on Sunday at Our Lady Queen of Angels in Rio Rancho.

We invite all women in our Provincial churches to join us. If you would be interested in doing so, please contact me at herself@ackc.name. The cost is anticipated to be between \$80 and \$120, depending on how many participants attend.

Our first retreat last year was spiritually refreshing and we look forward to deepening our connection with our Lord Christ, our Blessed Mother Mary, and all our sisters from across the country this autumn. Please come!

Kathleen Clute

Parish News

The Church of St. Francis, Villa Park, Illinois

Greetings from the Church of St. Francis in Villa Park, IL. Our Holy Eucharist is every Sunday at 10:00 am. If you are ever in the area, please stop by and celebrate Eucharist with us. In addition to Sunday Eucharist, there is a Healing Service led by Fr. Daniel Provost on the first Wednesday of every month, and The Ray Rosary on select dates. We also have a pancake breakfast after Holy Eucharist on the 5th Sunday of the month. We offer books, small gifts, and hand assembled 7 Ray Rosaries for sale. Our newsletter is published 7 times per year, and is very informative. Please [email us](#) for more information. Check us out on Facebook, search "Church of St Francis".

We were honored to host Bishop William Downey during Holy Week. The week following, 10 of our members and Bishop Downey travelled 4 hours west to attend the annual LCC retreat hosted by St. Gabriel and All Angels in Dubuque, Iowa, at the Shalom Retreat Center. It was a very delightful two weeks!

We are continuing along with our adult education classes on the Lost Christianity video series. A third incense workshop took place. Everyone got their hands dirty as we learned to hand roll incense cones.

On June 22nd, Rt. Rev. Bishop Ruben Cabigting gave a presentation, after a potluck, and followed by healing and solemn benediction. A picnic is scheduled for August 25. And Theosofest in September will be here before we know it.

Please extend our greetings to everyone, and wishes that everyone has a safe, happy, and fun summer!

Rebecca Collin



*Fr. Terrence Metz, members of the Order of Our Lady, Bishop Downey, Fr. Daniel Provost, and Josh Novak.
Photo courtesy of Rebecca Collin.*

Church of St. Albert, Greeley, Colorado

St. Albert's Gets a Steeple • December 8, 2012, Feast of the Immaculate Conception

St. Albert's Church recently added a steeple as part of an ongoing remodeling project. "I've done many projects and worn many hats over the years as a parish priest and Rector. But, I had never installed a steeple before," says Fr. Brian Satterlee. With the help of many of the members of St. Albert's and a crane, the installation was easy. That night the weather turned cold and snowy. Forty to fifty mile winds began to blow. So, the new steeple had its first test within hours of the installation. The steeple has made St. Albert's very visible in the neighborhood. The building has been a church since the 1940s, but it never had a steeple. We are so proud that it was installed on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Erin Satterlee



*St. Albert parishioners installing the new steeple; and the Church of St. Albert with steeple installed.
Photos courtesy of Erin Satterlee.*

Our Lady Queen of Angels, Rio Rancho, New Mexico

It's been a busy spring and summer at Our Lady Queen of Angels, here in Rio Rancho, NM.

There was a Mother's Day Tea at the Fairwinds Tea Room, on Saturday, May 11, that the Order of Our Lady sponsored. Bp. William recorded a wonderful message for all the ladies who attended; it can be heard on the Provincial website [here](#).

Kathleen Clute recorded Bp. Downey's message and some of her music on a CD that each lady in attendance received. Also on the CD was a recording of Heather Donovan reading **Proverbs 32:10-31**, the attributes of a successful woman. The Fairwinds provides a classic British High Tea that was a true treat for all the ladies. There were several mother-daughter combinations who attended.

Later in May, we held the annual Rummage and Bake Sale. Enough money was raised to help defray the cost of replacing the playground equipment damaged during the vandalism in December.

In June there were a number of baptisms. On one weekend, a mother and daughter were baptized and had their first First Communions. On another Sunday, a father and his baby son were baptized, followed by First Communion for dad. And on the third Sunday was baptism for a young lady who is now getting some education before her First Communion.

Parishioner and stained glass creator Karen Conti has begun a project to create stained glass windows for the sanctuary. The first window has been installed and adds beauty and peacefulness to our church.



Over several weekends in May, June, and July, work was done in the back yard for the playground equipment to be put in. Some of our youth (including a 4-year-old and two 5-year-olds) helped assemble and place the equipment. We are now waiting for a storm-free day to put the shade awnings up, so it's not quite so bright and glare-y for the kids to play out there.

Then in July was the Fourth of July party. Hamburgers, hot dogs, lots of delicious side dishes and ice cream to feed the body. Conversation, music (recorded and live), and fireworks to feed the soul. Because of the fire danger here in New Mexico, we did not have streetside fireworks but enjoyed the fireworks shows from Rio Rancho High School and the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Park. Since the church sits on a hill overlooking the valley, the view of both venues was great. It was also possible to see a shimmer of the show at Kirtland Air Force Base.

Later in July, one of the church members suggested that we start a study group to investigate some of the non-Biblical writings that are reflected in Christian teachings. It started by discussing **Esoteric Christianity** by Annie Besant. The group is called 'Esoterica' and meets every two weeks in the church Fellowship Hall.



Mary Hood & Kim Hood at the Mother's Day Tea.



Young Gabriel is very enthusiastic about being baptized.

Looking forward, OLQA will welcome Bp. William for Assumption weekend. We are planning for Confirmations during Mass on Saturday and Admissions and Elevations in the Order of Our Lady during Mass on Sunday. Those who will be confirmed are Matthew Taibbi, Andrea and Ilianna Garcia, Andrea and Ambrose Montera, Maria Martinez, SaLisa Martinez and Cassie Wright. Catherine Osborn will be admitted to Order of Our Lady; and Deaconess Kim Berget, Kathleen Clute, and Mary Donovan will be elevated to the Stage of Will.

Mary Donovan

Photos accompanying this article courtesy of Mary Donovan and Kathleen Clute.

St Gabriel & All Angels, Fairfield, Iowa

LCC Spring 2013 Retreat LibCats from five parishes gathered for fellowship and service with Bishop William Downey at the Spring 2013 Retreat in Dubuque, Iowa. The parishes represented were Our Lady and All Angels, Church of St. Albert, Church of St. Francis, St. Raphael and All Angels, and host parish St. Gabriel and All Angels.

The theme for this year's retreat, "The Service of God," was evident in a full array of Liberal Catholic services including Healing and Solemn Benediction, Prime, Rosary, Holy Eucharist, as well as in several ordinations to Minor Orders, and the always appreciated "Bishop's Hour." The Circle of Sophia presented their liturgy to the feminine divine, "Sophia Sanctissima".

In the context of services, Bishop William ordained Matt Finesilver, Peter Huggins, and William Eddy as Clerics, and then advanced William Eddy and Will Richards to Doorkeeper, Raymond Amegatcher to Reader, and Josh Novak to Acolyte.

Save the date for next year's retreat on May 16-18, 2014 (Friday evening through Sunday lunch). We look forward to seeing you.

Eagle Scout Project Bryan Prather-Huff, LCC member and server, earned his Eagle Scout badge on May 12, through his project of upgrading the St. Gabriel and All Angels Church sign. The sign had received extensive storm damage and was in great need of repair and upgrading.

RAGBRAI Fundraiser The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) offered a perfect opportunity for a church fundraiser on July 26th, when 25,000 riders and support people descended on Fairfield after their 6th day on the road of a 7-day journey. The 400 mile trek started in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the bank of the Missouri River and ended in Fort Madison on the bank of the Mississippi River.

St. Gabriel and All Angels hosted bike blessings and a spaghetti dinner including spaghetti with marinara sauce, salad, roll, and apple pie for hungry bike riders and their support teams. Seth Braun, a member and trustee of St. Gabriel and All Angels, orchestrated the event with innumerable volunteers from the parish and the community, who blessed, donated, planned, purchased, prepared, served, and then cleaned up after serving approximately 400 spaghetti dinners. More than one happy rider said, "Best food on the trip!"





A hearty “Thank you” to Seth and all who contributed their time and energy to making this fundraiser a great success. The church netted approximately \$3400 (including a \$1000 donation for dinner expenses), which will go towards repairing the roof.

Sylvia Richards

Photos on pages 10 & 11, from top:

*Participants and clergy at the Midwest Retreat 2013;
Eagle Scout Bryan Prather–Huff with his handiwork;
St Gabe’s parishioners welcoming RAGBRAI riders.*

Photos courtesy of Sylvia Richards.

The Stone Crosses of Cill Fhionnúrach (Kilfenora), County Clare, Ireland

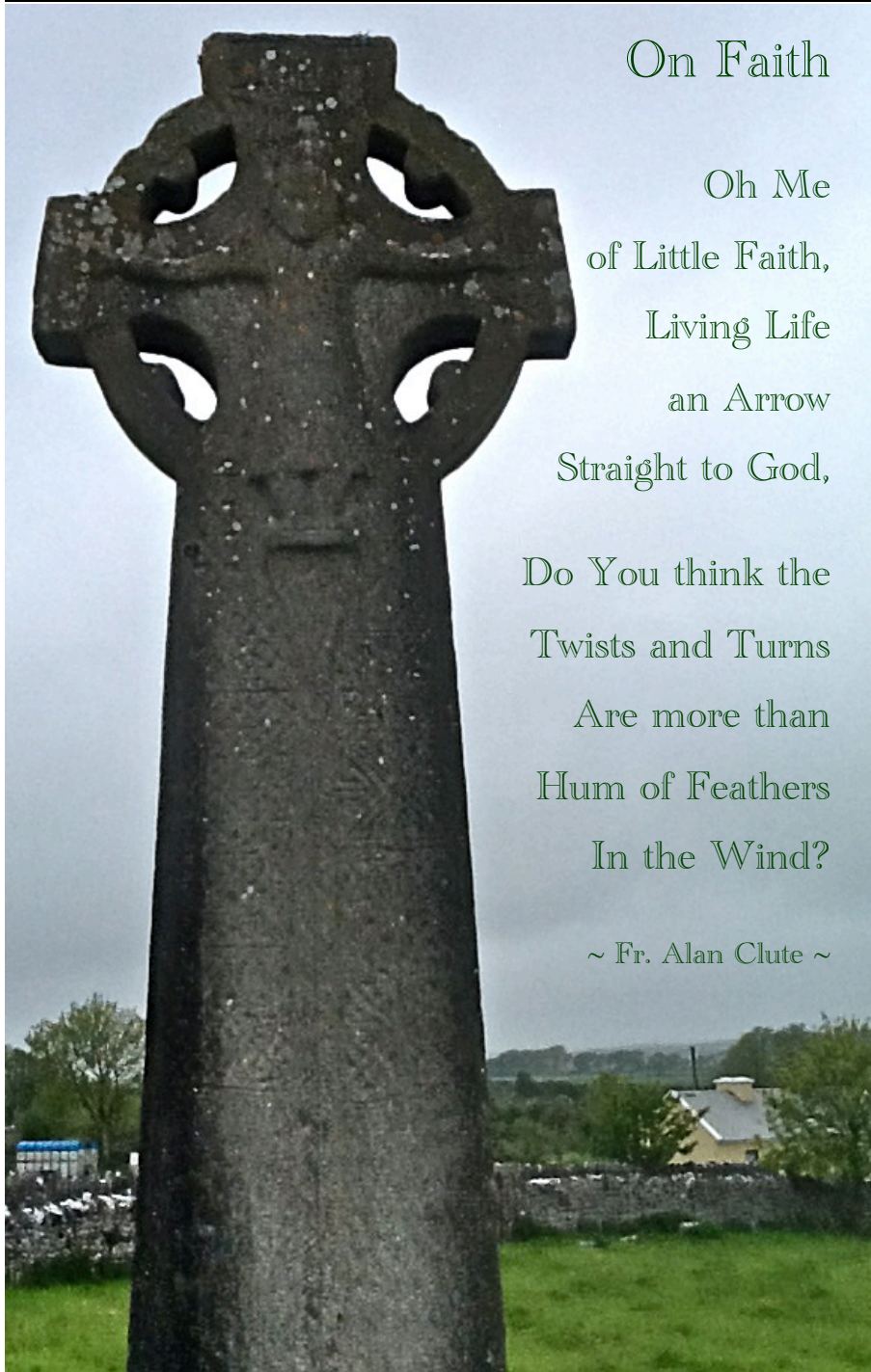
In and near the medieval Kilfenora Cathedral, now partly in ruins, stand five (originally seven) celtic stone crosses. The famous Doorty Cross, pictured below, depicts figures of a Bishop (crozier) and an Abbot (tau cross) united under the Pope. Below the bishop and abbot, a raven plucks at two persons who were too greedy to donate to the Church!

Another of the stone crosses (pictured on page 2) is more traditionally celtic, with spirals and arcs. A window in the east transept of the cathedral is pictured on page 3. The High Cross (page 12), which still stands in its original location about 200 yards west of the cathedral, depicts the Risen Christ welcoming all.

Cill Fhionnúrach and the surrounding Burren are very spiritual locations — I highly recommend a visit!

Kathleen Clute (pictures & text)





On Faith

Oh Me
of Little Faith,
Living Life
an Arrow
Straight to God,

Do You think the
Twists and Turns
Are more than
Hum of Feathers
In the Wind?

~ Fr. Alan Clute ~

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Contributors freely express their
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Save the Dates!

**Triennial Provincial Assembly & Clerical Synod
October 16–19, 2014
Our Lady Queen of Angels in Rio Rancho, New Mexico**

Plan to attend!