



The Antioch Community Voice

A newsletter published by the Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch

This issue was edited by +Diana Phipps.

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FROM THE EDITOR:

WELCOME to the first edition of *THE ANTIOCH COMMUNITY VOICE*.

When I started *Friends of Sophia*, a newsletter supporting Sophia Divinity School in the mid to late 1990's, technology was not nearly so sophisticated as it is today. However, as an aging almost Baby Boomer I have not kept up with all of the technology.

Perhaps while this will not be the most current layout with all of the bells and whistles, I do pray that the content will make up for editorial deficiencies.

During and after our recent convocation it became apparent that we are a community and as community we would all like to be connected in some way through out the year.

Our Convocation in St. Louis this year was a tremendous experience and it is my desire to present some of those who took part, and their many gifts as we begin one of the central celebrations of our church year.

Advent is the beginning of our church year and it is fitting that as we once again begin the cycle of the new year, we also have begun a new cycle in our church.

We have come through the long pregnancy and have now been reborn into a new and exciting, yet challenging, consciousness.

Times have changed since the late 90's. We are all different people. We have been beaten upon, our national security could be in question, and our political process has sometimes deteriorated into sand throwing in the sand box.

What better time to launch a new consciousness that is the Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch?

The first fifty years of our body were celebrated in a world that now appears much different. We were almost spoiled by the predictability of life. Religion had it's place, but not a whole lot of meaning. If one looks backs on the history of Christianity and fast forwards to the present, one might be disillusioned at the discovery that Christianity has not been very successful. Our behavior on many

levels does not look much like the young Rabbi from Galilee was challenging us to become.

It was during Convocation 2011 that I first felt the quickening and the nudging birth of a new concept of church: Community.

Looking around at those who had made great sacrifices to come to the heartland of our country, bringing with them their many talents, I was thrilled, as were many others.

As we prayed together each morning and evening, celebrated the Feast of Thanksgiving each day, and welcomed new seminarians, I realized that we have all been given a new call. The call to Community is a deep call that resides in the soul of each one of us. We all yearn to be connected. It is the goal of this little newsletter to an instrument of that connection.

Each member of our little body is invited to share in this presentation. For those of you who have contributed I say "thank you" for your contribution.

In the future I will be asking others for your reflection, poetry, book reviews or musings.

+Diana Phipps

WELCOME FROM +MARK ELLIOTT NEWMAN, OC

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the **Antioch Community Voice**, an occasional publication for the seminarians, clergy and friends of the US Catholic Church of Antioch. As the name suggest, this is the voice of the Antioch

community, an opportunity for you to share your thoughts and experiences with others in the Church. As a geographically extended community, we are not always aware of events taking place in other areas or with other ministries. In an effort to remedy that **The Antioch Community Voice** will serve as a vehicle to inform everyone of the way the Spirit is moving through our Church. Your submissions are vital to its success. On behalf of our editor, Bishop Diana Phipps, I invite you to send news of activities in your local ministries. Photos are particularly encouraged. I also invite your comments on any books you have read that impacted you spiritually or which address contemporary issues confronting the larger Church Catholic. Your comments on spiritual themes in general as well as original poems are also invited.

I wish to extend my personal thanks and appreciation to Bishop Diana for volunteering to serve as editor and to the Episcopal Council of Advisors for their support of this undertaking.

+Mark Elliott Newman, OC
Presiding Bishop

ADVENT: THE SEASON OF PREPARATION

Marian Bellus+

As a result of her unconditional YES !, as described in the Annunciation, Mary suddenly found herself contemplating both the next nine months of pregnancy and what God might have in store for her as the mother of the Word made flesh. When Mary said yes, we are all aware of what a great leap of faith that must have been. But what about the period of pregnancy itself? What connections can we draw between the nine months that

Mary carried Jesus and our yearly Advent preparation for the celebration of Christmas?

A few weeks ago I was delighted to be able to visit a new mother and father and to hold a brand new baby boy in my arms - the first time in years! It brought to mind many beautiful memories of my own children, but I was also struck by all the preparations that had been made for this newborn child. Not only were all the accoutrements of babyhood in evidence but also the hard work of both parents in getting the house and the yard in order before the birth of their child. I've never seen such a relaxed new mother, and I think part of that had to do with the good job she and her husband had done in preparing for this great change in their lives.

I like to think of Advent in the way that nature "thinks" of those last weeks of pregnancy for a woman, that time of nesting behavior that occurs in preparation for the new life about to be born into the world. In the last trimester, in particular, the mother slows down, of necessity, and has the opportunity to begin concentrating on the birth that soon will be at hand. It's also time for a last flurry of preparation for all that the newborn will need. The flurry of activity is the signal that the birth is immanent, and a portent of the attention and time that will soon be devoted to the newborn's care.

We all have our own individual ideas of what Advent is all about. The celebration of the coming of the Christ Child holds its own dear and personal meaning for each of us. Although it is at Advent that we concentrate on just what the Incarnation means to us personally, I think we need

to recognize this as an ongoing process - a process of understanding what the Light of Christ is and what the Light means to us and to our world. I think we need to worry less about how we will prepare our hearts for Jesus or making room for him in our lives, and more about how we have progressed in our vision of Christ's effect on us. Advent, as a preparation time, is about taking time out and allowing the Spirit to touch our lives, contemplating how much we have been changed by our commitment to Jesus, how his blessings have changed us, and how our outlook on life has been enriched by him. Taking time for the Spirit to work in us is the most important of ways that we can get ready to celebrate the Incarnation.

After the angel spoke to Mary, she knew that her life was about to change tremendously. Preparing for Jesus' birth and actually giving birth were just the beginning of what lay ahead for her. So too, Advent can be for us not just a looking forward to Christmas, but also an anticipation of how our lives can continue to be transformed as our hearts are informed by the Spirit. It is in honoring the *scientia cordis* - the knowledge of the heart - that truly changes our lives. Giving the knowledge of the heart its place of primacy is a foundational belief of those who founded the independent catholic movement. They recognized that the Christ Light illumines us both as individuals and as a community of believers. Jesus calls us to listen to our hearts and to bring our lives in alignment with what we discern.

In our hemisphere, Advent coincides with the Winter season - nature's resting period before she grows "large with child" again in the Spring. I believe that if

we embrace this annual "time out," - this nesting time - we can open ourselves to reflection and to the flurry of insight born of it.

ALOHA!

Hawai'i is pleased to be a part of the Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch. It was so wonderful to have our small church represented at the recent CCoA Convocation in St. Louis.

We were also pleased to offer a presentation on "Hawaiian Spiritual Values." For those of you who were not able to attend, the following is Part 1 of our talk.

The Spiritual Values were in the Islands a thousand years before the Congregational Missionaries first brought their form of Christianity to our islands in 1820. All are based on "*Aloha Ke Akua*" which in English is "God Is Love!" That is the essence of the word *ALOHA*. 'Ha' in Hawaiian is translated as "Breath"- the Breath of Life breathed by God into all of Creation by "Akua" (God) at the dawn of creation. We call it "Mana," the spiritual blessing that is exchanged at Greetings and Departures and many other times as "*ALOHA*." 'Alo' means to give or exchange the Breath of Life (God) to one another. We actually touch noses and breathe on each other! Most Polynesian peoples exchange greetings with "giving Breath" to each other!

The Spirit of Aloha is then that wonderful spirit that fills all our people and islands. It means Hello, Good-bye, Peace, Love, Joy, Life, etc. Every good thing that comes from AKUA comes to each of us.

We not only give Aloha to one another, we attempt to live Aloha with each other every day!

+Brother Jack Isbell, OFC and
Nick Eyre+

BOOK REVIEW

A few years ago I read a book by the author, Marsha Malone, entitled ***Breakthrough***. Marsha was the pseudonym of a person who has now produced her second book under her real name, ***Joan Specht***+

Joan, as some of you might know, is a dear friend of our church, and actually is a retired priest, ordained by our Presiding Bishop. She also happens to live about twenty-five miles from *SpiritSong*, in comfort, Texas.

Her most recent work, ***A Pilgrim's Journey***, written in her seventies is a most interesting read. After living thirty years of the "secure" life (but not without it's deep restrictions) as a Sister of Mercy she embarked on a journey which challenged her in ways of which she could have had no previous conception.

Throughout the many facets of her journey, the reader is exposed to Joan's+ many stops in the pilgrim's life. Writing years after the experiences she is placing everything in context, which is what all pilgrims do as we continue living each day of our pilgrimage. We begin to see a pattern, one that while being lived is just that; being lived. Years later we are able to see how each part of the tapestry is important to creating the project we have become today.

Our first call to Serve is so innocent that by the time we reach our maturity we question whether or not we were ever on the right path. We feel disconnected sometimes from our intention, only to come across a quote as Joan+ shares from Ed Hayes:

Wandering is a special kind of journeying. It involves traveling freely and without haste, which makes it a sort of rambling. A Pilgrim's Almanac.

Joan+ has served her calling well. She served where she stood; the best anyone of us can hope to do. She placed herself ready and the Divine did unto her according to the Divine's will.

A good book, a nice read. Highly recommended.

+Diana Phipps

THE CREED OF THE CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF ANTIOCH

Where the Spirit of God is, there also in the One, True, Catholic and Apostolic Church whose Faith we now sincerely and reverently declare:

We believe in One God, the Creator and Ruler of all things, the Source of all goodness, love, beauty and truth.

We believe in Jesus, the Christ, God made manifest in the flesh, our Example, our Teacher, our Redeemer and our Liberator.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, She who maintains all of Creation, She who is ever present with us for guidance, for comfort, for purification, for strength and for inspiration.

We believe in the forgiveness of sins; our forgiveness of ourselves and of others, being the measure of our alignment with God's infinite Love.

We believe in a life of prayer balanced with service. We acknowledge that our response to our obligations is a measure of our growth in the life and nature of the Christ.

We believe that there is grace for every need, that every need is supplied, and that those who live in the nature of the Christ lack for nothing.

We believe that the Word of God, is eternally revealed in the nature of the Christ, Whom Jesus made manifest in his life, and Whom we seek to manifest in ours.

We believe in the Church as a community of the sons and daughters of God, a center for worship, for service and for growth in perfection.

We believe that truth, harmony and balance shall prevail, resulting in a dynamic quality of life, beginning here on Earth, and continuing throughout all eternity.

AMEN. And So It Is.

[When religious become part of a community we/they profess a series of beliefs or make vows. Our Creed has been included in this first edition of *The Antioch Community Voice* as a reminder of what we, as members of our church community believe.]

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL !!!