



The Antioch Community Voice

A newsletter published by the Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch

Fall, 2014

Convocation 2014 to feature Bishop Leon Hunt



Bishop Leon is the Presiding Bishop of the Autocephalous Catholic Church of Antioch, which is based in the United Kingdom.

In 1982, +Leon was ordained by CCOA's founder, Abp. Herman Spruit and Matriarch Abp. Meri Reynolds Spruit.

In 2010, +Leon was consecrated by +Mark Elliott Newman, CCOA, and +Adrian Stephen Glover, then of The Liberal Catholic Apostolic Church.

During Convocation, +Leon will provide information to CCOA clergy, Sophia Divinity School seminarians, their respective spouses/partners, and invited guests.

**+Leon's convocation topic is:
Mapping the Temple of the Holy Spirit.**

There will be four sessions on this topic, followed by a round-table discussion.



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**Progressive Christianity is the second featured topic of our convocation. In preparation, all CCOA Clergy and Sophia Divinity School seminarians, including those not able to attend convocation, have been asked to read Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity, and Study Guide for the Eight Points. Reviewing the Progressive Christianity website: progressivechristianity.org is also suggested.**

## In Memory: Matriarch Meri, 1926-2014





# Mary Altalo's Ordination to the Priesthood

May, 2014



**+Linda, Mary+ and +Mark**



**Special instructions!**



**Joyful ladies!**



Mary+ with her sons and daughters-in-law (now her daughters!) and with dear friends



## **WOMEN IN HOLY ORDERS? ©**

++ Mary R. Spruit, 1981  
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**God Himself/HERSELF reminded the people through the prophet Isaiah: “My thoughts are not your thoughts, My ways are not your ways –it is Yahweh who speaks – yes, the heavens are as high above earth as My ways are above your ways, My thoughts above your thoughts.” (Is 55:8-9) ...**

**The history of women in Holy Orders is varied and not entirely authenticated being the particular views of those historians in authority at the time in history was recorded ...**

**As we know, theology of Christianity has been male oriented. Rafael Patai, a Jewish scholar and archeologist, stated there was no neuter in the Hebrew language. In the case of nouns, [in other languages] God and other religious words, unfortunately, were expressed by masculine nouns. ...**

**Since time began humankind has needed the male-female balance at the altar. By restoring this missing factor to Christianity, we can become whole, integrated and well-balanced in our worship, in our churches. ...**

**Women in Holy Orders? Why not? Those in Holy Orders should not be restricted by sex discrimination, any more than by nationality or race. The Christ identity can be assumed by women as well as men. To put on the symbolic robes of the Christ, male or female, and to stand before the altar in His role, is a divine privilege. ...**

**Haunting and plaguing questions come to mind before entering into Holy Orders, such as, am I worthy? Is any one human being ever worthy enough? Dare we even question readiness? How are we to determine? ... How can we refuse our Lord? ... the power of Christ compels us forward – and we seem to listen. Or we wouldn't be here. Our destiny is already ordered before we become aware of it.**

**A permanent change takes place at ordination. It is a traumatic experience – so deep and indelible and impressive that we are never the same afterward. The laying on of hands, and the invocation validating and finalizing the Holy Order is a connecting link between the Divine Creator and our underdeveloped, vulnerable, receptive, and tender soul.**

**The Apostolic Succession is as valid given to women as it is when given to men. We have in our Succession, part of the Roman Catholic lineage, however, our church of Antioch does not go along with the Roman Catholic ‘tradition’ that the ‘deposit of faith’ which comes to us from the Apostles, handed down**



(Women in Holy Orders, continued)

**from Jesus Christ is for males only. – Should not women be treated with the same equality as men by the Church? We no longer are to be denied service at the altar of God. – This honor and privilege is a tremendous responsibility. Our responsibility [is] to be a credit to our office, to uphold the dignity of our position, and the protection of the Apostolic Succession. ...**

**The role of women in Holy Orders is important for the balance needed in the sanctuary, to synthesize the negative and positive polarities of masculine and feminine vibrations and to activate the flow of Light and Life on the vertical and horizontal dimensions, in the worship of our Great Lord Yahweh – Father/Mother Creator. ...**

**We ARE worthy; it's been a long and laborious, up-hill climb in gaining admittance to our place in the Holy of Holies in companionship with our men. ... We must have courage! – We ARE on the right track! – We Are being guided!**

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Our founder, Abp. Herman Adrian Spruit, 1911-1994 and
our Matriarch Emeritas, Abp. Mary (Meri) Reynolds Spruit, 1926-2014

Written in response to a question on the seminarians email list in 2012.

As to why [priests are needed]— For bringing God ‘down here’ and ‘in here,’ closer so as to be examined, touched and ... ‘witnessed.’ I think that in living in a culture such as today’s, there is such an emphasis on busy-ness and distraction that people don’t take time to reflect on their relationship to the Divine and are often living loves of ‘numbness,’ Perhaps it is the priest’s job to show them that an ordinary human process is all that is needed to communion with God. The ‘tools’ just need to be activated. Priests bring hope—a hope that engenders further exploration and peace. Priests are instigators—to ‘light a fire’ to impel others to action, to stand with them as they begin the process, and to turn them loose so they can teach others how to do it.

+Linda Rounds-Nichols

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**PLAN NOW
FOR**

Convocation, 2014

*The CCOA convocation is a gathering of
CCOA clergy, and
Sophia Divinity School seminarians, and
invited guests,
along with their respective spouses-partners.*

*Convocation, 2014 is scheduled for
October 23-27.*



*CCOA clergy—Don't miss anything! If you are not on
the email list, contact +Mark or +Linda to be added.*

**Women in the Priesthood ©
COA Founder Herman Adrian Spruit**

**Apostolic Succession ... has ex-
cluded woman. ... Yet the master's
mother ...whom we honor above all
mortals, naturally was a woman.
Some of his most intimate friends
are spoken of as women.**

**... Yet the human claim of a male
priesthood is made. The system is
self condemnation, because of its
history. Much of what has ema-
nated from it has been evil and
hurtful. And the claims it has made
are arrogant and false.**

*from The Sacramentarian, originally published
by HAS around 1979, Then copyrighted and
published by Sophia Divinity School in 1999.*

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CCOA materials herein, contact Presiding
Bishop, +Mark Elliott Newman..**



+Mark Elliott Newman,
CCOA Presiding Bishop
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***"May YHWH bless you and keep you!
May YHWH's face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!
May YHWH look kindly upon you, and give you peace!"***

*Numbers 6:24-26
The Inclusive Bible*

**The Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch
is an independent jurisdiction within the sacramental tradition.**

website: www.churchofantioch.org

This newsletter is brought to you by the CCOA Communications Program, +Linda Rounds-Nichols, editor. We thank those who submitted materials for this issue, and invite all CCOA clergy and seminarians to submit materials for the next issue. Send your items to lindaroundsnichols@yahoo.com. Thanks! Thanks also to proof-reader and all -round helper, Phil Nichols.