

The Antioch Community Voice

A newsletter published by the Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch

Spring, 2020



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Convocation 2019 was held in Arizona with both clergy and laypersons participating. This year CCOA-USA was pleased to welcome the participation of +Daniel Barcnas Arellano, of Iglesia Católica Apostólica de Antioquía (Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch) and +Kimo Keawe of the Cathedral of St. Anthony, Ecumenical Catholic Church of Christ in Detroit, Michigan.

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**Convocation 2020 is scheduled for November 6-9.**

**We will be gathering in Arizona once again.**

**CCOA folks, please mark your calendars.**

**Others: Interested in CCOA? Please contact us!**

## Convocation 2019



We celebrated the 60th birthday of our church. FCCOA ounder ABp. Herman 's photo is shown here with the birthday cake.



We worshipped.



The Bishops blessed and consecrated the oils.



## Convocation 2019

We learned. We talked. We celebrated.  
We socialized. We relaxed. Convocations always aid us in our ministries.  
Lay and Clergy, we are all servants.



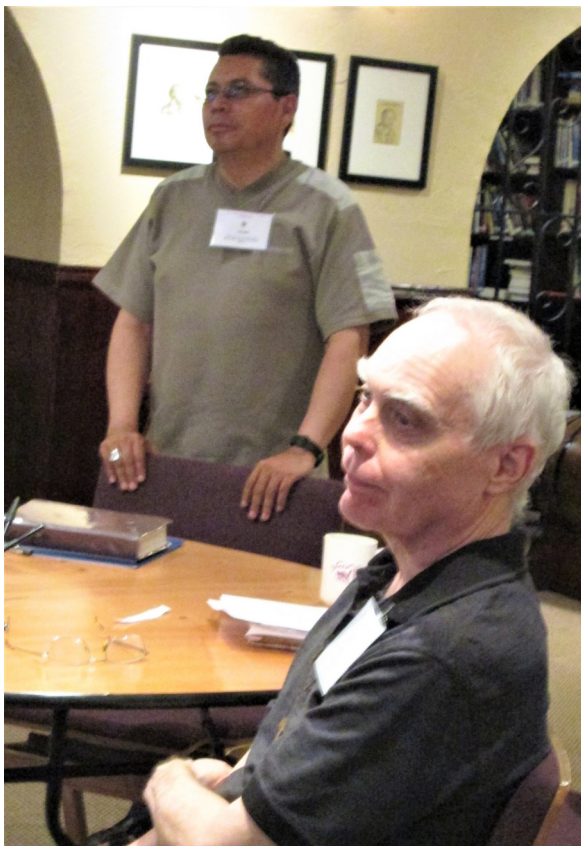
+Michael and +Mark



Sean, Ron+, and Mary+



+Kimo, +Daniel, +Mark, and +Linda



+Daniel and Bro. Dick+



Ron+ and Scott+

## **Mother Mary: Icon of the Indwelling Holy Spirit in the Contemplative Church**

As well as sessions on icons and their use in the church, the majority of Convocation 2019's educational sessions were on the topics of Mother Mary, Jesus and all of us . Mary Altalo+ led us in four sessions, during which she shared much information, including the following topics.

- Mother Mary is an icon of trinitarian love – the trinity cannot be separated.
- Mother Mary is a model of the way to union with God.
- Mother Mary teaches us the way of the mystics, the contemplatives.
- Mother Mary reveals the mysteries, energy, fruits and fire of the Holy Spirit.
- Mother Mary is the epiphany of spirituality in both the tradition and the experience of the church.
- Mother Mary is a model of compassion and non-violence.
- Mother Mary is a personal icon of the church: the movement of love and adoration.
- Mother Mary is the dawn of the Mysterious Day: the Holy Spirit revealing of last things.
- Mother Mary is the Safekeeper of the Eschatological JOY of the church.
- Jesus brought God's Kingdom and unveils the end times.
- Jesus shifted the social paradigm to non-violent resistance.
- We are each one individual facet of the Divine image and we each have our own perspective on truth.

**Essential questions from the Gospels"**

**Who do you say I am?**

**Do you understand what I am doing?**

**Do you understand what I must do?**

**Do you understand what you must do?**

**Do you understand who you are?**

These last two questions are important for individuals and for the church. Altalo's+ last session helped us look at Mary as an inspiration for the church in dealing with a suffering world. After discussing church history, she suggested that CCOA clergy, ministries and CCOA as a jurisdiction ask ourselves some questions. (continued on the next page.)



**Mary Altalo+**

*Photo credit: unknown*

**Mother Mary, cont.**

- What are the “felt presences” in our church collective?
- What is the overarching charism- love/charity?
- What is each chartered ministry’s particular charism?
- Are we willing to classify each of our charters as “churches” with their own Angel and charism- Angel of Antioch?
- What moral stand does the church central and each charter take – what is the heresy that they resist How does each train for this?
- What examples do we have of non-violent resistance taken?

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### **New Intercommunion Agreement**

+Mark Elliott Newman, OC

In January of 2019, Bishop Michael and I had the honor of ordaining Kenneth von Folmar to the historic episcopacy on behalf of the Anthem Network, since renamed the Convergent Christian Communion. The Convergent Christian Communion sees itself as a place of convergence for Christian Tradition---a church that is evangelical, sacramental, and charismatic, with all three streams converging, not in confusion, but in unity, with no one stream overtaking the other. Bishop Kenneth serves the Communion as Presiding Bishop and is also based in Phoenix.

Both Bishop Michael and I have had the opportunity to participate in several ecumenical services with the CCC, both at Dignity and at one of the local ELCA parishes. As the Convergent Christian Communion started to grow nationwide, they identified the need to ordain two additional regional bishops. Bishop Michael and I were honored to serve as co-ordaining bishops during the Communion’s Convocation the weekend of February 15/16, 2020.

As a result of our connection through Bishop Kenneth’s ordination and through our subsequent work together, it became clear that the Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch and the Convergent Christian Communion both embraced all the essentials of the Catholic Christian tradition and met the criteria for formal intercommunion as outlined in the Bonn Agreement. Consequently, a formal intercommunion agreement was signed on Sunday, February 16, 2020, during the Mass of Consecration for the new regional bishops.

If you would like to know more about the Convergent Christian Commission, their website is [www.convergentchristian.com](http://www.convergentchristian.com).



## **Why the CCOA is Right for St. John's**

**Ron Catherson+**

**For a while I recognized that I was being called to the ministry of priesthood. This calling was revealed to me by many events and friends within my life. The Independent Catholic jurisdiction I was in was not the right place for me; I had to find another jurisdiction.**

**Where does one look? The internet of course! I searched and searched and was not able to find a jurisdiction that would fit my ministry and my life. This was very discouraging, but I knew that God would not call anyone to a ministry if there were no way to fulfill it. I just had to keep looking.**

**Talking with an artist friend who recognized my calling led me to another female artist who wears a clergy collar. I searched the internet with this artist's name and found her web site. One of the pages talked about her ordination to the priesthood with the Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch. And, lo and behold (remember the importance of the word behold?) she had a link to their web site. Click ... review ... looks interesting. I sent the link to the web site to a mentor friend (the late Deacon Scavone) who was living in Georgia at the time. I wanted his take – his approval – on this church.**

**After his approval, I sent an email to the presiding bishop and received a reply! The web site was still active. The presiding bishop was in Mexico and would call me when he returned home. A few days later, the home phone rang and after a long conversation I was a seminary student in the Sophia Divinity School. Five and half years later, I was able to practice my ministry as a priest.**

**However, St. John's Catholic Church of Antioch was active before I was ordained into the priesthood. The time I was in seminary was spent developing my ministry into a full church. The material goods, people, procedures, policies, and whatever was needed to be a church in the Las Cruces community were accumulated. When I was ordained as a deacon, we found a worship place and began holding Communion Services every Sunday. Also, the other duties that may be preformed by a Deacon such as baptisms and weddings were conducted. Once I was ordained to the priesthood, then all sacraments and duties given to me were then exercised.**

**My ministry is not just within St. John's Catholic Church of Antioch. It includes participating in interfaith groups and events, supporting the refugees, and those in need in the local community and in the world. St. John's is governed by a Parish Council which creates the policies and procedures as well as a budget for the monies given to the church. The Council continues to be aware of the needs of not only the church, but also the local and worldwide needs. St. John's is an active and forward-thinking ministry which I am honored to serve as priest.**



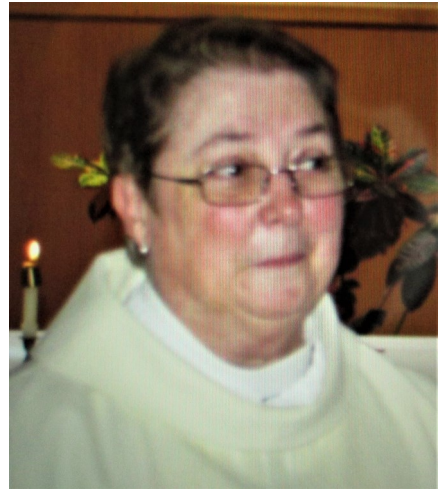
**Ron+**

## **My Ministry**

**Dolly Ryan Walker+**

**My Ministry.** I am a chaplain at the local hospital which service 17 counties and is an acute care not-for-profit hospital in central southern North Carolina. I serve both patients and staff. We have 395 bed capacity. We also have a 22-unit Rehabilitation center, a 30-unit Behavioral Health center and a major hub for other health facilities. We average 4200 employees. Our more severe patients are air-lifted to Duke University (about an hour trip) and many families request prayers/blessings prior to flight. I am “on call” most weekends and holidays. I lead two prayer services on the fourth Sunday of the month and I am part of the Crisis Team. As most chaplains will testify, my “job” is compassionate and creative listening. On Mondays I minister to the Behavioral Health unit and facilitate two groups on Spirituality and Spiritual self-care. During these group meeting at least one CPE (Clinical Pastoral Care Education) student is shadowing me.

**How I found CCOA.** My “chuch” had forbidden me to bring my autistic son to services. My belief system tells me that any church who does not welcome all children and infirmed individuals to its “table” is not a church where I want to be a member. So, I went church (denomination) surfing. One week my husband, a non-church subscriber, read a newspaper article announcing a new church to the area. He said he thought I might want to try it.



The reason I decided CCOA was for me. My nature is to study and evaluate new things, and to make an informed decision. Although there were a couple of major (local) hiccups in my discernment, the Doctrine of Love and my interaction with the primary church leadership convinced me that I had found my church home. I have stayed throughout the years because COA still claims the doctrine of love as its Principle and because it professes most closely the core of my ministry. To my delight when I met some of the church leaders, I was convinced CCOA was Home. God calls me to “Comfort His People”. And I find that comforting people means meeting them where they are, not where I am.

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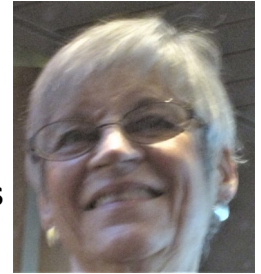
***Our business is to bring life, hope, and reality to men and women who are trying to find a way out of the jungle....the frightened, the confused, the hurting, the shell-shocked, the betrayed.***

COA Founder Herman Adrian Spruit, 1984.

## Twenty, plus, Years! ... And, thank you, Mary+ and Ron+

+Linda Rounds-Nichols

I celebrated my 20 year anniversary as an ordained priest last November. Like many, I wasn't sure where God was leading me, and never would have believed it had I known! Hospice. Grief-Bereavement Work. Prison Ministry. Hospital Pastoral Care. Addictions Ministry. Women's Ministry. Dean of the Seminary. Social Media and Webpage Ministry. Retreats. Travel Ministry. Administrative assistance for a local church. Writing,....and just plain ol' grunt work—many go-pher tasks.



“Who ya gonna call?” (Remember that?) For many years, in CCOA, it was me. Right after ordination I was asked to become an advisor to Sophia Divinity School. I served as Convocation Chair when no one else would help the then Presiding Bishop. I became Assistant Dean of Sophia Divinity School when he needed additional help, then moved into the Dean's position. Assistance with the web-page was needed... and a newsletter. I was called and said yes. It's all good!

It's also good to have other people step forward. Thank you, thank you, thank you, Mary Altalo+, for assuming the responsibilities of web-master/mistress. And thanks yous go to you, Ron Catherson+, for agreeing to the next editor of our newsletter!

And thank you to the CCOA folks who will help Mary+ and Ron+. News items are always needed for the webpage and the Facebook pages. A newsletter is only possible when there are articles to share. So, keep those photos and articles, quotes and news items coming! They will so appreciate your assistance and will send prayers of gratitude to heaven in your name!

Meanwhile, my ministry continues. My current focus is hospital pastoral care, addictions and women's ministry, administrative assistance at a local church and some travel ministry. I'd like to focus on some writing, too. And, as I've always said, once a deacon always a deacon, so I'm sure I'll continue to do whatever tasks that may arise. Maybe I'll have more to share at Convocation, 2020.



Presiding Bishop Mark Elliott Neman, OC

**“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](http://www.churchofantioch.org)

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