



## What's Inside:

## Page

From Presiding Bishop.....	1
Bringing Creativity.....	3
Divine Savior Parish.....	3
Br. Richard Rohr.....	4
To Be A Pilgrim.....	4
Important Dates!.....	5
Convocation 2022.....	6
The Spirit in Egypt./Jordan.....	7

## Presiding Bishop's Remarks



*Photo by Linda/Phil*

**Dear Clergy, Seminarians, and Friends of the Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch (CCOA),**

**For the first time since 2019, clergy and seminarians of the CCOA met in person for our annual Convocation in October of this year. COVID unfortunately curtailed our yearly in-person gatherings in 2020 and 2021, and while we met virtually those years, those meetings lacked the deep sense of connection we invariably experience when we meet in person. Going into our**

**gathering, I wondered privately if the fact that we had not met in person for close to three years would adversely affect our ability to connect as deeply as we normally do, only to be surprised and gratified by the depth and the warmth of the connection those in attendance experienced. It felt to me as if no time at all had passed since we had last been together. What made this experience all the richer was the fact that several new clergy who had not been present at previous Convocations were in attendance and that same deep connection was felt with them and by them also. The Spirit was palpably present and active among us!**

**In my address on the state of the Church, I shared some recent developments that speak to the vitality and growth of the Church. The following is some of what was discussed with those assembled. Several other items were also discussed, including some initial thoughts about future initiatives. If any Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch clergy would like a copy of the complete address, please let me know and I will send you a copy.**

**This year the Church welcomed clergy from the National Catholic Church of North America (NCCNA), an Independent Catholic jurisdiction established by the late Bishop William Wettingfeld. The NCCNA and the CCOA had an intercommunion agreement for many years and our ministries intertwined in numerous ways for over two decades. When the NCCNA decided to dissolve earlier this year, the then current presiding bishop of the NCCNA, Leonard Walker, and I began discussing the possibility of their clergy being received into the CCOA. Given the many years of friendship between our two jurisdictions and our similar approaches to faith and practice, it seemed a logical next step. Bishop Leonard discussed this with his clergy and invited Bishop Michael and me to meet with them as well, which we did in Kingman AZ, and via a separate Zoom meeting. With only a few exceptions, most of the clergy of the NCCNA agreed to be received into the CCOA. I discussed this with the bishops of the CCOA, all of whom enthusiastically expressed their approval and support. On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Bishop Michael and I traveled to Kingman and received the following clergy into the Church: Bishop Leonard Walker, Bishop Gene Young, Rev. Kathleen Jess, Rev. Cynthia Worrell, and Deacon Richard Brown. The liturgy and rite of reception was televised on Facebook live and is still available on Facebook for your viewing.**

**Another priest of the NCCNA, Rev. Mary Wagner of Aurora IL could not be present for the incardination service in Kingman and was subsequently incardinated via a Zoom meeting attended by clergy of the CCOA on August 13<sup>th</sup>.**

(continued on next page)

## Presiding Bishop's Remarks (continued)

While overall, the incardination of clergy from the NCCNA was a joyful and uplifting series of events, there is one unfortunate note of sadness as well. Shortly after the incardination service in Kingman, Bishop Gene, whose health had been declining for several years was hospitalized and subsequently passed into eternal life. A memorial service was held for him in Phoenix on September 17<sup>th</sup> and Bishop Leonard presided a Requiem liturgy for the repose of his soul on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Although our time with Bishop Gene was brief, his presence lives on in the memory of the clergy from the NCCNA whose lives he touched and through Bishop Michael for whom Bishop Gene served as co-consecrator. May his memory be eternal!

This year, we were delighted to welcome Deacon Celeste Handy to our clergy family. Celeste joins us after a distinguished academic career that resulted in her earning an Master of Divinity from Duke University followed by three years as a student pastor in the United Methodist Church. One of the many gifts Celeste brings to the Church is her Native American ancestry and her commitment to serving the spiritual needs of the Native community. Celeste's presence and participation in the life of the Church will enrich us in ways we have yet to discover. We look forward to what she will teach us.

The CCOA has also received increased international attention this past year. Earlier this year, we were approached by the United Liberal Catholic Church of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a request for an intercommunion agreement. Our Churches share apostolic succession through the Liberal Catholic Church of England, and both emphasize the Christian Mystical tradition. I discussed the request with the bishops of the Church and with their agreement and support, an intercommunion agreement was signed on August 20<sup>th</sup> of this year. I have been invited by the Presiding Bishop of the Church to visit them next year, and God willing I would like to do so.

I am also in the very early stages of discussion with a bishop and priest in Uganda who have requested incardination into the CCOA. We have also been approached by a former Roman Catholic seminarian in Sierra Leone concerning completion of his seminary studies through Sophia Divinity School and ordination in and for the CCOA. I will keep the Church informed as things develop.

Bishop Michael and I are also finalizing details for the priestly ordination of Benoit Moreau of Riviere du Loup, Quebec Province, Canada. Benoit completed his Baccalaureate in Theology at Laval University and has been engaged in lay ministry in both the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches. We are excited to see the presence of the Church grow in Canada and are hopeful that his ordination will result in additional vocations.

Our growth in vocations both nationally and internationally is due in no small part to the Church's digital presence. Internet presence is essential to the continued growth of the Church, and I am pleased to report that our digital presence has grown during this past year. At my request, Bishop Linda undertook the task of upgrading the Church's website. Bishop Linda consulted with our Internet Service Provider, MorePro, and gave our website a clean, modern, and visually inviting appearance. Many hours of dedicated labor went into the finished product, and I am deeply grateful and appreciative of all Bishop Linda's efforts.

Also, at my request this year, Bishop Michael and Rev. Mary Altalo created the first ever stand-alone website for Sophia Divinity School (SDS). Many hours of intense discussion went into the design and content of the site, and the finished product more than justifies the time it took to give birth to it. I am pleased to report that the SDS now has a state-of-the-art website because of their efforts. I appreciate the gift of their time, knowledge, and talent and I ask you to join me in applauding them for their accomplishment.

On the ecumenical front, the CCOA continues to be involved in ecumenical activities on both a national and international level. As mentioned previously, we established an intercommunion agreement with an independent Catholic jurisdiction in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and are in dialogue with clergy in Uganda concerning some level of participation with the US Church. Nationally, the Church remains an active participant in the Catholic Bishops Forum (CBF). I have been serving on the Steering Committee of the CBF for over a year and this year with the expansion of the Steering Committee, Bishop Linda joined the Committee. The CBF is a gathering of bishops who are seeking ways to be supportive of each jurisdiction's ministry, to share resources,

*(continued on next page)*

and help establish some agreed upon principles for ordination to ministry and the selection of candidates for ordination to the episcopacy. The CBF meets quarterly; three of those meetings are via Zoom and the fourth is in person. Our most recent in-person meeting was held in St. Louis from October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the CCOA was well represented with four of our five Church bishops in attendance.

Some of our clergy also are active with Fr. Jayme Mathias' group, Extraordinary Catholics, participating as their schedules allow on the many clergy chats and virtual happy hours held by the group on Zoom. Mother Kathleen Jess is a frequent contributor to their magazine. Extraordinary Catholics met in Phoenix on November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, and I was fortunate to be in attendance to represent our Church.

On the local level, several of our clergy are involved in ecumenical activities in their areas. Church Central supports and encourages ecumenical activities as much as possible.

Thank you for taking the time to read through these opening remarks. They are admittedly lengthy, but I wanted to take this opportunity to share this information not only with those who did not attend Convocation this year, but also with our ecumenical partners. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at [markelliottnewman@msn.com](mailto:markelliottnewman@msn.com). Peace and all good, Bishop Mark Newman

**Bringing Creativity to Our Prayer and Worship.**

**A Retreat**

**by Bishop Linda Rounds-Nichols**



*Photo by Linda/Phil*

After waiting for years, I was finally able to facilitate a retreat for women in the Diocese of the Rio Grande (Episcopal) on the topic of using our creativity during our personal devotions. Not everyone is a linear thinker and not everyone is comfortable (or sometimes able) to be still, so some forms of Bible study, Lectio Divina, sitting contemplation, etc. don't work well.

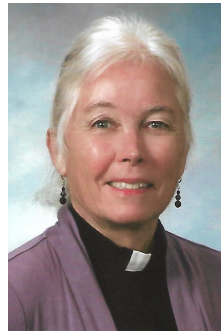
Such people need other means of connection. And, after all, God created us with two sides of the brain, so by including creative activities in our devotions, we turn our whole brain over to the Divine.

This full day retreat, which had been planned for 2020, was held at the end of July, 2022. The pandemic caused two postponements!

When we finally met, we covered three areas: Rhythm, Movement, and the Visual Arts. The women enjoyed participating in a drumming circle and were reminded that the chanting we sometimes do or hear at church can be done at home as well. We followed the instructions of a very talented liturgical dancer by moving-dancing along with her video, and we also walked the labyrinth. During the visual arts segment, we considered the topics of Bible Journaling and Stitch Meditation and then spent time learning about Soul Collage®.

*(continued on next page)*

**Divine Savior Parish**  
**by Mother Kathleen Jess**



*Photo by Mtr. Jess*

Divine Savior is a parish that once belonged to the Jurisdiction of The National Catholic Church of North America founded by Bishop William Wettingfeld of Phoenix, Arizona. Following his death in 2017 the Bishop of Las Vegas, Reverend Sue Provost became our Presiding Bishop until her retirement in 2020 when Reverend Leonard Walker was elevated to bishop and ultimately became the Presiding Bishop.

Bishop Sue had been pastor of St. Valentine, (now a dissolved parish that had been located in North Las Vegas) and I served as one of 3 rotating priests there following my move to Las Vegas in 2017. In 2019 at the request of Bishop Sue, I became the pastor of a new parish we started, St. Anne's in Henderson, NV at a facility for residents with various levels of dementia. Bishop Sue's mother was a resident and her name was Ann. All was going well until COVID hit in 2021 and the facility was closed to outsiders. Ours was but one parish that collapsed due to COVID.

As The National Catholic Church of North America (TTNCCNA) we had small ministries across the United States that became affected by COVID. It became clear that collectively we knew it was time to join with another jurisdiction or eventually collapse

*(continued on next page)*

**Bringing Creativity to Our Prayer and Worship,**  
**A Retreat (continued)**

The women walked away from the retreat, which was hosted by the Diocese of the Rio Grande (Episcopal) and sponsored in part by CCOA's Agape Ministries and St. John's CCOA Church, both in New Mexico, with many experiences, ideas, suggested resources, and one or two Soul Collage® cards. A similar but longer retreat, with a few changes may be held next year in Sedona, Arizona. Planning has just begun!

**Brother Richard Rohr's Retirement**



*Photo from Web*

In October of 1987, Fr. Richard Rohr founded the Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) and in 2022 he is partially retiring – as much as anyone who is ordained can retire. This is his statement:

*“My life and ministry at CAC have exceeded anything I could imagine! I am so grateful to all our supporters for your trust over the years. At this stage in my life, I plan to continue teaching as I am able, but my desire is to make more space for others in our community to carry the mission forward. I thank you for being part of this movement for transformation, and offering our faculty and team the trust you have offered me. There is so much we still can and must do together in service to compassion and healing in our world.” – Richard Rohr*

Join me in wishing him Godspeed and many blessings.

**Divine Savior Parish (continued)**

due to age and health. At that time, along with our Presiding Bishop, Leonard Walker, we also had a bishop and priest serving in Phoenix, Az., Bishop Eugene Michael Young, and Rev. Cynthia Worrel.

Bishop Leonard began speaking with different presiding bishops in the Independent Catholic Movement and in May of 2022 the clergy in The National Catholic Church began the process of being incardinated into the Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch headquartered in Phoenix under the leadership of Most Rev. Mark Elliott Newman.

With the permission of the full community, on July 03, 2022, the Sunday service was the "Order of Service for the Incardination of the Clergy" from the now dissolved jurisdiction (TNCCNA) into the new Jurisdiction. Our parish is now known as: Divine Savior Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch Kingman, Az.

Blessed are the peacemakers. For the Most Rev. Eugene Young the Incardination Service became his last service to attend as a servant bishop. He passed away shortly after returning home to Phoenix. This followed years of being a servant in the church he loved with weakening health. He was beloved by many in Phoenix as well as us here in Kingman. The Most Rev. Eugene Young was honored at two memorial services, one presided by the Most Rev. Mark Elliott Newman in Phoenix on September 17th, and the other on October 2nd, presided by Mother Kathleen Jess with the homily delivered by the Most Rev. Leonard Walker. May his soul be resting in peace, now and forever, Amen.

**To Be A Pilgrim**

**by Most Rev. Theodore Feldmann**



*Photo by Feldmann*

I'm a royalty watcher. It's not tabloid gossip about the Windsors that fascinates me. Rather, I am a student of history and the Windsors are not the only royals. There are other royal families, the Dutch and the Scandinavians for example, all related to each other. Other royal houses exist but are no longer in power such as the German Hohenzollerns and the Austro-Hungarian Habsburgs. Did you know, for example, that Otto von Habsburg, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian crowns, became a respected member of the European Parliament and that his father, Karl, the last emperor, is being considered for sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church?

*(continued on next page)*



## To Be a Pilgrim (continued)

Being royal is not something you choose. It chooses you. The lives of these people are deeply intertwined with a complicated history over which they often have little real control. They have to move with the times while maintaining a respect for tradition. It can be tricky. Those still on their thrones are survivors and that throne can be wobbly. It's not all carriages and palaces.

About a year ago, I watched the memorial service held by Queen Elizabeth II, for her husband, Prince Phillip, who died during the height of the COVID pandemic, his funeral attended by only about 25 people. Elizabeth wanted to pay greater tribute to him with a great state memorial service. As she arrived, at 95, in Westminster Abbey, was she wondering whether her next visit there would be in a coffin? Surely she was reflecting on the many events she attended there over the years, including her wedding and her coronation, with Phillip at her side.

The trumpet fanfares and robust singing of the first hymn were a high point and a statement about a prince and the rest of us (I've altered words for greater inclusivity):

*Those who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster, let them in constancy follow the Master. There's no discouragement shall make them once relent their first avowed intent to be a pilgrim. Those who beset us round with dismal stories, do but themselves confound, our strength the more is. No foes shall stay our might, though we with giants fight; we will make good our right to be a pilgrim. Since, Lord, thou dost defend us with thy Spirit, we know we at the end shall life inherit. Then fancies flee away; I'll fear not what they say, I'll labor night and day to be a pilgrim.*

The hymn is an English folk tune arranged by the great composer, Ralph Vaughn Williams. The text is based on the writings of John Bunyan, from his epic work on the Christian journey, Pilgrim's Progress.

Prince Phillip was not one of my favorite royals. But his life could not have been easy, a man of that era always in the shadow of his wife, seeking a purpose of his own. The tributes suggested that he had accomplished that goal.

It's not easy to be an independent catholic. People question whether we are "real." Sometimes, so do we. We might feel as if we are in exile; that having the clout of Rome or Canterbury or Utrecht on our side might provide some greater sense of validation. There can be discouragement. There are dismal stories that could be told.

Though we remain "family," a lot of us already know what it's like to battle with giants like Rome. That's one reason we are independent and that takes courage. Isn't it possible that our strength to persist, to labor night and day, might just "confound" those who speak words of discouragement? Isn't it possible that all of it has made us stronger?

We are all pilgrims. Your recent stories of your own journeys to the Church of Antioch made that so very clear. To engage fully in our pilgrimage is all any of us can do. Each decision we prayerfully make shapes the journey. I ask you: Did you choose independent catholicism or did it choose you? Can we trust that the Spirit will indeed defend us, no matter what "they" say? Are we willing, each in our own way, to claim the right...to be a pilgrim? Because in the end, as "the Master" made clear, that is all that is expected of us. Prince or not, in the eyes of God we are already royal people. "Every human person is an aristocrat. Every human person is noble and of royal blood." 1 Meister Eckhart, c. 1260 – c. 1328 1. Fox, Matthew. Original Blessing, Bear and Company, Santa Fe, NM, 1983.

---

---

### Important dates!

October 13-16, 2023

October 18-21, 2024

October 17-20, 2025

Convocation for the next three years.

Mark your calendars!!!!

---

---

## Convocation 2022: "*Motherhood of God: Scripture, Theology, and Practice*"

by Bishop Linda Rounds-Nichols



Photo by Linda/Phil

CCOA's clergy, seminarians and laity gathered in October for the first in-person event since 2019. Zoom has been good for us, but in-person events are not to be missed. It was so good, someone commented that convocations should be required for clergy as they are for seminarians, with participation a choice for the laity.

This year's convocation has been referred to as the best ever, probably for many reasons. First of all, as said, we were in person! Comments about the presentation are another reason. About our presenter, Dr. Elizabeth Ursic, Bishop Leonard wrote: "Our wonderful speaker humbly and gently gave a solid and powerful presentation on feminine theology. Actually the first I've ever had the opportunity to learn."



Photo by Linda/Phil

Dr. Elizabeth presented scriptural and theological references so we could not only return home and immediately put the information into practice, we could do so during convocation. Also, the topic was very important, something that has been of importance in CCOA for at least three decades. For me, walking into a CCOA church in Santa Fe in 1993, and hearing the words, "We begin this service as we always do, In the Name of God the Father-Mother, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit" immediately told me I was home. Bishop Mark's interest in and encouragement of accepting the feminine face of God was instrumental and perhaps the cause for his election as Presiding Bishop. And now, there continues to be a need for knowing the feminine as well as the masculine side of God. As Rev. Mary Wagner stated, "For me, the most profound and gratifying memory is that this Convocation chose to explore for a whole weekend, a topic which has been a passion of mine for the past twenty-five years. Not only did we "study" the "*Motherhood of God: Scripture, Theology, and Practice*", but we actualized these truths in our spoken liturgies. From our spontaneous "In the Name of God Who is Father and Mother, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit" and "Our Father and Mother Who art in Heaven..." to the printed beautiful closing blessings, "May Almighty God bless you, in the Name of God our Creator, our Redeemer, + and our Sanctifier", I was encouraged that as a Church we could be on our way to 'inclusive vertical' language in our public prayers." Mary suggested that those who don't have a copy might be very interested in *The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*, by Priests for Equality, 2009. (Available at Alibris, Amazon, Barnes and Noble and probably elsewhere.)

Another highlight of this year's convocation was the ordination of Celeste Handy to the Diaconate. Her ordination was a joyous experience for each of us, clergy and laity alike. Celeste continues to share her pleasure about finding CCOA and about her ordination weeks later!



Photo by Linda/Phil

*(continued on next page)*



Photo by Linda/Phil

Of course, other worship was part of convocation as well. We had Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, a Chrism Mass, and Eucharists. In addition, we had a Ritual of receiving a word for the year that was incorporated with the session about the Labyrinth. Some felt this was a special time and enjoyed receiving, discussing, and determining the meaning their word has for their ministry.

And, yes, there's more. Earlier this year clergy and laity from The National Catholic Church of North America joined CCOA when their jurisdiction disbanded. A few had met in person and we had all met on zoom, which is good, but not the same as in-person. So, we walked in not really knowing each other and walked away as a unified CCOA community. As Bishop Leonard said, "The incorporation of our jurisdiction into Antioch was smooth, welcoming and cementing of our relationship."

It was a busy few days, but along with the busy-ness we had time to relax together, talk about our lives, our hopes, dreams, our struggles and successes. These conversations were just as important as the other activities. So, again, zoom is good, but it doesn't replace being together in person. With this in mind, we need to mark our calendars for October 13-16, 2023, when we plan to gather again, praying that we won't be surprised by another event like we all faced during the past few years! And so it is. Amen.



*Photo by Linda/Phil*

---

### The Spirit in Egypt/Jordan

by Fr. Ronald Catherson



*Photo by Linda/Phil*

The trip to Egypt and Jordan, while wonderful, was definitely for the young! The tiredness of the trip was outweighed by the sites where I experienced the Spirit bringing our Bible stories to reality.

To stand where (or very near where) Moses stood as he watched the people he led for 40 years enter the Promised Land was something to take in both visually and spiritually. The site is now a church that was built by the Franciscans. However, standing outside of the church I quite possibly saw the same view Moses saw as he watched the people entering the Promised Land. I imagined seeing the thousands of people traversing the valley below – the joy they felt – the joy Moses felt – and yet the sadness Moses felt at being excluded from entering the Promised Land.

*(continued on next page)*



## Egypt/Jordan (continued)



*Photo by Fr. Ron*

The trip also included a stop to one of the places the Holy Family traveled through Egypt while in hiding from King Herod. The last place the Holy Family stayed for just three months before leaving Egypt to return home is pictured to the right. Of course the altar was not there and neither was the church that is built above this location.



*Photo by Fr. Ron*



*Photo by Fr. Ron*

Egypt also was home to many Christians in the later years and they took advantage of the temples that were already built. They modified (or what we now would call defaced) them to make a place of worship. I thought of how I would celebrate Mass within these walls that have been around for thousands of years. I wonder what other changes the early Christians made that did not last through the years – only the engraving of a cross remained.

**THE VOICE** is not only our voice to one another;  
**THE VOICE** is our voice to the world.

If you have anything to share, contact me, Fr. Ron - your  
Editor, at [roncat@zianet.com](mailto:roncat@zianet.com)

Your **VOICE** is an important part of who the Catholic Church  
Of Antioch (CCOA) is.

For more information about the CCOA visit our website  
<http://www.churchofantioch.org/>

**Disclaimer:** The thoughts and opinions herein are not meant to be official statements held by the Catholic Church Of Antioch, but rather are the opinions of the individual writers.