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A New Shepherd for Canada: The Ordination of Bishop Benoit Moreau

by Bishop Mark Newman



Photo by Linda/Phil

On June 22, 2025, in the historic town of Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec, the Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch joyfully celebrated the ordination of the Rev. Benoit Moreau to the sacred order of the episcopate. The liturgy, rich in symbolism and spirit, marked a profound moment of affirmation and expansion for the Church's mission in Canada.

Bishop Mark Newman, Presiding Bishop of the Church, served as the principal consecrator, joined by Bishop Michael Talbot and two bishops from independent Catholic jurisdictions in Canada. Together, they laid hands upon Rev. Moreau, invoking the Holy Spirit and shared the apostolic ineaige that flows through the Church of Antioch's sacramental life.

Following the ordination, Bishop Mark formally named Bishop Benoit Moreau as Regionary Bishop for Canada, entrusting him with both spiritual and civil authority to represent the Catholic Apostolic

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Presiding Bishop's Remarks



Photo by Linda/Phil

Dear Beloved in Christ,
Grace and peace to you in the name of the One who walks with us through every shadowed valley and who breathes life anew at every dawn.

We find ourselves, as a global family, in a time of profound disorientation. The signs of crisis are many: overpopulation strains our ecosystems and communities; ecological ruin threatens the very breath of creation; economic disparity widens the chasm between abundance and scarcity; and political authoritarianism rises in many lands, casting long shadows over the dignity of people and freedom of conscience.

These are not merely social or political challenges. They are spiritual thresholds. We are passing, collectively, through what the mystics have long called a dark night of the soul—a time when the familiar lights go dim, when the scaffolding of certainty collapses, and when the soul, stripped of its comforts, must walk by trust alone. But let us be clear: this night is not abandonment. It is transformation.

The Holy Spirit—She who hovered over the waters of chaos, She who overshadowed Mary, She who descended as fire and breath—is not absent. She is at work in the deep. Though Her movements may be hidden from our immediate sight, She is guiding humanity toward a new dawn. The Spirit does not forsake the world She indwells. She is not overwhelmed by our crises. She is not defeated by our despair. She is leading us, even now, through the crucible of purification into the spaciousness of resurrection.

To navigate this dark night, we must cultivate the spiritual posture of trustful surrender. Not passive resignation, but active fidelity. We must become contemplatives in action—rooted in prayer, grounded in justice, and attuned to the subtle promptings of grace. We must resist the temptation to despair, to cynicism, to spiritual fatigue. Instead, we must hold vigil with hope, knowing that the Spirit is gestating something holy in the womb of this suffering.

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Presiding Bishop's Remarks *(continued)*

Let us remember: the dark night is not the end. It is a time of passage, a time of liminal space. It is the labor before the birth. It is the silence before the Word is spoken anew. And just as the soul, in its individual journey, emerges from the night with deeper clarity, compassion, and communion, so too shall humanity emerge with a renewed vision of justice, ecological harmony, and spiritual maturity, but only if we remain open to the Spirit's quiet guidance, to the sacredness of every life, and to the deeper truth that love, not fear, is the final word.

I urge each of you—clergy and laity alike—to be midwives of this emergence. Preach hope. Practice mercy. Protect the vulnerable. Pray without ceasing. And above all, trust that the Holy Spirit is in control, even when appearances suggest otherwise. She is the wind that cannot be harnessed, the fire that purifies, the breath that revives. She is leading us home.

With trust in the Spirit and with solidarity in Christ, I remain your companion on the Way,
Presiding Bishop Mark Elliott Newman

A New Shepherd for Canada: The Ordination of Bishop Benoit Moreau *(continued)*

Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch throughout the country. This appointment reflects the Church's commitment to nurturing its presence in Canada with integrity, inclusivity, and mystical depth.

Bishop Benoit remains in full communion with the American Church and now serves as a member of the Episcopal Board of Advisors, contributing his wisdom and leadership to the broader governance and vision of the Church.

We ask the faithful and clergy of the Church to join in prayer for Bishop Benoit's ministry—that his efforts may bear fruit in the lives of those he serves, and that the Church's witness in Canada may flourish under his care. May his episcopacy be marked by compassion, courage, and contemplative strength as he shepherds the Church of Antioch's mission in the North.



Ordination of Bishop Benoit Moreau



Bishops Mark Newman and Benoit Moreau

The Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch holds no dogma. Instead, we embrace doctrinal teachings within the Catholic tradition, allowing each person to interpret them freely in light of primacy of conscience.

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.

The Reality of God: Finding Majesty in the Mundane
by Father Richard Brown



Photo by Brown

The day of my ordination to the priesthood stands as the most significant event of my life. Every priest is told of the spiritual transformation that occurs during this rite, but nothing prepared me for the actual experience. The power of the Holy Spirit was not a subtle feeling, but a palpable force—an immense, physical sensation best described as waves of power coursing through my body, a vivid expression of God’s majesty.

The experience was both profoundly reassuring, enveloping my soul in a warmth of grace, and unnerving in the face of such overwhelming, divine power. In that moment, I received the absolute reality of God. That reality, for me, exists beyond the limits of words, sound, or image.

God is.

This profound realization has reshaped the way I understand the central mystery of our faith: the Eucharist. For me, the continuing presence of Jesus Christ is most clearly and beautifully expressed in its simplicity.

We often seek God in the spectacular, but the Lord offers Himself to us in the ordinary: a simple meal of bread and wine, the intimate ritual of a meal shared with friends. The table is where the magnificent and the mundane meet, where the power that flowed through me during ordination resides, waiting to be recognized by all.

In the Eucharist, Jesus is present as our eternal companion, our most gracious host, and the source of perfect friendship. It is a moment where we, too, can touch the reality of God, not in a thunderous physical wave, but in a quiet, humbling invitation to the table. May we all open our hearts to recognize the majesty of God dwelling within the ordinary gifts of the altar.



Ordination of Fr. Richard



Fr. Richard Celebrating his first Mass

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 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/>

Convocation 2025: Dwelling in the Heart of Mystical Christianity
Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center, Carefree, Arizona | October 17–20, 2025
by Bishop Mark Newman



Photo by Linda/Phil

This year's Convocation of the Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch was a profound and grace-filled gathering, held once again at the serene Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center in Carefree, Arizona. From October 17–20, clergy and laity came together to explore the living heart of Mystical Christianity as it is uniquely understood and practiced within our Church. Through prayer, study, and sacred conversation, we deepened our collective understanding of the mystical path that animates our sacramental life and spiritual identity.

Bishop Mark offered a reflection on what it means for a Church to center itself in the mystical tradition—not as an esoteric fringe, but as the very core of Christian life. He spoke of how Mystical Christianity differs from more generic expressions of the faith, emphasizing the

transformative encounter with the Divine that lies beneath doctrine and ritual. The sacraments, he reminded us, are not merely symbolic acts but thresholds into the mystical dimension of the Christian experience. Bishop Mark also addressed the often-misunderstood role of silence in sacramental worship, inviting us to reclaim silence not as absence, but as presence—a sacred space in which the mystery of God can be more deeply received.

Bishop Michael Talbot enriched our understanding by tracing the presence and vitality of mysticism in the Patristic era, reminding us that the mystical path is not a modern invention but a thread woven through the earliest centuries of Christian thought and practice. Bishop Theodore Feldmann brought the conversation home with a stirring call to each of us: that we are not merely observers of mysticism, but participants—that we are all called to be mystics and prophets in our own time, bearing witness to the indwelling Spirit in our lives and ministries.

One of the most joyful highlights of our time together was the ordination of Deacon Richard Brown to the presbyterate. Bishop Michael presided at the ordination liturgy, surrounded by the gathered community of bishops, clergy, and laity. The rite was deeply moving, filled with prayer, song, and the palpable presence of the Holy Spirit. We were further blessed to witness and celebrate Father Richard's first Mass, which served as the closing liturgy of Convocation—a fitting culmination to a weekend of spiritual renewal and communal grace.

Beyond the richness of worship and theological reflection, Convocation continues to be a cherished time for reconnecting with one another. It offers space to renew old friendships, forge new ones, and strengthen the bonds of love and mutual support that sustain our ministries. In the quiet beauty of the desert, we laughed, prayed, learned, and listened—reminded once again that we are not alone on this path.

Convocation is open to all clergy and laity of the Church, and all are warmly encouraged to attend. Whether you come seeking insight, companionship, or simply a moment of stillness in sacred community, there is a place for you. We look forward to gathering again at Spirit in the Desert from October 16–19, 2026, as we continue to walk together in the light of the mystical Christ.



Clergy at Convocation 2025

Exploring the Inner Path: Church of Antioch Book Club Reflects on Christian Mysticism **by Bishop Mark Newman**



Photo by Linda/Phil

In response to the Church of Antioch's recent commitment to deepening its engagement with the Christian mystical tradition, a new book club was launched this fall to foster reflection, dialogue, and spiritual practice rooted in the mystical path. The group gathered for 90-minute sessions on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, centering their discussions on John Mabry's work, *Growing into God: A Beginner's Guide to Christian Mysticism*.

Moderated by Bishop Mark, each session offered a structured yet open space for exploration. Participants received suggested questions in advance to guide their reading and reflection, and the group engaged in thoughtful conversation around those prompts as well as spontaneous insights and personal responses to the text. The sessions concluded with a guided meditation, allowing

participants to internalize the themes and spiritual invitations that emerged during discussion.

This initiative reflects the Church's broader intention to reclaim and reimagine its mystical foundation—honoring the contemplative, experiential, and transformative dimensions of Christian life. The book club has drawn both clergy and laity and remains open to non-members who feel drawn to the spiritual depth and inclusive ethos of the Church of Antioch.

The book club is currently on hiatus for the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year holidays. It will resume on Sunday, January 11, 2026, with a new selection: *Entering the Castle: Finding the Inner Path to God and Your Soul's Purpose* by Caroline Myss. This next phase promises to deepen the journey inward, inviting participants to explore the soul's architecture and the call to divine intimacy.

All are warmly welcome to attend. Whether you are a longtime member or simply curious about Christian mysticism, the book club offers a rich and welcoming space to grow into God—together.

Sophia's Old School Alumni **by Bishop Linda Rounds-Nichols**



Photo by Linda/Phil

Once upon a time, before the internet, before more acceptance of people, which led to open holy orders; before the 'spiritual but not religious' movement, CCOA founder Herman Sprit was called to create what became Sophia Divinity School. Over the years, many people found Sophia was a way to answer their own calling, completed the full seminary program and were ordained. In time, more and more people found that while they already had training, experience and ordination, they were called to serve in CCOA, so not needing the full program, they completed a few courses, were incardinated into the church. The percentage of the CCOA clergy who completed the full seminary program

is now lower than those who were trained elsewhere. Those full Sophia Divinity School alumni who participated in the 2025 convocation are pictured below. Dean Emeritus and CCOA Historian, Bishop Linda Rounds-Nichols, class of 1999; Fr. Ron Catherson, class of 2017; Bishop Tony Carrillo, class of 2005; Bro. Dick Gray, class of 2010; Presiding Bishop Mark Newman, class of 1996.



Grace Trinity Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch
By Mother Elizabeth English



Photo by Elizabeth

Who Are We? Grace Trinity Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch emerged from a vision to offer spiritual services to everyone, everywhere, in accordance with the traditions of the early church, meeting in small groups and homes while embracing modern technology. The church was founded on the principle that there were people who could not attend an in-person Mass due to disability, location, or desire. It became a significant part of my Dissertation.

Grace Trinity is representative of the non-Vatican Catholic Movement as a sacramental and liturgical church. We dedicate ourselves to carrying Jesus' message of love and justice. We "stumble in the footsteps of Christ as best we can." Grace Trinity sends a message of radical inclusiveness. We use gender-neutral language in our Mass when possible. We honor our diversity with special Masses for Transgender Sunday, Pride Sundays, Black History Celebration, and Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead).

Grace Trinity currently has two ministries. First, I provide a weekly mass service from my home chapel. Everyone is invited to join us on Sundays at 10:00 am PDT. We are on Zoom. (Zoom Meeting ID: 840 1070 1997 Passcode: ALLWELCOME). At Grace Trinity Catholic Church, we welcome everyone to the Lord's table to receive Communion. Many people are unable to attend a parish due to disability or illness. They yearn to receive Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist. The bread and wine or grape juice are consecrated on the altar by the presider. Every attendee is invited to have their bread and juice/wine set out before them to be consecrated. We believe the biblical scriptures tell us that God is all-powerful, as stated in Luke 1:37: "For there is nothing which God is not able to do." God delights in and blesses each of us.

Our second ministry is to provide aid to our homeless friends in Sacramento. Our community at the Sun Country neighborhood generously shares clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, toiletries, suitcases, and other containers with our friends living on the street. Our friends, our dentist, optician, and dermatologist are now involved in providing samples.

Grace Trinity Catholic Church strives to provide a safe environment, spreading love, joy, and unity for everyone. All are welcome and included at Grace Trinity regardless of who they are, their religion, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. All people, wherever they are on their spiritual journey.

A New Chapter in Ministry
by Father Richard Brown



Photo by Brown

Greetings, sisters and brothers in Christ! I'm honored to share with you a bit about my new journey in ministry, one that takes me beyond the traditional Sunday service and into the heart of our community. Although I won't be leading a regular congregation, I will serve as a volunteer chaplain at the local medical center. This is a vital and active form of ministry, and I believe it embodies our church's commitment to serving others.

The Christ Within: A Foundation for All – My faith is deeply rooted in the belief of "the Christ within"—the idea that the Divine is an ever-present reality. This Divine presence isn't confined to sacred spaces; it's alive in each of us, in our shared experiences, and even in the quiet moments of suffering. It's also a spiritual reality for those who have passed on, reminding me that the spiritual presence of the Divine is eternal and transcends the boundaries of life and death. This belief will empower my work as a chaplain, as I encounter and minister to the Divine Spark in every person I meet, regardless of their circumstances.

Redefining Ministry and Community – I believe the true measure of our vitality is our active ministry in the world. This is a beautiful and powerful idea that challenges me to live my faith daily. It also shapes my

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A New Chapter in Ministry (continued)

understanding of Holy Communion. I believe that this sacred feast is made valid not just by the presence of a priest, but by the faithful who gather together, creating a true community of believers. This communal aspect of my faith extends to my understanding of the cosmic Christ—a presence that binds all of creation together. I am a part of a much larger, interconnected spiritual whole.

A Cloud of Witnesses and a Path of Justice – Faith is also guided by the divine wisdom of the Holy Spirit, an omnipotent force present in all of creation. This wisdom guides me as I seek to build a more just and equitable world. I believe in the fundamental equality of all human beings and am committed to treating everyone with dignity and respect. And we are also upheld by the communion of Saints, a great cloud of spiritual presence that surrounds and supports us. Their lives remind me that the great arc of justice prevails in human history, bending ever toward righteousness.

The Joy of Community – As I begin this new chapter, I look forward to gathering and renewing my commitment to our community, the Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch. Let us continue to be a living, breathing testament to the love and grace of God in the world. The fellowship of our jurisdiction is a constant source of strength, and I am eager to learn from the diverse ministries of my colleagues as we continue to grow and serve the Church together.

Two Spiritual Sites by Fr. Ronald Catherson



Photo by Linda/Phil

On the cruise to the Greek Isles, we had to make a stop out of Greece. It was Greek law concerning duty-free; if we had not left Greece then we would be required to pay a duty-fee on all the items we purchased. Thankful, the stop we made was in Ephesus, Turkey.

In Ephesus, the home where St. John took Mary, the Mother of Jesus, after the crucifixion is still standing and was an excursion we took. No

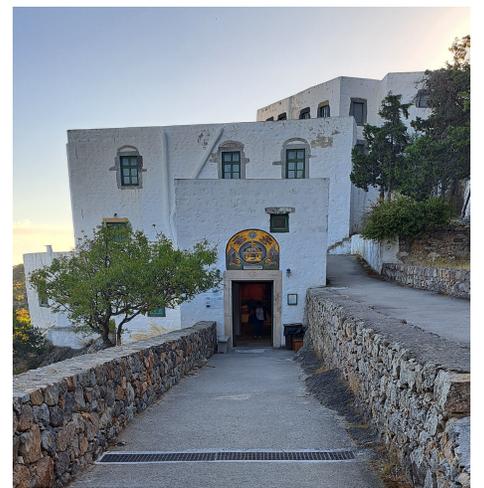


The home of Mary, Mother of Jesus, after Jesus' crucifixion.

one was allowed to take photos inside the home, the standard stone/brick home of the day. It was nice, but by no means what one would consider luxurious. But you can see the humble Mary living there peacefully and in comfort. However, there was no restriction from photographing the outside of the home.

The cruise did stop at Patmos, Greece; the island to which St. John was exiled for two years. During this time, while staying in a cave, St. John received a vision from God. This vision is recorded in the Book of Revelation. A shrine was built around the cave and once I entered I had to remove the modern surroundings in my mind to see the cave as St. John saw it. It was more like a nice large opening one could sleep with a cover from the elements. Of course no photography inside was permitted, but the outside was free to photograph.

Being that our church, St. John's Catholic Church of Antioch, was named after this saint, it was even more of a spiritual experience to see not only the cave he stayed in, but the surrounding area. The view of the water and the surrounding forest was beautiful. Of course, I was not imprisoned on the island and would be leaving on a cruise ship after I visited the monastery built in his honor.



Shrine around St. John's cave

I will forever remember seeing these two sites and the spiritual energy of being where Mary and St. John were living and where St. John was imprisoned for two years