

2004



2005

10:00 a.m., Sunday, December 5

The Immaculate Conception
Advent II
Celebrant: Rt. Rev. Ruben Cabigting
Sunday School, Vestry, Luncheon

10:00 a.m., Sunday, December 12

Advent III
Celebrant: Rev. Terrence O. Metz

10:00 a.m., Sunday, December 19

Advent IV
Celebrant: Rt. Rev. Ruben Cabigting
Sunday School, Vestry, Luncheon
Women's discussion group

11:30 p.m., Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Mass
Celebrant: Rev. Terrence O. Metz

10:00 a.m., Saturday, December 25

Christmas Day Mass
Celebrant: Rt. Rev. Ruben Cabigting

10:00 a.m., Sunday, December 26

Nativity I
Celebrant: Rev. Terrence O. Metz

10:00 a.m., Sunday, January 2

New Years Sunday
Celebrant: Rev. Terrence O. Metz
Sunday School, Vestry, Luncheon

Thursday, January 6,

The Epiphany

10:00 a.m., Sunday, January 9

Epiphany Sunday
Celebrant: Rt. Rev. Ruben Cabigting

10:00 a.m., Sunday, January 16

Baptism Sunday
Epiphany II
Celebrant: Rev. Terrence O. Metz
Sunday School, Vestry, Luncheon
Women's discussion group.

10:00 a.m., Sunday, January 23

Epiphany III
Celebrant: Rt. Rev. Ruben Cabigting

10:00 a.m., Sunday, January 30

Transfiguration Sunday
Epiphany IV
Celebrant: Rt. Rev. Ruben Cabigting



Church of St Francis

THE LIBERAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

December 2004



CHRISTMAS

Fr. Terrence O. Metz
Rector

Christmas is a celebration of the birth of the Son of God and the Sun-God. Festivals of the Sun-God, occurring after the Winter Solstice, were celebrated for thousands of years before the birth of Jesus. So, what is this great Holy Day truly all about?

Unquestionably, we are called upon this day to look back at the descent of the great disciple and Master Jesus, and to thank him for it. Such a birth is attended with unusual phenomena upon the higher planes, such as the gathering of the Angelic Hosts. Master Jesus reigns over the Sixth Ray, left of altar. The symbol is a flower petal of sorts. The leading Archangel is Jophiel and the supporting Angels are focused on music. The sixth ray jewel is a ruby and the color is crimson. During the censuring, one might see a dark red core with an rosy outer hue. The sixth ray is feminine, and holds a future as protector of the spiritual forces of God.

The main quality of the Sixth Ray is devotion and reverence. It's method for healing is through Faith. The solar plexus chakra is associated with the Sixth Ray. Its zodiac sign is Scorpio, the planet is Mars, the musical note is "do", the glands are the epigastric, the human tissues are the fluids, and primary sense is taste, and its primary element is water. We call to mind this day the descent of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity into matter. We realize something of the splendid scheme in which the Solar Deity's love for mankind is manifest, and are moved



Church of St. Francis

The Liberal Catholic Church

12 W. School Street Villa Park, IL 60181

Phone: 1 (630) 834 3320

www.liberalcatholic.com

today to intelligently cooperate with others who understand the privilege and honor being part of humanity. Christmas also reminds us of the First Initiation and the start of the church calendar. During the Advent season we were reminded of the preparatory qualifications, namely:

- Discrimination
- Self-Forgetfulness
- Love
- Right Action

We need to comprehend what this beautiful story means. Origen, the greatest of the early Christian writers, says that there were (are) two kinds of Christians:

Somatic believers which means the bodily or physical Christianity — those that believe in the story as a story, and appropriate for instruction of the masses (children, i.e., ignorants)

Spiritual Christian who understands the inner meanings of all the allegories — the universal truths revealed by the stories, common to all the great religions.

Religious people should take an interest in all presentation of religion. It happens that we have been born into this race and into a country where the recognized religion is Christianity. That is not mere chance. We were born here because we deserved to be, because this is the best opportunity for us. Remembering of course that the soul has neither sex nor race.

By the way, the ancient Egyptian religion was called Khem, giving rise to science, and our term —

chemistry.

Hinduism has dharma, or “Let a person do their duty.”

Zoroastrianism’s (Persia) chief idea was purity.

The main point of the religion of Greece was beauty; character, form, and color.

Rome insisted on law and discipline — impressing the idea of community

Buddha speaks of compassion and the order of nature

And Christianity, whose central idea is self-sacrifice. The highest title of a bishop is *Servus servorum Dei*. i.e. Servant of the servants of God.

The world is steadily evolving and Christ is a mighty official who is in charge of its religious thought, and Christmas is a special time to remember the goals of aspirations of religious ideals. The truths of religion are eternal truths: they may be distorted or misrepresented but the basic facts remain — in order to progress a person must be a good person, must live a high and pure and noble life, and must practice the virtues which every religion without exception recommends — charity, nobility, self-control, temperance, patience, and love. It is not that we not know what we ought to do. We know the principles of right and wrong as well as anyone, but we do not

apply them consistently. It is not a new truth that we want, but new inspiration to practice the old truth, and Christmas is the most inspiring festival of all.

The birth of Christ is the Coming within the heart of each individual, the development of the Christ Principle within us — the connection of the Second Person of the Trinity with Christ the great World Teacher and in turn linking those of the Christ principle within each of us, given the esoteric level we called intuition. This means more than our common understanding of intuition. It means the wisdom that knows, not by process of reasoning, but by utter inner certainty. That Christ Principle is within every one of us. It is being awakened now and unfolds as we realize that our separate consciousness is nothing but an illusion — that we are one in Him, and that means one with each other. One can gain elevated consciousness by intense intellectual absorption, by long-continued hard work, and the constant practice of virtue. But the shortest, the most direct method of attaining the highest is the deliberate awakening of the Christ within each human heart.

All great festivals provide special channels of force, they are not mere commemorations. There is definitely a greater, a more universal outpouring of his influence upon His church and the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. If we are close to Him at other times, we can be more certain this evening of His Presence and influence because on the higher planes this

morning there comes down tremendous devotion, happiness, love, and blessings.

Finally, apart from the religious side, there is the prominent social Christmas of Dickens — the feast of good fellowship, goodwill, kindness, comradeship, and gift giving. It should not be on Christmas only of course, but since we are overwhelmed by the noise and tumult of the world and our emotions, it’s nice to have one day when the Christian world agrees to endeavor brotherhood and joy for others — for our Christmas joy can only be perfect in so far as we share it with others, especially others less fortunately circumstanced than ourselves.

So let Christmas enter into our hearts and into our souls, and let us try, everyone one of us, to feel what the Angels sang so long ago . . .

“GLORY TO GOD ON THE HIGHEST . . . PEACE ON EARTH AND GOODWILL TO ALL.”

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love

Where there is injury, pardon

Where there is doubt, faith

Where there is despair, hope

Where there is darkness, light

Where there is sadness, joy



Thanksgiving

Ijya Clarin Tulloss

We celebrate our national holiday of Thanksgiving on the last Thursday of November. It is associated with the first thanksgiving that our forefathers celebrated with the native Americans after surviving the first year of settlement in the New World. With the help of the Native Americans the first settlers learned how to plant corn or maize, squash and other food crops that easily grow in this land. In a spirit of friendship the natives and the new settlers feasted together with the fruits of the land as well as the meat of the forest. The shared meal was a symbol of the gratitude the first settlers had for surviving the harsh winter, the adjustment of living in a strange environment and for finding freedom in a new land.

Eating is not just an activity to satisfy our physical hunger, it also allows us to soak up the energy captured by the plants in its tissues. The plants are specially adapted to utilize the energy from the sun to convert the elements of water and carbon dioxide from the air through the process of photosynthesis to produce its own food. The main product, carbohydrates, is then circulated throughout the plant to nourish the plant and produce the tissues that we eat as food. Another product of photosynthesis is oxygen. It is a by-product because the main product

is carbohydrates. This by-product, which is given off by the plants, serves our vital need for respiration. We need oxygen from the air we breathe to enter into various chemical reactions inside our body necessary to maintain life. In the process of respiration, we produce carbon dioxide, which we exhale into the atmosphere. This carbon dioxide is then used by the plants for photosynthesis, thus allowing the cycle to continue, a cycle which pictures the mutual dependence of plants and animals.

It only takes us a few minutes to eat what took days and months and sometimes years for the plant to produce the leaf, stem, flower, fruit or seed that we eat. As we eat, let us give thanks for the wonderful process of plant growth from the seed germination to growing its various plant parts to the harvest of the leaf, fruit or stem which we then eat. Let us consecrate the act of eating as a prayer of thanksgiving just as the poet, Joyce Kilmer, in her poem "Trees" speaks of the tree as looking at God in prayer. A tree that looks at God all day And lifts its leafy arms to pray.

Eating as a communal activity was practiced by our Lord, Jesus, as described in the scriptures. He sat to eat with his disciples, He fed the multitude who had come to hear Him talk with five loaves of bread and two fishes. On the night before He suffered to be crucified, He ate His last supper with His disciples. At this sacred feast, He instituted the Holy Eucharist, a sacrament whereby

Christ's special blessings are

given to us through partaking of the consecrated host and wine. Once again, we see that the host is made of wheat, a plant whose fruits, (grains), are ground into flour to be made into the wafer that we eat during communion. The wine comes from grapes, crushed to extract its juice to be made into wine. Our token of Christ's life-giving gifts come from plants.

We gather as family members to feast together to thank God for the wonderful blessing we received during the year. Even the trials and tribulations we encountered can be seen as blessings. They make us humble, they purify our hearts and cleanse our souls so we can get rid of some back log of negative consequences accumulated from the past lives or even from this life.

Let us give thanks to each member of the family, our companions in this life's journey. We have been together through many lives playing various roles, sometimes as brother, sister, husband, wife or father or mother. Each has a lesson to teach, each has a lesson to learn from each other. We forgive others who may have inflicted pain and suffering to us just as the Lord uttered from the cross, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Some are difficult to get along but let's love them anyway. Let us pray that we accept each member of the family with love as fellow workers in God's vineyard, working in one's own unique way to bring about the coming of the kingdom. From the Lord's prayer, we say, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth As it is in heaven.

"We come together to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, which literally translates as "thanksgiving."

Through this wonderful sacrament, Christ's power and blessings is poured forth among His people. Let us thank the clergy and servers who minister faithfully at His altar, the men and women who serve in the Board, those who serve us refreshment after the service, those who perform various functions to keep our parish clean, beautiful and financially viable. Let us thank the members who join us in this weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharist. They help build the spiritual temple for the distribution of Christ's power through their presence and active participation.

There is so much to thank for: the beauty of the sky, the warmth of the sun, the wind, water, earth and fire. These elements reflect God's transcendent glory in whose light, all things live, move and have their being.

As we contemplate on the significance of this Thanksgiving Day, we pray,

"From the rising of the sun even on to the going down of the same, the Lord's name shall be magnified.."

***Happy
Thanksgiving***

ELECTION TO THE EPISCOPATE



October 1, 2004. Finland. Bishop-Elect Gunnar Arno Knut Lindberg elected to the Episcopate to be appointed Auxiliary Bishop for Finland.

Gunnar have been working mainly in Jyvaskyla organizing church services and attended the summer gatherings of the LCC at Kreivila Center. He has also been attending the LCC parish in Helsinki.

He appreciates the view and insight of our founders concerning the structure and function of the ceremonies of our church. He thinks it is important to maintain a mystic and also esoteric approach to spirituality and he has a deep, understanding of the scripture.

His consecration will be held early next year.

October 20, 2004, USA
Bishop-Elect Lloyd Douglas Worley elected to the Episcopate to be appointed Auxiliary Bishop for the United States of America.

Service to The Liberal Catholic Church:

¥ Founder and Rector of Three Parishes in the American Province

Ñ the Church of St. Germain (1975 - 1979; Carbondale, Illinois, now in Marion, Illinois)

Ñ the Church of St. Patrick (1980 - 1986; DuBois, Pennsylvania)

Ñ the Church of St. Albertus Magnus (1987 - present; Greeley, Colorado; now Rector Emeritus)

¥ author and compiler of Our Lady's Rosary of the Seven Rays, now a world - wide spiritual practice in The Liberal Catholic Church.

¥ author of many articles for Ubique and The Liberal Catholic.

¥ established and maintained web site for the American Province (web page design implemented by Subdeacon Matthew Haines)

¥ Provincial Secretary - Treasurer 1985 to present.

¥ Provost of the American Clerical Synod 1990 - 2002.

Ñ revived moribund Clerical Synod, provided awards to be granted by the Synod for various Lay and Clerical achievements and activities, established various new offices to serve Laity and Clergy; established new means of communication using web site and email lists, resumed triennial meetings of Synod; retired from the office in 2002 and assumed office of Vicar General.

¥ Vicar General to the Rt. Rev. William Downey 2002 - present.

His consecration will be held early next year, 2005

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

November 14, 2004. Fairfield, Iowa. As authorized by the Rt Rev William S.H. Downey, Regionary Bishop of the USA, the Rt Rev Ruben Cabigting ordained Rev. Steven Arndt of the Church of St Gabriel, to the Diaconate,

CONSECRATION TO THE EPISCOPATE



November 21, 2004, Paris, France. The Rt Rev Wim van Vledder was Consecrated to the Episcopate by Bishops: Christian Schoch, Regionary of France, Graham

Wale, Regionary of England, Goudriaan Boudewijn Regionary of South Africa, and Francois Seyfried Auxiliary Bishop of France.

Appointed as Auxilliary Bishop for the Netherlands.

A staff member and Director of the Liberal Catholic Institute of Studies

1976 participated in the congress of the L.C.I.S. in Ojai, CA, U.S.A.

1976 appointed as Professor at the University of Leiden faculty of Philosophy, and lectured in 'Metaphysics.

1981 Inaugural lecture: *Free will and freedom of action.*

1981 - 2000 Have written the: *Foundations of Theosophy; The Voice of the Silence; Theosophy, what is it? Theosophy, Neoplatonism and Upanishads; The Yoga of the Bhagavad Gita, and The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali*

1989 - 1992 General Secretary of the Theosophical Society in The Netherlands

2000 Published in Dutch, the eleven major Upanishads: *Upanishads, The mystery of the Self.*

ST FRANCIS LADIES GUILD ACTIVITIES

Diana Cabigting

The Ladies group meets once a month in the parsonage, in the living room of our Deaconess Julie Hamilton. We discuss various topics decided upon by the group. The leader of the discussion rotates amongst us monthly. We studied The Prophet discussing selected chapters rotating discussion leader. Denise Bannon introduced the topic of Angels and the following month Dr. Dimpna Clarin-Smith lead the slide presentation. The subject of chakras sprang up which sprouted the October topic of Chakras lead by Julie Hamilton. In November the hands-on workshop dealing with healing techniques was facilitated by Deaconess Diana Cabigting. In December we will make goodie baskets to send to the five overseas soldiers with whom Kathy Bakken has been in contact.

Our attendance consists of four to ten members each month. The women feel a commitment to one another in a helping and supportive atmosphere. We feel a core relationship with one another which makes our meetings spontaneous as well as informative. We look forward to future meetings and sharings.





A Christmas Message

The Rt Rev Lawrenc J. Smith,
Regionary Bishop, Emeritus, USA

As a child I took for granted that Christmas was inherent and would be forever. The first memory of Christmas came to me as I came down the cold squeaky steps from the attic, with its tin roof, which harmonizes when pelted with rain. During the night the “Spirit of Christmas” came to the house on Norton St., St. Paul, Minnesota.

On this particular Christmas day, the breath of winter, froze the cream on the milk, which I had taken from the front of the house. I ladled the frozen cream copiously into my mouth. The rest of the family were still asleep since they had stayed up half the night, wrapping presents and fixing the tree. Christmas time became so special to me. I looked forward to December 25th from that day on. I still hold that there is a Santa Claus and there will always be, until we realize that this white bearded, joyful man, symbolizes what humanity could become and these are the saintly

qualities that mankind could possess.

Now with the glow of age, Christmas becomes something different than before. For we look upon Christmas as not a period of receiving, but giving. The question becomes, “What can I give you?” There is a sense of Joy as we take the two Spirits of Giving and Receiving and make them in our life “His Star” to guide us.

Today, more than ever before the birth of The New Teacher is seen and experienced consciously or unconsciously by humanity - an event so uplifting and overwhelming is about to be experienced by all. Every aspect of life will change for the better. Speech will be scented with words of love and beauty and perfume will surround the air around you.

*We have all experienced that
very special sense of Joy,
Peace and Love
at Christmas time.*

Why could we not live in That Presence year round and use the password “Love” as flames to warm the hearts of those to whom the sparks burn low. Then let that flame consume all hatred and solve all problems. We will know what love is, unless within our hearts, unless every thought of self is consumed.

Brothers, make the supreme effort. There is nothing to lose; all to gain. Dare to achieve! Say, “I will dare.” The Master places certain tasks before us, to see how we will carry them out. So as we celebrate this joyous time of Christ-mas (Christ’s-day), the birth of the Christ, His descent into the world of matter, His incarnation into a vehicle prepared for Him, in a sense we can

become that vehicle.

At the moment of consecration, at the sacred words, “This is my Body”, like a lightning flash (standing still) the Christ life descends, transforming that vehicle prepared for Him, into His very Body - a vessel containing His very life and consciousness.

Again, in this magical ceremony, at this very moment being celebrated upon a thousand of altars, His Star shines Forth. There takes place, the descent, the birth, of the Son of God. Picture the scene which must be visible in the inner worlds: over the darkness of the earth, countless stars of shining light blaze forth proclaiming the birth in as many temples of the Christ’s Birth. Picture around each flaming star as it hovers over His altar, hosts of angels gathered in reverence and joyful adoration to their King.

Let us open the eyes of our souls to this inner vision. And let us say with the wise men,

*“We have seen His Star
in the East, and are come to
worship Him”.*



ANGELS

By Dimpna B. Clarin Smith

Part I of II

Some of the lessons of the Sunday School at St. Francis last school year were devoted to the discussion of angels. The first lessons were on the guardian angel and the children were able to understand how the guardian angels work. Instances of the angels’ work were read from the “Invisible Helper” by C.W. Leadbeater where children were rescued from fires, drowning and being run over by a carriage.

Brother Garry Seraphim Schneider gave us a book entitled, “Nicholas and Hs Guardian Angel”. This is a story of a boy who did not want to go to church. Then on a Saturday night he dreamed that a guardian angel brought him to church and he saw Jesus looking sadly at Nicholas’ vacant seat. The boy then

changed his mind and went to church that Sunday. A good book to encourage children to come to church.

ANGELS IN THE EUCHARIST

Angels have all kinds of duties beside being guardian angels. One of them is helping in the Holy Eucharist.

To celebrate the Passover, Jesus gathered his apostles for supper. During that time he blessed the bread and it was changed into his Body. He also blessed the wine and it was changed into his blood. This Last Supper was the first Holy Communion and the beginning of the first Holy Eucharist. When we come to church we attend the Holy Eucharist and we take the Holy Communion. The word Eucharist means "Giving thanks". In the Holy Eucharist the priest does what Jesus did at the Last Supper: bless the bread and it becomes the Body of the Lord Christ and he also blesses the wine and it changes into the Blood of the Lord Christ. However, to accomplish this he needs the help of the angels and the congregation. The angels gather the prayers of the people and use it to build the spiritual church through which the blessings from the Lord is channeled "The chief object of the Sacrifice of the Holy Eucharist is to offer an opportunity for an especial downpouring of divine force from the very highest levels" that the angels can use. (p. 15 Science of the Sacraments)

ANGEL OF THE EUCHARIST

During the Holy Eucharist the Angels are called upon four times. At the Asperges the celebrant invokes the holy angel, **"and I pray our heavenly Father that He will send His holy**

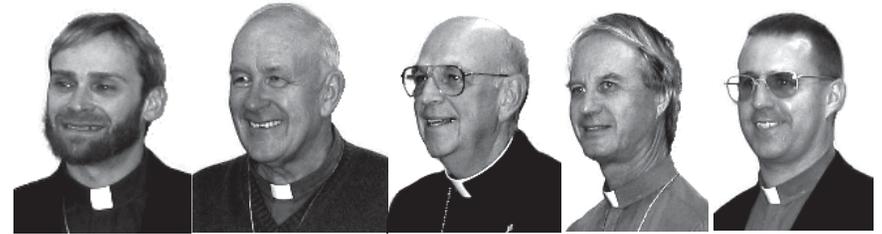
Angel to build for us a spiritual Temple through which His strength and blessing may be poured forth upon His people. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."

"The celebrant now calls the Angel of the Eucharist, who is to build our form he suddenly appears in such a manner as to suggest that there is a thick veil of mist at the back of the Altar." He determines the size and form of the edifice. His "first act is to expand the bubble formed by the will of the Priest at the Asperges." (p. 42 S of S) The Angel of the Eucharist "erects for us what is called a thought form of subtle matter, inside which the divine force can be stored, and can accumulate until it can be directed and used." (p. 15 S of S) **(By the way, if people are late this bubble gets broken and the angel has to repair it.)**

The second invocation occurs during the second censing: **"As this incense rises before Thee, O Lord, so let our prayer be set forth in Thy sight. Let Thy holy Angels encompass Thy people and breathe forth upon them the spirit of Thy Blessing."**

The third invocation occurs during the Preface. During the Preface the nine choir of angels are called upon by the celebrant. Angels have been divided into nine orders (p. 173 S of S) The nine choir of angels as called upon during the Preface are as follows: **Angels, Archangels, Thrones, Dominations, Princedoms, Virtues, Powers, Cherubim and Seraphim.** When the Priest calls upon the nine orders, they swoop down as their name is called. They arrange themselves behind the Altar facing the celebrant. Behind them stand angels of the lower rank and members of the astral congregation. (p. 174 S of S)

TLCC TRIENNIAL 2004



Our Lady Queen of Angels in Rio Rancho NM hosted The Liberal Catholic Church Triennial meeting in October.

Three discrete meetings were held during the Triennial plus nearly one-dozen services held in their beautiful chapel including Holy Eucharist, Prayers to Our Lady, Holy Rosary, Healing Service, Solemn Benediction, Prime, and Confirmation.

The three meetings and high-level results include the following:

1. Clerical Synod Meeting and the election of its officers for the next three-years including the *Very Rev. Robert Green (California), Rev. Brian Satterlee (Colorado), Rev. Alan Clute (California), Rev. Ian Carman (Colorado), and Rev. Daniel Ferrantino*

2. Provincial Assembly Meeting and the election of our Board of Trustees including *Rev. Milton Shaw (New Mexico), Mrs. Kathleen Clute (California), and Rev. Edmund Orszula (Illinois / Hawaii).*

3. Board of Trustees Meeting when the new Provincial Board met for the first time and elected its own officers.

The highlight for most of the 30 attendees from out-of-town included both the opportunity to build new and renew existing friendships, and the marvelous two-evening series of presentations by Rt. Rev. Ruben Cabigting on the *Origins of Humanity and Spiritual Transformation*. Bishop Cabigting's work of art puts Madame Blavatzky's *The Secret Doctrine* within reach of understanding for all people by providing compelling illustrations that simplify the complex nature of HPB's writings