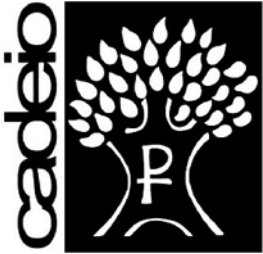


CADEIO CONNECTION

Volume 24, Issue 1

March 2015



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18–25, 2015

“Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (John 4:7)

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Prayer for Christian Unity in Mobile, AL

by Fr. David Tokarz, Diocese of Mobile

Sunday, January 18, saw Mobile, AL, marking the beginning of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with a special service at Our Savior Catholic Church. Guest preachers were Dr. Don Berry, a member of 1st Baptist Church in Mobile and the faculty of the University of Mobile, and

a long-time friend of Christian-Jewish dialogue; Rev. Randy Jones, pastor of Messiah ELCA Church in Montgomery, AL; Rev. Dr. Joy Blaylock, pastor of St. Paul ELCA Church in Mobile, and Rev. Albert Kennington, a retired Episcopalian actually finding his way back

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Letter from the President

Dear Members of CADEIO:

Greetings at this most busiest of seasons... I hope you have a breather in the middle of these last days of Lent and Holy Week, before Easter Sunday is here.

At Saint Mary, we basi-

cally move everything we don't need for the Vigil to the local Expo Center during Holy Week, set up a church in the round with 3,500 seats, and celebrate three full Masses on Sunday morning. By the time it is over, we don't feel resurrected, I can assure you! We have to take everything down on Easter Sunday afternoon and bring it home—but it has become an Easter tradition for some of our families, and we are able to celebrate the day like never before, and everyone has a parking space and a chair to sit in. Easter used to be the most frustrating day of the year, and now it is joy because people know they have a place to be.

I will send separately our remarkable line up of speakers and talks for both CADEIO Institutes—Introductory Ecumenical and Interreligious Leadership—soon. You will find registration forms on line at our website, www.cadeio.org, as well as information about all programs and projects for this year. Also, the agenda for the 2015 General Assembly should be on its way to you by Good Friday, in keeping with the Association bylaws. The time to receive agenda items from members for the General Assembly is now closed.

1. National Workshop
2. Nominations for Executive Committee members for CADEIO to begin office in 2016
3. Regional Representatives
4. Dioceses who have paid CADEIO dues for this year

1. National Workshop. We gather two weeks after Easter in Charlotte for the National Workshop on Christian Unity. We have sent brochures to everyone. If you haven't received one, be sure to contact me by email frrooney@stmaryfred.org right away. The hotel is selling out. We will have alternative lodging options for you soon, if needed. It looks like it will be a

GREAT Workshop this year, we have so many excellent speakers. Please don't miss it. Last minute bulletins to attendees will go out within the weeks before the Workshop (transportation information, local attractions, etc.), so watch your inboxes.

2. Nomination for Executive Committee members. I ask CADEIO members to consider being nominated for the role of president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary for the term beginning at the National Workshop in Louisville in 2016. Toward that end, I intend to invite anyone seriously considering the job of president to join me for meetings between now and the Workshop in 2016. CADEIO will help with expenses. Prospective presidential candidates would benefit from attending the following meetings:

- a. Workshop National Planning Committee Meetings, April 23–24 in Charlotte and October 5–7 at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville
- b. CADEIO Executive Committee Meeting (TBD, but probably October 7–9 in Louisville)
- c. CADEIO Interreligious Institute (and CUA *Nostra Aetate* Symposium) in Washington, DC, May 17–23
- d. Networks presidents' meeting in Delray Beach (usually the first week in February)

3. Regional Representatives. One month from now we will also hold our annual CADEIO General Assembly. We need people to step up as Regional Representatives/CADEIO board members. I e-mailed everyone over a week ago and have heard back from only two people. We have tried to honor the two-term limit for offices, but in most cases it would seem that we have Regional Reps who have been serving for many terms. Here is the list as I think it stands now (please correct me if I am wrong):

Those whose second term or multiple terms ended last year, whose regions need to nominate and elect a new Representative to the CADEIO Board:

- Marc Bergeron, Region 1
- Butch Mazur, Region 2
- Erich Rutten, Region 8
- Bob Oravetz, Region 15

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President's Letter (Continued from [page 2](#))

Along with Region 11, that means five regions are currently vacant.

Those whose terms will end next month (if ending first term, they are eligible to serve a second term):

- Tim Kuhneman, Region 4 (first term or second?)
- Msgr. Richard Greene, Region 5, is willing to serve as Representative for second term
- Jeff Day, Region 6 (first term or second?)
- Jim Massart, Region 7 (first term or second?)
- Joseph Arsenaault, Region 9 (first term or second?)
- Jan Skrehot, Region 10, is willing to serve as Representative for second term
- Sr. Joyce Cox, Region 12, will end her last term with CADEIO next month
- Michael Kavanaugh, Region 14, has apparently served for many multiple terms

Paul Fisher, Region 3, currently serves a term ending in 2016; Jay Voorhies, Region 13, serves a term ending in 2017.

4. CADEIO dues. With spending up this year, diocesan dues are down. Please put in a payment request. The following dioceses have paid CADEIO dues for this year:

Region 1 (11 total)

Manchester NH
Hartford CT
Portland ME

Region 2 (10 total)

Albany NY
Brooklyn NY
Graymoor Institute
Rochester NY
Rockville Center NY

Region 3 (13 total)

Allentown PA
Harrisburg PA
Metuchen NJ
Pittsburgh PA

Region 4 (7 total)

Arlington VA
Baltimore MD
Paulist Fathers
Richmond VA
Wheeling-Charleston WV

Region 5 (18 total)

Baton Rouge LA
Lafayette LA
Lexington KY
Mobile AL

Region 6 (13 total)

Cleveland OH
Detroit, MI
Gaylord MI
Grand Rapids MI

Region 7 (16 total)

Chicago IL
Fort Wayne-South Bend IN
Green Bay WI
Indianapolis IN
Joliet IL
Lafayette, IN
Rockford IL
Springfield IL

Region 8 (10 total)

New Ulm MN

Region 9 (15 total)

Kansas City-St. Joseph MO
St. Louis MO
Sioux City IA

Region 10 (19 total)

Corpus Christi TX
Fort Worth TX
Oklahoma City OK
San Antonio TX

Region 11 (20 total)

Orange CA
Reno NV
San Bernardino CA
San Diego CA

Region 12 (12 total)

Portland OR
Seattle WA

Region 13 (10 total)

Phoenix AZ
Santa Fe NM

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Mobile (Continued from [page 1](#))

into parish ministry in Bay Minette, just north of Mobile. The service was hosted and presided by Rev. David Tokarz, the archdiocesan liaison for ecumenical and inter-religious affairs.

The service was modeled on the structure of the Liturgy of the Word during the Easter Vigil: a passage from Scripture, a word of preaching, a hymn of response, and a closing collect. We did not follow the overall theme of this year, however: in place of “Give me something to drink” (Jn 4:7), the reflections were all based on Romans 14, stressing the need for community, for charity, and for resistance to the temptation to judge or look down on another whose practices we might not approve of.

The larger context for this service was what Pope Francis recently referred to as “the ecumenism of tears,” reflecting especially on the tragedies of killing in the name of religion, whether in Nigeria, Iraq, or Paris.

After the service there was time for fellowship and light refreshments in Our Savior’s parish hall—a relaxing time of enjoyment of one another.



Participants gather at Our Savior Catholic Church, Mobile, AL, on January 28 to open the 2015 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with a prayer service.

President’s Letter (Continued from [page 3](#))**Region 14 (12 total)**

Atlanta GA
 Charleston SC
 Charlotte NC
 Miami FL
 Orlando FL
 Palm Beach FL
 Pensacola-Tallahassee FL
 St. Petersburg FL
 Venice FL

Region 15 (20 total)

Chaldean - Chicago
 Maronite - Brooklyn
 Romanian - Canton
 Ruthenian - Passaic

206 total dioceses and archdiocese;
 61 paid memberships

Fr. Don Rooney



2015 Prayer for Christian Unity, Mobile (left to right): Rev. Randy Jones, Messiah ELCA Church, Montgomery; Fr. David Tokarz, Our Savior Catholic Church, Mobile (host); Dr. Don Berry, 1st Baptist Church, Mobile; Rev. Albert Kennington, Episcopalian (retired); and Rev. Dr. Joy Blaylock, St. Paul ELCA Church, Mobile.

Rev. Joseph Loya, O.S.A., Delivers WPCU Lecture for Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio

Submitted by Rev. Joseph Loya, O.S.A., and Jonathan Atkinson

On January 16, 2015, the Rev. Joseph Loya, O.S.A., Associate Professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Villanova University, delivered the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Lecture at the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland's Center for Pastoral Leadership. Fr. Loya's presentation entitled "East/West Christian Encounter: The American Experience," was publicized as open to Catholic clergy, pastoral ministers, guests from other Christian churches, and the general public.

After a brief review of the history of the West/East Christian schism, Fr. Loya treated (1) implications of the presence and importance of Eastern Christianity as lived out in both Eastern Catholic and Orthodox churches, and (2) the history of the presence of Eastern Catholic Churches in USA, plus why the Orthodox population swelled with Eastern Catholic transfers in the period prior to World War II.

Regarding the significance of diversification of rites, Fr. Loya averred that the first and ever-recurring temptation to "sin" against catholicity is failing to appreciate the paradox that only through a multitude of particularisms with its attendant diversity can the Church realize her universality in the fullest, catholic way.

Turning to life and times in late 19th-century Eastern Europe, Loya described how the changing economic landscape prompted Eastern Rite Catholics to immigrate to America. The American Latin hierarchy, however, was not prepared to accept clergy who were not celibate and did not submit to local Latin bishops. Tensions came to a head in the momentous meeting between the widower Eastern Catholic priest, Fr. Alexis Toth, and Archbishop John Ireland of Saint Paul, Minnesota, in late 1889. According to Toth's subsequent testimony, Ireland refused to acknowledge him as a true Catholic and thus denied Toth permission to serve as pastor within the Archdiocese. Toth left the Catholic Church and submitted himself to the Russian Orthodox bishop residing in San Francisco. Three hundred

sixty-five loyal supporters followed him. To his death in 1909, Toth led around 20,000 Eastern Catholics into Orthodoxy. In 1994 the Orthodox Church in America beatified him as saint (feast day May 7). By 1917, Eastern Catholic transfers reached 100,000 in number. After a period of a few years within which the Vatican did not comment on the ordination of married men in this country, the 1929 decree *Cum Data Fuerit* reasserted the ban of married Catholic clergy here, triggering a second Eastern Catholic "exodus."

In 1999, William Cardinal Keeler of Baltimore, keynoting an Eastern Catholic anniversary event, apologetically lamented this history: "The un-Christian reaction of the Latin leaders and people of a century ago must be on our minds today ... Latin Catholics ask for pardon as we recall the suffering, pain and loss experienced by our brothers and sisters from Eastern Catholic Churches Catholics during those years."

Pope Francis has now decided that Eastern Catholic bishops can ordain married men worldwide, not only in their homelands, as was previously the case. This action has affirmed the legitimacy of Eastern traditions within the church, and as was stated in *Unitatis Redintegratio* (no. 16), "Far from being an obstacle to the Church's unity, a certain diversity of customs and observances only adds to her splendor, and is of great help in carrying out her mission."

The lecture concluded with a review of a number of practical pastoral guidelines for Latin Rite clergy when engaging members of the Eastern Christian Tradition, both Catholic and Orthodox.

An ecumenical prayer service followed the lecture, during which the prayer petition was raised, "Almighty God, breathe into us the wind of unity that recognizes our diversity."

This event was cosponsored by the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission and St. Mary Seminary School of Theology.

Franciscan Monastery Hosts Evening Prayer for Christian Unity

by Fr. Jim Gardiner, SA

Left (L-R): Fr. James Gardiner, SA, director of special projects at the monastery; Rev. Dr. Kristin Johnston Largen (homilist), interim dean at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg; OCA Metropolitan Jonah; and Baltimore Auxiliary Bishop Denis Madden (presider).

Below: Homilist Dr. Kristin Johnson Largen (homilist), speaks of the transformative power of encountering Jesus.



On Sunday afternoon, January 18th, the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land hosted Evening Prayer for Christian Unity to inaugurate the 2015 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Most Rev. Denis J. Madden, auxiliary bishop of Baltimore and immediate past chair of the USCCB Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, presided; the Rev. Kristin Johnston Largen, interim dean and professor of systematic theology at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, PA, preached. The music ministry of St. Anthony of Padua Church, Brookland, provided the music. Also attending were the Most Blessed Jonah, former OCA Archbishop of Washington and Metropolitan of all America and Canada; Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Joseph Lee of Holy Cross Greek-Catholic Monastery, Washington, DC; and Fr. Tom Ryan, CSP, director of the Paulist Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations.

Reflecting on the scriptural theme for the 2015 Week of Prayer, Dr. Largen said, “This story of Jesus, the Samaritan woman and the living water reminds us of the literal transformative power an encounter with Jesus has to change lives. As we celebrate and pray for Christian unity today, may the church catholic continue to witness to this power in all aspects of its life, to all the people it serves. And may you and I drink deeply of this water. May it well up in us to eternal life, and may we become reservoirs of hope for a parched world.”

Reports from the Dioceses

Archdiocese of Seattle

from Sister Joyce Cox, BVM

I am here in Western Washington in my 24 years working with the Ecumenical/Interreligious Dialogue Office as the Director. I find my days and many evenings, filled with Ecumenical and Interreligious Events, activities, committees, and boards.

In December, I was at a dinner sponsored by the American Jewish Committee (AJC) honoring an outstanding Jewish couple who have served the community of Seattle for some 35 year. What an honor! In addition, I saw many of my Jewish friends there and met the new director for the AJC in Seattle. We have worked well with them in the past.

The relationships with the Muslims continues to grow and continues to need a lot of time and energy.

In 2013 we set up a Multi Faith Coalition to Address Human Trafficking through the Lens of Compassion. This Coalition is sponsored by Archbishop Peter Sartain, Archbishop of Seattle. We meet four times a year with representatives of congregations of Christian churches, Jewish temples, and Muslim mosques. We also include representatives from nonprofits that have values consistent with those of the archdiocese and Catholic social teaching. Our mission is to educate, to create awareness and advocacy in our congregations, and through this to come to know and understand our Abrahamic Faiths and work together where we can. The coalition has now entered its second year, and while it takes a lot of time and work to touch Abrahamic communities to educate and to raise awareness and advocacy, the coalition is well recognized here in the Puget Sound Area.

Grand Rapids

Submitted by Fr. John Geaney, CSP

In Grand Rapids, a year of interfaith activities is being sponsored by the Kaufman Institute for Interfaith Activities at Grand Valley State University. We had a kick off meeting in early fall. The idea is to have different faith groups working together on projects like building a new house for a family with Habitat for Humanity.

During the Grand Rapids ArtPrize, Sept. 24–Oct. 12, a choir of 300 gathered from many of the Christian Groups in the city sang together as part of the competition in the area of music as art. It was a glorious afternoon and particularly meaningful when the gathered choirs—which included, Presbyterian, Catholic, Methodist, and Reformed Church choir members—sang an Ave Maria together. The event was held at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew.

The Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service was held the Monday before Thanksgiving at Westminster Presbyterian in Grand Rapids. Religions represented included Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Free Thinkers, Buddhists, and a number of Christian groups including Catholics. The evening was themed for peace and included prayers, chants and singing of hymns from the various faith groups. This was the 15th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service in Grand Rapids. A different locale is chosen each year. The event was held at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, 15 years ago.

In December, the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys did Lessons and Carols at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. The Choir of Men and Boys is essentially an Episcopal organization but open to members of all faiths.

The Role of the Personal in Ecumenism

by Fr. Thomas Ryan, CSP

With each year of experience in church unity work, I have become more and more convinced that, no matter how important theological work is for reconstituting unity, the real crux is to preserve and deepen the experience of unity on the local level.

During the 2015 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, I participated in four different services—one in a Franciscan monastery, one in a Lutheran church, one in a seminary, and one in the Catholic cathedral. Of course, the primary motivation for going derives from prayer for unity, but part of it also derives from the opportunity to encounter people with whom we have all too few opportunities to meet and talk.

The division and separation of the churches both within Western Europe and between East and West was in significant measure the result of broken fellowship and communication. Particularly between Eastern and Western Christians, this was then confirmed by the fact that people literally no longer had the language to communicate with one another.

Similarly in our time, coming to theological consensus over time through the official dialogues will open the door to church unity, but the only thing that will get us through that door is growing together in newly discovered fellowship and commitment at local levels.

It is communities of believers, even more than articles of belief, that need to be reconciled. Love alone makes truth a lived reality and sets us free to make new beginnings. When I was a seminarian, one of my professors gave me a word of wisdom that has stayed with me: “Meet people on a human level first and just get to know them before you try to talk theology with them.”

When we get to know one another on a human level, a trust is born that enables us together to broach the most sensitive subjects in a spirit of mutual respect. And the better we get to know one another—no matter how different our backgrounds—the more we recognize similarities between us. The Christ in me warms to the Christ in the other. Put in another way, the closer we draw to the center of our faith lives, the closer we draw to each other.

The quest for Christian unity began when seemingly providential circumstances brought friends together. The chance encounter on the island of Madiera in 1890

and subsequent friendship of Lord Halifax, an Anglican layman dedicated to the reunification of the Church of England with the Church of Rome, and Abbé Fernand Portal, a French Catholic priest, eventually made possible the encyclical *Divinum illud munus*, which established the Ascensiontide novena of prayer for unity.

A similar example of this dynamic is that a book by another Anglican, Rev. Spencer Jones, entitled *England and the Holy See*, evoked an extensive correspondence with Fr. Paul Wattson, founder of the Graymoor Atonement Friars, who subsequently began the original Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Octave. Their friendship became, in the words of Wattson, “the seed-thought of the Octave.”

Lord Halifax and Abbé Portal, Rev. Jones and Fr. Wattson came from diverse backgrounds and experiences. But as the classical and Christian tradition demonstrates, friendship consists of three movements. First, friends enjoy one another’s company. Next, they render service to one another. And finally, they share a commitment to the common good.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity that we have just celebrated internationally emerged from the efforts of friends in different churches. Could there be a more fitting symbol of what God can do through persons open to the grace of Christian friendship and committed to pursuing the common good?

As we go forward now into the year, let’s continue to “grow” the relationship, both with individuals newly encountered, and between local church communities who only infrequently do something together. Church union will happen in much the same manner that friendship takes hold: through a gradual process of growth, not as a once and for all move.

In our Sunday assemblies, do we pray by name for the neighboring Christian communities, thereby witnessing to a sense of real albeit imperfect communion in faith with them? When we play as a faith community, do we extend an invitation to the congregations down the street to join us in our picnic so we can get to know one another? When we respond to the gospel mandate for peace and justice, do we pool our resources with our Christian neighbors and do it together?

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Ecumenical Choral Vespers for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Washington, was held January 25, 2015, at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle. The Rev. Dr. Cheryl J. Sanders (second from left), senior pastor, Third Street Church of God, and professor of Christian ethics, Howard University School of Divinity, gave the address.

Personal (Continued from [page 8](#))

The World Council of Churches' meeting in Lund, Sweden, established a principle for the normal operating procedure of each church: "Do everything together as far as conscience permits." If you stop to think about it, there are very few things that conscience obliges us to do separately.

A Week of Praying Together in Central New Mexico

By Jennifer Murphy-Dye, Archdiocese of Santa Fe

An ecumenical pub crawl? Yes, that was one of the ideas floated when the theme of the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity, taken from John 4, was announced: Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” The goal behind the Octave of Prayer is to encourage churches to build relationships with one another and pray together, and to that end, celebrations were held at several churches in our central New Mexico community.

The first day of the Octave, January 18, was a Sunday, which gave pastors the opportunity to give congregations a timely reminder of the planned events for the week ahead. On Monday, January 19, representatives from more than seven communions participated in a prayer service at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Albuquerque that was jointly planned with Rio Grande Presbyterian Church. These two neighboring churches have built a relationship that extends beyond the Week of Prayer, and includes joint adult faith formation and neighborhood walks involving prayer and fellowship.

The opening procession of the prayer service on Monday included representatives from the United Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopalian, Roman Catholic, Disciples of Christ, and United Church of Christ faith communities. The Executive Director of the New Mexico Conference of Churches (NMCC), the Rev. Dr. Donna McNeil, and the Ecumenical Officer of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Monsignor Bennett J. Voorhies, also participated. Representatives carried pitchers of water brought from their respective churches, and then poured them into a communal font while the choir led over a hundred people in singing “All Are Welcome.”

Rev. Sue Joiner of 1st Congregational United Church of Christ in Albuquerque gave a reflection on the gospel reading, noting that we come to meet Jesus as we are, baggage and all, and God meets us and quenches a thirst we didn’t even know we had. Recognizing the significance of holding this service on Martin Luther

(Continued on [page 11](#))



An ecumenical prayer service was held on January 19 at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It concluded with ecumenical discussion groups.



Biblical storyteller ValLimar Jansen captivated an audience of hundreds at an ecumenical prayer service at Our Lady of the Annunciation Catholic parish, January 23.

Central New Mexico (Continued from [page 10](#))

King, Jr. Day, Rev. Joiner connected the thirst for living water to the thirst for justice that Dr. King possessed. She also noted that just as a woman, Mary Magdalene, was the first witness to the Resurrected Christ, so the Samaritan woman at the well was the first evangelist to bring her people to Jesus. Rev. Joiner ended by posing questions for dialogue that “flowed” from John 4, and participants formed small ecumenical discussion groups. Following the prayer service, there was an opportunity to continue the conversation and the fellowship in the parish Family Center.

On Wednesday, January 21, two Christian Unity prayer services were planned in northern New Mexico: one in Santa Fe, at Santa Maria de la Paz parish, with the Rev. Talitha Arnold from the local United Church of Santa Fe scheduled to speak; and another 35 miles north, at Santuario de Chimayo. Unfortunately, northern New Mexico experienced a snowstorm on that day, leading to the postponement of those prayer services. In Chimayo, a rescheduled Taize prayer service in early February drew people from Presbyterian, Episcopalian, and Catholic congregations.

On Friday, January 23, Our Lady of the Annunciation Catholic parish hosted a prayer service that attracted people from churches across the city and beyond,

including congregants from local evangelical churches Calvary Chapel and Sagebrush Community Church, as well as from Grant Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, located across the street from Annunciation. The Rev. Dr. John Hill from Grant Chapel joined pastor Msgr. J. Voorhies and the Rev. Donna McNiel on the altar for prayers and Scripture readings before they moved into the congregation for a presentation from nationally known Biblical storyteller ValLimar Jansen. ValLimar captivated and delighted the hundreds of people present—old, young, and in between—with her dramatization of the story of the Woman at the Well; she had everyone dancing and singing and meeting and greeting one another. It was Church at its best! Afterward, there was a reception in the school gym, with the chance to chat with ValLimar and one another.

To round out the Week of Prayer, the next evening, Saturday, January 24, the NMCC’s Turquoise Chalice Award Dinner was held at St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church in Albuquerque. Prior to an encore presentation by ValLimar, the Rev. Dr. Donna McNiel presented the Turquoise Chalice Award to the Rev. Carole McGowan of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande. The Turquoise Chalice Award was created

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LARC Day Focuses on Ecumenism Decree

by Jen Reed, *The Catholic Witness*, Diocese of Harrisburg, reprinted by permission

The annual LARC Day of Dialogue drew a number of Lutheran, Anglican, and Roman Catholic church leaders and faithful to the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg Oct. 27 for a discussion of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism, *Unitatis Redintegratio*.

Internationally known speaker Dr. Massimo Faggioli, the keynote presenter for the gathering, offered insights on the historic Vatican II document, which helped to pave the way for greater ecumenical dialogue.

A Church historian, Dr. Faggioli studied in Ferrara, Bologna, Tuebingen, and Turin, and researched in the Vatican Secret Archives on the Second Vatican Council. He currently teaches Theology at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., and he has authored books on Vatican II.

"Ecumenical relationships are impossible without the Decree on Ecumenism from the Second Vatican Council," Dr. Faggioli told *The Catholic Witness* prior to his keynote presentation at the LARC Day of Dialogue.

"Ecumenism has always been, in some sense, part of the American experience. But in Europe, ecumenism had to be a conscious choice. Here, the document 50 years ago gave language or wording to what was taking place in dialogue. But in Europe, the decree was a beginning of something, because nothing had been happening on that level."

"Gatherings like the LARC Day are not just an exercise in being polite," he said. "They are part of the fabric of the Church that we are today. Ecumenism is not something that happens overnight, or something that theologians or bishops can do alone. Ecumenism should be everyone's concern."

The annual LARC Day of Dialogue is hosted by the Diocesan Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, of which Father Paul Fisher is Director.

Central New Mexico (Continued from [page 11](#))

14 years ago by the NMCC to recognize persons who best represent the mission, work, progress, and support of the Conference. The chalice points to the ultimate ecumenical goal—that Christians be in full communion with one another—as well as the cup that satisfies the thirst for justice. The turquoise is a reminder of the "Land of Enchantment" where we are privileged to live and work.

Rev. McGowan was a longtime NMCC board member and is the recently retired pastor of St. Thomas of Canterbury, one of many churches serving the University of New Mexico and surrounding neighborhood. She was introduced by Rev. Dr. Hal Nilsson who, as the former executive director of the NMCC, has known Carole for many years and had the privilege of working with her on many ecumenical initiatives over several decades. Carole has served as president of the NMCC, and a member of the Eco-justice Group of the Con-

ference, as well as a board member at St. Martin's Hospitality Center, an ecumenically supported service for the homeless in Albuquerque.

Of special significance, the Rev. Dr. McNiel noted, is that 2015 marks the 60th year of the NMCC's existence, but the NMCC is choosing to celebrate its 50th anniversary as a state ecumenical conference: 1965 is the year in which the Archdiocese of Santa Fe joined as a full partner. The NMCC has the distinction of being the first ecumenical state conference in our nation to count a Catholic diocese among its members.

It was a full week of celebrating our shared Christian faith—a sharing that should continue throughout the year as we exemplify the unity that Jesus prayer for in John 17:21: "that they may all be one." Participants were reminded that inviting fellow Christians to break bread with them or share a drink could very "well" mark the beginning of fruitful dialogue and a lifelong ecumenical relationship!

The “Pope’s Rabbi” Tours the United States to Highlight Catholic-Jewish Dialogue

by Julie Conroy, Archdiocese of Washington

Rabbi Dr. Abraham Skorka, who is known as the “Pope’s Rabbi” because of his close friendship with Pope Francis, made a number of appearances to interfaith audiences in the United States in January.

A chemist, writer, and rector of the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano Marshall T. Meyer in Argentina, Rabbi Skorka began his friendship with Pope Francis in 1997 when he became coadjutor bishop of Buenos Aires.

The dioceses and Jewish organizations that cosponsored the lectures saw them as part of a year-long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate* of the Vatican II, which opened up the Catholic Church’s dialogue with the Jews. Masorti Olami, the World Council of Conservative/Masorti Synagogues organized the visit.

On Jan. 18, Rabbi Skorka was part of a panel discussion at Congregation Or Hadash in Sandy Springs (near Atlanta). About 300 people are said to have attended (<http://www.georgiabulletin.org/news/2015/02/rabbi-skorka-pope-francis-keeps-people-close-even-disagreeing/>).

The Archdiocese of Washington cosponsored a discussion between Rabbi Skorka and Auxiliary Bishop Barry Knestout at Adas Israel Congregation on Jan. 20. The presentation was preceded by a dinner attended by board members of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington and invited guests. During the eve-

ning, Rabbi Skorka, spoke of the pope as “my friend, Bergoglio” (<http://ifcmw.org/commemorating-50th-anniversary-nostra-aetate-chasing-peace/>).

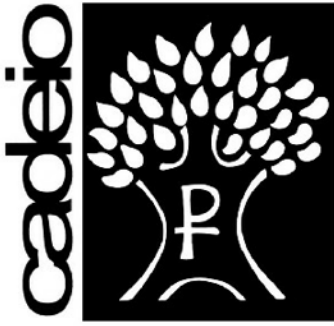
On Jan. 22, Rabbi Skorka addressed a crowd at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, along with Archbishop José Gomez. Speaking of the book *On Heaven and Earth* that he coauthored with the pope when he was archbishop of Argentina, Rabbi Skorka said, “We understood dialogue not simply as an act of kindness the one toward the other, but rather in carrying out actions that require courage and daring, with the hope of carving out, as much as we can, a turn in history.” The archbishop in turn stressed the need for Catholics to overcome their fears of engaging in inter-religious dialogue (see <http://www.angelusnews.com/news/local/the-popes-rabbi-visits-lmu-7280/#.VPXzNOGzkmw>).

Finally, on Jan. 25, Rabbi Skorka visited the Freed Theater on the Christ Cathedral campus in the diocese of Orange County, where he and Bishop Kevin Vann spoke about the accomplishments in Catholic-Jewish relations since *Nostra Aetate* (<http://www.christcathedralcalifornia.org/blog/article/bishop-kevin-vann-and-rabbi-abraham-skorka-speak-on-nostra-aetate/>).

In a separate event, Rabbi Skorka addressed the Bannan Institute at Santa Clara University on Feb. 10 along with Bishop Patrick McGrath of the Diocese of San Jose. An online video of the lecture is at <http://www.scu.edu/ic/bannan/2014-15/winter.cfm?c=20187>.

Upcoming Events (Continued from [page 14](#))

- *Oriente Lumen* Conference, Washington Retreat House, Washington, DC, June 15–18.
- CADEIO Introductory Ecumenical Leadership Institute, St. Paul’s College, Washington, DC, July 12–16.
- 2015 Parliament of the World’s Religions, Oct. 15–19, Salt Lake City, UT.



“One Lord, One Faith,
One Baptism.” Eph 4:5

The Purposes of CADEIO

- To stimulate the exchange of ideas, experiences, and networking among the ecumenical officers of the dioceses in union with Rome.
- To promote programs which further the work of Christian unity and interreligious cooperation.
- To cooperate with the Bishop’s Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and other ecumenical and interreligious agencies.

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Upcoming Events

- National Workshop on Christian Unity, April 20–23, Omni Charlotte Hotel, Charlotte, NC.
- *Nostra Aetate* Symposium, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, May 19–21.
- CADEIO Interreligious Leadership Institute, Washington, DC, May 17–23 (concurrent with *Nostra Aetate* Symposium).
- *Pro Ecclesia* Conference, Catholic University, Washington, DC, June 15–17.

(Continued on [page 13](#))

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