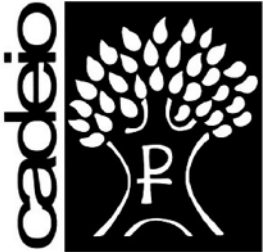


# CADEIO CONNECTION

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## God Asks Justice, Kindness from All Archdiocese of Los Angeles Ecumenical Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

By Brenda Reese

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Rev. Darrel Meyers, pastor of the Presbyterian Church USA, leads singing at the annual ecumenical prayer service in Echo Park, California, which signaled the conclusion of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

**O**n a gray and misty Sunday afternoon, members from a variety of Christian denominations met at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul at St. Athanasius Episcopal Church in Echo Park, California, for an ecumenical prayer service, which signaled the conclusion of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The annual local event is sponsored by the Southern California Ecumenical Council in conjunction with events celebrated around the world. Pope Benedict XVI presided at an ecumenical Vespers service on Jan. 25 at the Vatican.

Here in Southern California, representatives from various churches—Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Mennonite, Quaker, Disciples of Christ, and more—gathered to sing, reflect on readings, and hear thoughts on the theme of “What Does God Require of Us?” by Bishop Dean Nelson of the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Taking his cue from St. Paul’s Letter to the Galatians, Bishop Nelson expounded on the idea that “There is no longer

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Letter from the CADEIO President



**T**echnology, in many ways, has brought us more in contact with each other than ever before, and at the same time has rendered us more alone as individuals than we have ever been. Face-to-face has been replaced with Facebook. How many times have you been out in a restaurant and watched a couple

sitting at table, each texting, involved in conversations with other people entirely? Or families in the airport, all sitting together, each involved in a separate world in other places completely unknown to each other? We are here, but we are in another world.

In the work we do, we must *gather* around Christ, who is the center and living bread who is present among us when two or three of us are *gathered* in his name. His *presence* brought about healing and a reordering of everything that had become disordered with his creation. The lame walked, dead people returned to life, demons were driven away because he was *present* to them. Everything about Christ demands immediacy—a personal commitment of presence, to take the time and to be where you need to be. “*If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured ...*” (Mk 6). Jesus touched the hand of Peter’s mother-in-law, and the fever left her (Mt 8). “*Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched the leper, and said to him, ‘I do will it. Be made clean’*” (Mk 1). People were bringing their children to him that he might touch them (Mk 10). “*Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you*” (Jn 6). “*Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe*” (Jn 20).

You have to be there for all of it. Otherwise, it is always *somebody else’s event*.

I’ve been fighting this tendency in parish life toward impersonalization ever since phone-answering devices with multiple menus became the norm. There is no substitute for a living human being to answer the phone. Our office is staffed from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day,

and we have a live answering service after hours. It is important to the one who calls, so it must be important to us.

I had someone ask me this week if they could Skype a confession. *Jesus wept*.

So we are now in the midst of the saving Mysteries of Christ, each one is a word that is spoken new to this moment and an action of grace which is intended for this place at this time. He is immediate. Following his example of love, we must be people who are willing to do what is necessary to gather, to reconcile, to touch, to believe—to be immediate to those we are called to reach out to in our ministry of unity and understanding.

Just like we would hope to raise our next generation of children to be people who care, who are alive, responsible, together for each other in stark contrast to a self-centered culture, we have to be examples and inspire our commissions and colleagues to be good examples of a community that is truly ecclesial in nature—called, to be sure, for a sacred purpose, but animated by the love that we have for one another, because God has loved us. And we have known that love because Jesus himself *came to be* among us: he is here, present, active. He entered into dialogue—God with man—and even, probably, went to a lot of meetings.

May your work be fruitful. May you not lose your resolve to persevere. And may you be confident in the spark of the divine which has reanimated our humanity and calls us to act in Jesus’ name. May you know the fullness of new life and joy.

Father Don Rooney

There is still time to register for the  
National Workshop on Christian  
Unity, April 8–11, Columbus Ohio.

[www.cadeio.org](http://www.cadeio.org)

# San Diego A/RC Day of Dialogue

by Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis, Diocese of San Diego

The 2013 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in San Diego was commemorated with the annual Anglican/Roman Catholic Day of Dialogue on Jan. 19. Bishop Cirilo Flores, coadjutor bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese, and Bishop James Mathes of the Episcopal Diocese led Morning Prayer, following which those in attendance gathered to hear two talks on the theme for the day: “Welcoming the Stranger: The Immigrant in our Midst.” Rev. Gary Commins, rector of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Long Beach, California, spoke about his congregation’s extensive work in immigration matters, and Sister Anne Durst of the Casa Cornelia Law Center in San Diego spoke about how the Casa helps immigrants navigate their way through the legalities of immigration. Both speakers encouraged greater work by the churches on immigration matters and especially challenged the preachers to raise this issue more in their sermons and homilies.

On Jan. 22, Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis, vicar for ecumenical and interreligious affairs of the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego, and Imam Taha Hassane, director of the Islamic Center of San Diego, spoke to the Middle School Students of St. Michael’s Parochial School in Poway, California. Responses from the

students to the presentation were unanimously positive with many remarking how good it was to see a priest and an imam who are obviously friends able to work together for great understanding.

Initial plans are being made for a service to mark the National Day of Prayer in May that would be more inclusive than what it has been in the past, welcoming not only fundamentalist Christians but Christians of all churches and ecclesial communions as well as interreligious participants, particularly representatives of the large Jewish and Muslim populations of San Diego. This service would be in addition to the larger service, which has been reluctant to include non-Christian participants. The National Day of Prayer would be just that: a day for all people of all faiths to come together to ask God’s blessing on our nation and the world.

SDRIC—the San Diego Regional Interreligious Cooperative—is still in formative stages. SDRIC proposes to serve as a clearing house of sorts to alert the entire religious community of San Diego to pertinent issues as well as to make known to the whole community the different activities and programs of religious organizations.



San Diego A/RC Day of Dialogue, Jan. 19 (left to right): Rev. Gary Commins, Bishop Cirilo Flores, Bishop James Mathes, Sister Anne Durst.

# Executive Board Nominations

*Elections for the CADEIO Executive Board will take place at the CADEIO Annual Meeting, April 9, in Columbus, Ohio. Under CADEIO Bylaws, officers are elected for three years and are eligible to serve two consecutive terms. Voting is open to full CADEIO members who are current on their dues as of March 26, 2013.*

## **President (second term): Father Don Rooney**

Father Don Rooney is a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, and pastor of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia, a parish family of about 15,000. He received his MA in systematic theology from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia following a number of years as a creative director and owner of an advertising design firm. He was ordained in 1994.

For 11 years Father Rooney has served as the officer for ecumenical and interreligious affairs for the Diocese of Arlington, as well as a number of related organizations: formerly, secretary of CADEIO; treasurer of the Virginia State Committee of Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, and United Methodist Churches (LARCUM), as well as a member of the Coordinating Cabinet for the Virginia Council of Churches. He has served as the president of CADEIO for the past three years. Father Rooney is an active participant in several local and national dialogues and is a founding partner in the Catholic-Muslim Dialogue of northern Virginia. He served as the national chair of the National Workshop on Christian Unity in Tampa in 2010. He also serves as member on a number of boards whose work is ecumenical and philanthropic in nature, including the Holy Land Christians Society, whose goal is to promote education and peace, and Micah Ecumenical Ministries in Fredericksburg, which seeks to serve the needs of the poor and homeless and the resettlement of refugees through the network of downtown churches.

## **Vice President (second term): Father Alexei Smith**

Rt. Rev. Alexei Smith was born and raised in the Hyde Park area of Los Angeles, California, and attended local Catholic elementary and secondary schools. His undergraduate studies at the University of Southern California were in the field of international relations. Father Alexei worked for several years in private industry before entering Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1983. Awarded a master of divinity degree with high distinction in 1987, he was ordained a Greek Catholic Priest of the Eparchy of Newton, Massachusetts, that same

year. He was assigned as pastor of Saint Andrew Russian Greek Catholic Church in El Segundo, California, and also administrator of Saint Paul Melkite Greek Catholic Mission in the same city.

Father Alexei served as an elected member of the Council of Priests of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for six years, the last two of which he served as vice president of the council and chair of the Priestly Life and Ministry Committee. He is currently a member of the Spirituality Commission of the archdiocese and has been invested as a Knight Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Father Alexei has served as the ecumenical and interreligious officer of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles since November 2000. Five years ago, he was appointed by the president of CADEIO as its liaison to Christian Churches Together, where he currently serves on the Criteria for Membership Committee, as well as on the task force for the development of regional networks.

Father Alexei served as president of the Interreligious Council of Southern California for five years and is the recipient of numerous commendations and awards: in 2007 he was awarded the prestigious Religious Leadership Award of the Valley Interfaith Council.

Father Alexei taught a course entitled "Interfaith Dialogue Since Vatican II" at Mount Saint Mary's College and most recently a course entitled "Current Trends in Ecumenical and Interreligious Thought" as part of the International Institute of Tribunal Studies.

## **Treasurer: Father Leo Walsh**

Father Leo Walsh, S.T.D., was born in Anchorage, Alaska in 1964, the last of eight children of Leo and Beverly Walsh.

He was baptized in Holy Family Cathedral, where his family was asked to be one of the founding families of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Spenard, Alaska. It was there that he learned to celebrate his Catholic faith, first in public elementary school gymnasiums, later in a rented Methodist church, and finally in a modest parish center that was built by his father and many other volunteers.

*(Continued on [page 5](#))*

### **Nominations** (Continued from [page 4](#))

In 1987, Father Walsh received a degree in business administration from the University of Notre Dame, with a concentration in organizational behavior and labor relations. After working in the private sector a few years, he entered seminary studies at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Anchorage in 1994 and returned to Rome for a year to finish a licentiate in ecumenical theology at the University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Urbe, also known as the “Angelicum.” In 2008, Father Walsh was granted a doctorate in sacred theology at the Angelicum, with a concentration in ecumenical theology.

After assignments as associate pastor at two inner-city parishes, Father Walsh was named pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Eagle River, Alaska, in 1999. In addition, he has served the archdiocese as vicar general, vicar for clergy, vocations director, and ecumenical and interfaith officer, as well as on the College of Consultants and as a trustee on the Priest Retirement Trust.

In May, 2009, Father Walsh was appointed associate director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C., where he served as the interreligious specialist.

On June 1, 2011, Father Walsh returned to Anchorage to serve as pastor of St. Benedict Parish, where he intends to remain for a long, long time.

He currently serves as interim treasurer for CADEIO.

### **Secretary: Ms. Jan Skrehot**

Ms. Jan Skrehot currently serves as the assistant director for administration of the Center for Faith and Culture at the University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas. In this capacity she collaborates with the Archdiocesan Office of Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs, in addition to planning and implementing center initiatives to further build relationships within the Christian and interfaith communities of the Galveston-Houston area.

Jan has more than 16 years of experience as a lay minister with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston in the areas of youth ministry, family life ministry, and liturgy and is a graduate of the Spiritual Direction Institute in Houston, Texas. She studied at the *Centro Pro Unione* Summer Ecumenical Institute in Rome in 2007 as well as the CADEIO Ecumenical and Interreligious Summer Institutes in 2009, 2010, and 2011. She is currently a master of divinity 2013 candidate with the UST

Graduate School of Theology at St. Mary’s Seminary, Houston, Texas. In addition, Jan serves as the Region 10 Representative for CADEIO.

Most important, her primary vocation is family life. She is a wife, mother, and grandmother to 10 grandchildren.

### **Secretary: Father Joseph M. Arsenault, SSA**

Joseph M. Arsenault, SSA, was born on the East Coast of Canada and brought up in a village on the Ocean called Ingonish Beach on Cape Breton Island in the province of Nova Scotia. He was the oldest of three children. Both his parents were teachers.

After graduating from high school, Father Arsenault began his university studies and also entered religious life. Part of his desire to be a religious was to be a preacher and go around preaching parish missions. He received a BA from York University in Toronto and a MDiv from the University of Toronto (Toronto School of Theology). Through a chain of events, he was no longer in religious life and in a diocese on the East Coast of Canada. He was sent to study canon law in Belgium at Louvain, from which he graduated in with a JCL in 2000. He was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Saint John on Oct. 6, 2000.

During his first years of priesthood, Father Arsenault found himself serving as an associate pastor, police chaplain, vice-chancellor, ecumenical officer, pastor, chancellor, vicar general, and administrator of the diocese. During this time he also found himself being asked to give parish missions and preach retreats. In 2006, he was asked to take a position at the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in Ottawa, Ontario, as the associate judicial vicar of the appeal tribunal.

During this time, he had sought to return to religious life and professed his vows as a member of the Society of St. Augustine. In 2010, he came to Kansas City, Kansas, where his community is, and he was appointed to Canonical Services and as the ecumenical officer for the archdiocese. He is presently enrolled at Creighton University in the Christian Spirituality Program, where he is seeking an MA in spirituality.

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**Los Angeles** (Continued from page 1)

Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free, male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

“How radical those words must have sounded back then!” he said. “All the theoretical, economic, political, sexual differences ... are dissolved in the simplest of acts, washing with water, our baptism, in the name of the Triune God. It was radical then, and it still is radical today.”

Furthermore, Bishop Nelson invited listeners to consider the direction exposed by the prophet Micah, “What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.

“We have one baptism and one mission,” explained Bishop Nelson about how all denominations can work together on a variety of social issues from hunger, the environment, health care, and immigration. “As much as we’d like to think we can tackle these problems by ourselves, it’s when we come together that we are stronger,” he said.

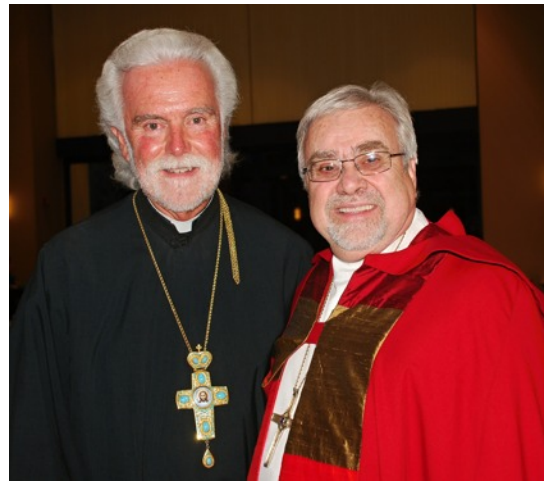
The prayer service also included songs from the St. Athanasius Youth Choir and an offering to support the neighborhood food bank in Echo Park.

In addition, the 10th annual Gene Boutilier Award for Distinguished Ecumenical Service was presented to Rev. Albert Cohen of the United Church of Christ. Cohen currently serves as the executive director of the Southern California Ecumenical Council but will be retiring soon.

Rev. Father Haroutioun Tachejian from the Armenian Orthodox Church blessed the bread and the water that were later distributed to all.

Following the service, church leaders pondered how to bring the message from today’s prayer service to their congregations and wondered about the future of ecumenism in today’s climate.

Admitting that often times, ecumenism has been overshadowed by intra-religious gatherings, Father Alexei Smith, director of the archdiocesan Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, emphasized that for Catholics, ecumenism is still a high priority.



**Father Alexei Smith greets Bishop Dean Nelson of the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, who spoke on the day’s theme.**

“Pope Benedict is marking this day as well,” said Father Smith. “And the pope continues with the idea of reuniting the fractured Body of Christ.”

At the Vespers service, which was held at the basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, Pope Benedict said that “there is a great need for reconciliation, dialogue, and mutual understanding” among Christians.

“The scandal of division that undermines missionary activity was the impulse under which began the ecumenical movement that we know today,” the pope said. He added that a restoration of full union among Christians would be a powerful witness and a spur to evangelization.

That unity is particularly important in our society today, he said, at a time when “it seems that the Christian message is less and less a presence in personal and community life.”

For many, the pathway of reunification is still a long way off; tradition, history and heritage have marked the division of Christians for hundreds of decades. But Father Smith pointed out that the ecumenical movement is still “very new,” and said he embraces the notion of “Catholics working together with fellow Christians” in social justice issues.

For Rev. Frank Alton, rector at St. Athanasius, the service at his church gave him a visual metaphor about the nature of Christianity. Referring to a prayer from the service, Rev. Alton said he “loved the image of Jesus’ seamless tunic, how it wasn’t the Roman soldiers who divided it, but rather it was his followers who tore it apart. I will take that powerful image to heart.”

*Catholic News Service contributed to this story.*

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# Reaffirming the Commitment to Unity

by Father Michael Kiernan, Diocese of Sacramento

The Diocese of Sacramento had a delightful dinner with about 30 ministers hosted by Bishop Soto. Then the bishop presided over a beautiful service in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament at which ministers of several denominations offered prayers and readings. The service was well attended. We had great ecumenical music and song, including reflections by the Martin Luther King Choir and the Cathedral Choir.

The homily was delivered by Dr. Mel Robeck, professor of church history and ecumenics and director of the David du Plessis Center for Christian Spirituality at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California.

Dr. Robeck was a pioneer in ecumenism for his denomination, the Assemblies of God. Other Assemblies of God clergy participated in the service.

The service included the following “Declaration of Commitment” by participants:

We commit ourselves to seek ways to uphold one another throughout this coming year. We desire to establish closer relationships with one another and work more closely with one another in the service of the Lord. With God’s help, we will seek more and more to understand his ways so that the name of Jesus is proclaimed in peace, unity, respect, and love among all Christians.

## Building Bridges

by Father John W. Crossin, OSFS, Director of the Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, USCCB

Reaching out to other religious leaders is not the easiest thing we do. At times I have a reluctance to make the first contact—to get a little outside my comfort zone.

I remember a Franciscan colleague once telling me that when he was a pastor in West Virginia he was in regular contact with the local Protestant clergy. But when he moved to a major Eastern city, his conversations were mostly with the local Catholic priests. The context made the difference.

An important part of our work, of our vocation, is to get to know our ecumenical and interreligious colleagues. Since we are most comfortable with people like ourselves, reaching out can be challenging.

Preparation helps:

- We can begin by praying for our ecumenical and interreligious colleagues whom we hope to get to know.
- We can continue by doing a little research on the Internet, so we know something about our colleagues and their congregations.
- We can invite someone to come with us to the first meeting to help with breaking the ice.

Over the years, I’ve come to learn that our colleagues are very good people and often welcome an invitation to get to know us. I have had excellent conversations with others about pastoral ministry and the needs of the region. Friendliness, attention to the conversation, and empathy go a long way toward building a positive and lasting relationship.

In America today many people prefer to stay in their enclaves. We notice a breakdown of community, which is affecting us and others. Just as we often need to invite our fellow Catholics to participate in the parish community, we as ecumenists will need to build bridges to others for the common good.

I’ve found that in building bridges, I am usually the one who is enriched. God is not outdone in generosity toward those he has called **to His ecumenical service.**

The first issue of the new SEIA e-newsletter will go out in late March. Sign up to receive it at <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/ecumenical-and-interreligious/seia-newsletter.cfm>.

# LARC Day Focuses on Vatican II

by Jen Reed

Reprinted by Permission from the Catholic Witness newspaper of the Diocese of Harrisburg

This year's LARC Day of Dialogue featured keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Martin Marty, an ecumenical observer at the Second Vatican Council.

The Day of Dialogue is an annual event of the LARC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic) community, hosted by the Diocese of Harrisburg's Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

An internationally known speaker and author, Dr. Marty addressed this year's gathering on the day's theme, "Engaging the World Ecumenically," and spoke about the effects of the Council document *Dei Verbum*, the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation. *Dei Verbum* said that the Church depends on Scripture and tradition as the one deposit of God's word and encouraged the faithful to nourish their faith through the Scriptures.

Present also for the day were bishops of the LARC judicatories of central Pennsylvania who gave personal reflections on the impact of the Second Vatican Council on their ministries and some thoughts on where the ecumenical movement is going at the present time. The bishops present were Bishop Robert Driesen (ELCA, Upper Susquehanna Synod), Bishop Penrose Hoover (ELCA, Lower Susquehanna Synod), and Bishop Joseph McFadden (Roman Catholic, Diocese of Harrisburg). Bishop Nathan Baxter (Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania) was on sabbatical and unable to attend, and Bishop McFadden had to excuse himself during the day for a brief period due to a last-



Dr. Martin Marty presents during the LARC Day (photo by Chris Heisey).

minute news conference on the resignation that morning of Pope Benedict.

The afternoon session provided time for participants to reflect upon Vatican II's impact on their own tradition and also their personal reflections of how the council impacted their studies and ministry.

The LARC Day of Dialogue is just one of the programs of the Diocesan Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, noted Father Paul Fisher, director.

The office is also involved in annual prayer services during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which was observed Jan. 18–25. During this week, Christians come together to pray with the prayer of Jesus, "that they all may be one," (John 17:21). LARC clergy also take part in a lunch every other month, during which they discuss theology, practical issues, and common witness.

"We have a very active ecumenical life here in the Diocese of Harrisburg," Father Fisher said. "And for this, the credit goes to Deacon Charles Clark," who served as Director of the Diocesan Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for 15 years, until his death last April.

"The goal of the ecumenical movement always has been that we desire, as the Lord does, the restoration of a full communion of faith and worship among all Christians, for all Christians to speak with one voice," Father Fisher said. "To do that clearly and faithfully based upon the Scriptures and the lived tradition of the Church is the ultimate goal."



LARC Day of Dialogue in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: (L to R) Canon Joseph Seville, Bishop Robert Driesen, Bishop Joseph McFadden, and Bishop Penrose Hoover (photo by Chris Heisey).



# Chicago Parishes Learn Ecumenical Techniques

by Greg Krohm, Archdiocese of Chicago

Chicago's reputation for biting cold winds could not deter about 50 hardy souls from huddling up on January 17, 2013, in the basement hall of St. Peter's Catholic Church in the heart of the Chicago Loop. They had come to tour churches in the center of Chicago and learn more about Christian traditions outside their own faith community. The community-building learning experience was organized by the Ecumenical and Interreligious Parish-to-Parish Learning Community (EIA-PPLC) of the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago. The EIA-PPLC set the tone for the day: "Commonalities and Differences in Celebrating Communion among Our Christian Traditions." After a brief orientation the crowd boarded a waiting bus for the first visit, Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Fourth Presbyterian is a magnificent edifice supporting a vibrant faith community (2,000 people worship on a typical Sunday). The congregation was founded in 1871 and occupied two earlier church buildings before moving to its Michigan Avenue location. The main worship space was built in 1912. It is a neo-Gothic design. Visitors are drawn upward to the impressive ceiling, designed to resemble the inside hull of a wooden boat, the bark of Christ's church.

Within the church we were given a fascinating description of "the sacrament of the Lord's Supper" as practiced by this Presbyterian community. Variation in communion practices are common, even within the Chicago Presbytery. The logistics of serving communion bread and cups of grape juice to 2,000 worshipers on one of the six communion Sundays each year seemed to Catholics a challenging logistical task. Rev. Dr. Joyce Shin explained the meaning of the remembrance of the Lord's Supper. A lively question-and-answer period ensued. Next, we were escorted to the spacious Buchanan chapel built into a major new wing of the church complex. It was a very stylish space but without any obvious religious icons (statues or artistic images). Our tour host explained the liturgical significance of the irregular window pattern on one wall of the space, and the lovely labyrinth design on the floor.

We then moved on to Annunciation Cathedral of the Greek Orthodox Church, Metropolis of Chicago. The contrast between the modern chapel and this classic Orthodox interior was a jolt to the eye and the interior mood. While the modern chapel stressed simplicity and

forced the worshiper to rely on a personal mode and mood of prayer, the Orthodox church was a kaleidoscope of signs and symbols intended to inspire prayer, especially to the Blessed Virgin and the saints.

We were treated to an informative talk about the interior design of the church by Aphrodite Peponis, who serves as the Judicatory Representative for His Grace Bishop Demetrios to Ecumenism Metro Chicago. We discovered many layers of meaning behind the high dome and the various icons and their placement. The design of the sanctuary was of particular interest to many. Next, Dr. Helen Theodoropoulos offered a meaningful theological discussion of Orthodox beliefs, particularly on the Eucharist. The similarity of Catholic and Orthodox beliefs stood in contrast to the Presbyterian concept of the remembrance of the Lord's Supper.

The final visit was to the main church of St. Peter's, which is a "service church" of the Franciscan Order. One of the Franciscan friars on the tour explained the symbols and design of the church. Naturally, there were many icons and statues representing events in the life of St. Francis and Franciscan saints. More impressive than the church design was the witness that the Franciscans have established in the heart of the business district of a metropolis. They witness to the importance of a spiritual life: seven well-attended masses are held at St. Peter's every day.

Throughout the tour, many questions were put to the host churches about liturgy and doctrines. The depth of the discussion surely raised awareness of similarities and differences among the churches, especially with respect to the Eucharistic celebration, which was the main theme of the day. One participant described the day as follows: "The more I learn about other traditions, the more I understand how much we share in common. It is an experience that increases the love between Christians." The spirit of this inquiry was very respectful and a good example of ecumenical dialogue.

Lunch was served in the meeting hall of St. Peter's during which religious leaders commented on ecumenism. Wrap-up speakers included Brother Jeff Gros, FSC, Catholic Scholar in Residence at Lewis University and assistant to the Office of Ecumenical and

(Continued on [page 10](#))

# Diocese of Belleville Hosts Ecumenical Epiphany Service for 125th Anniversary

from Father Bob Flannery, Diocese of Belleville, Illinois

**T**he Diocese of Belleville, Illinois, concluded its year-long 125th anniversary celebration by marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The service took place Jan. 6, 2013, in the Cathedral of St. Peter. Fourteen Protestant and Orthodox Church leaders participated, along with Father Bob Flannery, the ecumenical and interreligious officer, and Bishop Stanley Schlarman (retired).

Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, immediate-past general secretary of the National Council of Churches, USA, delivered the homily. He spoke about the influence of Vatican II on the Ecumenical Movement.

Bishop of Belleville Most Rev. Edward K. Braxton wrote to parishioners in December to encourage their participation in the event, and he invited them to bring their Orthodox and Protestant friends and neighbors.

The event concluded with a reception in the cathedral undercroft.



Ecumenical service at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville, Illinois (left to right): Father Bob Flannery; Bishop Stanley Schlarman, Retired; and the Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, Disciples of Christ.

## Ecumenical Techniques *(Continued from [page 9](#))*

Interreligious Affairs, who reminded those present how far we Christians have come in the past 50 years toward visible unity. Other remarks were offered by Dr. Shin and Dr. Theodoropoulos.

The day ended with closing remarks from Michael Terrien, Obl. OSB, project director for the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, who has lead the EIA-PPLC since its inception three years ago. Michael thanked the many colleagues in EIA-PPLC who organized the day.

Program evaluations were extremely supportive of the experience. When asked what could enhance such an event in the future, the typical reaction could be characterized as “Give us more, more churches, more time, more sharing of experiences.” This interparish learning experience among the EIA-PPLC representatives and attendees—and the enthusiastic response—was exactly the goal of the EIA-PPLC organizers.

## New Annual Lecture in St. Paul and Minneapolis

by Father Erich Rutten, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis

**T**his January, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis along with the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity kicked off an annual lecture, “Why Ecumenism Matters,” to highlight current issues in ecumenism. The inaugural lecture was offered Jan. 23 by Father Jared Wicks, SJ. His topic was “The Ecumenical Imperative.” Father Wicks discussed how and why the Church, including Pope Benedict, sees ecumenical efforts as part and parcel of our hope in Christ. The annual lecture is intended to engage seminarians, students, and religious leaders and to encourage greater reception of “Why Ecumenism Matters” in the life of the Church.

There is still time to register for the National Workshop on Christian Unity, April 8–11, Columbus Ohio. [www.cadeio.org](http://www.cadeio.org)

# Ecumenical and Interreligious Programs Abound at Seattle University and Archdiocese of Seattle

by Sister Joyce Cox, BVM

Our celebration for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was highlighted by a Celebration for Ecumenical Partners of the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University on Tuesday, Jan. 22. It was a very moving celebration with beautiful music, an excellent presentation by the pastor of an African American Church, Rev. Carey Williams, who tied the theme “To act justly, to love tenderly, and walk humbly” with the celebration for Martin Luther King and the need for an honest humility in our churches and with our leadership. We dropped small marbles (pebbles) into a large bowl of water that was taken from the baptismal font in St. Ignatius Chapel where the celebration was held. We ended by walking and singing the hymn, “Walk with Me.”

During each day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, several of us as representatives of Christian faiths wrote a short reflection on the theme of the day and e-mailed it to Seattle U, where it was merged into the prayers and readings for each day and sent out across the spectrum of faith communities. It mirrored a “Oneness” of our Ecumenical relationships.

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain is working with me and the Ecumenical/Interreligious Commission to initiate the Coalition of Representatives of Churches, Temples, and Mosques together with ecumenical and interfaith organizations that are active to abolish human trafficking. We will have members from those groups involved actively against trafficking on the coalition with those groups not involved so that we can provide resources and presentations across the spectrum of our three major Abrahamic faiths. We are using Karen Armstrong’s book *Twelve Steps in Living a Compassionate Life* and choosing “Abolishing Human Trafficking through the Lens of Compassion.” At our first meeting, 30 representative from all three Abrahamic faiths were present. Our second meeting was held March 1, the World Day of Prayer.

Archbishop Sartain will be hosting a luncheon for the leadership of the mainline Christian faiths, and Seattle University will have a second-year experience with this leadership with a day-long gathering in May entitled “Church and State.” The theme last year was

centered on youth and church. (This year’s theme had not been determined when this report was written.)

We continue to have our monthly meetings of LARC with Lutheran, Anglican (Episcopalian), and Catholic representatives. We have been reviewing the document on *Justification by Faith* over this past year. It has been a very rich and a wonderful tool in dialogue for us.

The Jewish-Christian Dialogue meets each month, and our theme this year is from the book *The Misunderstood Jew*. We are really just getting started with this endeavor. Last year we delved into the process of *Scriptural Reasoning*. We hope to return to that within the year but not at all of our monthly meetings.

Archbishop Sartain is working with the Director for Ecumenism Sister Joyce Cox, BVM, and the American Jewish Committee (AJC) as we plan to do presentations next fall on *Nostrae Aetate* and our Catholic-Jewish relationships in this 21st century and on the 50th anniversary of Vatican II. The AJC is having a Seder in late March and has invited many representatives from ecumenical and interfaith circles to participate.

## Newsletter Highlights Contributions of Vatican II

The January 2013 issue of *Oikoumene*, the newsletter of the Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the Diocese of Albany, New York, focuses on what Vatican II says about ecumenical and interreligious affairs. In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the council, the newsletter features excerpts from six council documents. It also provides quotes of one to two paragraphs from the popes and from other Christian leaders as well as from books and articles about the council.

The excerpts were compiled by Father Jim Kane, director of ecumenical and interreligious affairs for the diocese.

View this short, helpful resource at [http://www.rcda.org/offices/ecumenical\\_and\\_interreligious/Oikoumene/2013/Winter.pdf](http://www.rcda.org/offices/ecumenical_and_interreligious/Oikoumene/2013/Winter.pdf).

# Celebrating Christian Unity in Region 4

by Julie M. Conroy, Archdiocese of Washington

Several ecumenical and interreligious events have taken place in CADEIO Region 4 since the beginning of the new year. Region 4 includes dioceses in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, DC.

To mark the start of the 2013 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land hosted Evening Prayer for Christian Unity on Jan. 18. Rev. Dr. Cheryl J. Sanders, senior pastor of Third Street Church of God and professor of Christian ethics at Howard University School of Divinity, was the preacher. Also at the Franciscan Monastery, Father Vincent Cushing, OFM, past president of the Washington Theological Union, led an informal discussion on *Gaudium et Spes* on Jan. 21.

Across the Potomac River in Arlington, Virginia, Bishop Paul Loverde of the Arlington Diocese participated in an ecumenical service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Resurrection Lutheran Church, Jan. 22. Bishop Young Jin Cho (Virginia Conference UMC) and Bishop Shannon Johnston (Episcopal Diocese of Virginia) also took part. On Jan. 23, the local churches of Fredericksburg, Virginia, held their annual gathering for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, where CADEIO President Father Don Rooney serves as pastor.

Meanwhile, Protestant and Catholic congregations in Western Montgomery County, Maryland, participated in the 19th annual service for the Week of Prayer

for Christian Unity. This year, the service was hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church in North Bethesda on Jan. 27. Father James Gardiner, SA, preached the sermon. Music was provided by the Unity Choir and Trinity's Heavenly Handbells. The event was well attended by area clergy.

In addition, the following interreligious events were sponsored by the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFCMW), in which the Archdiocese of Washington participates. The annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Multi-Religious Prayer Service was held at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Jan. 13. At the same venue on Feb. 6, the IFCMW presented a panel on "Diverse Faiths' Understanding of Tragedy: Comprehending the Incomprehensible." Speakers were from the Jewish, Hindu, and Mormon faiths. The evening included small-group dialogue.



The annual ecumenical prayer service in western Montgomery County, Maryland (left), was celebrated for the 19th year on Jan. 27. Since its inception, the service has been organized by Joe Weiss and Fran Kleinhenz (above).

## *Heaven, Hell, . . . and Purgatory?*

*The Pro Ecclesia annual conference for clergy and laity  
Sponsored by the Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology*

*Monday evening June 10 through Wednesday noon June 12, 2013  
at Loyola University, Baltimore, MD*

The final end of humanity and the universe is a subject of perennial interest, especially for Christians. What are we promised? How does that promised end relate to history? Will anyone finally be left out of God's intentions to bless humanity? What sort of transformation will be needed to enter the presence of God? These questions have been at the heart of Christian teachings about last things. The 2013 Pro Ecclesia conference of the Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology will focus on the theme "Heaven, Hell, . . . and Purgatory?" Topics will be examined from a variety of perspectives, representing a variety of Christian traditions.

Presentations by:

**Paul Griffiths**, Duke University

**Isabel Moreira**, University of Utah

**David Yeago**, Columbia, SC

**Victor Lee Austin**, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, NYC

**Kyriaki Fitzgerald**, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

**Jerry Walls**, Houston Baptist University

**Ralph Wood**, Baylor University  
Banquet speaker - **Joseph Small**  
(retired, Presbyterian Church USA)

Accommodations will be available on the Loyola Campus

Conference cost (including banquet): \$250

Reduced price for early registrations, retired clergy (\$210), and students (\$115)

For more information - Contact Michael Root, 202-680-9979 ([ccet@comcast.net](mailto:ccet@comcast.net))

More information available at [www.e-ccet.org](http://www.e-ccet.org)

Online registration at [www.regonline.com/CCET2013](http://www.regonline.com/CCET2013)



“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.

The *CADEIO Connection* is a publication of the Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers.  
[www.cadeio.org](http://www.cadeio.org)

### Executive Officers

President: Father Don Rooney  
Vice President: Rt. Rev. Alexei Smith  
Secretary: Msgr. George Appleyard, VG  
Treasurer: Father Leo A. Walsh

Please send your articles and photos for publication to Julie M. Conroy, Ph.D., *CADEIO Connection* editor, at  
[jmtconroy@gmail.com](mailto:jmtconroy@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events

- National Workshop on Christian Unity, April 8–11, 2013, Sheraton at Columbus Square, Columbus, OH.
- Pro Ecclesia Conference for Clergy and Laity: “Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory,” June 10–12, 2013, Loyola University, Baltimore, MD.
- *Oriente Lumen XVIII* Conference, June 17–20, 2013, Washington Retreat House, Washington, DC.
- *Centro Pro Unione* Summer Course, June 24–July 12, 2013, Rome, Italy; registration deadline: March 31.
- Advanced Institute of Ecumenical Leadership, July 7–13, 2013, St. Paul’s College, Washington, DC.

## Membership Application

- I would like to become an associate member of CADEIO.  
Enclosed is \$10 for one associate membership.
- Please send information about full CADEIO membership.

### Mail to

Father Leo A. Walsh  
CADEIO Treasurer  
8110 Jewel Lake Rd.  
Anchorage, AK 99502  
[lwalsh@stbenedictsak.com](mailto:lwalsh@stbenedictsak.com)  
Phone: 907-243-2195  
Fax: 907-243-0088

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Denomination \_\_\_\_\_  
Diocese, Eparchy, or Judicatory \_\_\_\_\_  
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