

Diaspora

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EVENTS

> Check out the **Regional News.**

Farewell...

by Clem De Wall

This is the edited text of an address given by Clem De Wall at The FCM Business Meeting at the Boston 2008 Joint Assembly.

Your FCM officers have reported to you about how FCM is doing: Membership has held up, we're financially stable, and you have just attended an outstanding assembly.

From a different perspective, the measure of FCM's success is not found in any of these areas. How well FCM is doing really depends on how well you are doing in your ministry. That is the reason for our organization's existence. If you are successful, FCM is successful. If you are not successful, then FCM is in trouble, no matter how many members we have or how much money we have in the bank.

It is difficult to gauge the success of one's ministry, but you can't fall back on numbers. In the late 1960s I was pastor of a small rural parish in Cheyenne Wells, Colorado. The parish was operating in the black and had no debts. The parishioners seemed satisfied and were accepting the changes of Vatican II. Everything seemed rosy.

One Sunday I announced that I would like to visit people's homes. Right after mass a man invited me to his place out in the country. When I arrived at his home, I found a building a little smaller than a two-car garage. I could not tell if it had ever been painted. I could not believe that in my country, in my state, in my community, there were still homes that had no electricity, no natural gas, no propane, no heating oil.

What kind of success could I claim if I was not meeting the needs of my parishioners? I felt like I was trying to sell silverware to people who had no food.

I was not meeting the real needs of the people I was trying to serve. In fact,

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2008 Conference

July 18 – 20, Boston, MA

A huge debt of gratitude to the Conference Planning Team representing the four sponsoring organizations:

FCM:	Michaelita and Tom Quinn
CORPUS:	Bill Manseau and Stu O'Brien
WOC:	Evelyn Hunt and Erin Hanna
RCWP:	Jean Marchant and Victoria Rue
Graphic Design:	David Gawlik
Conference Co-Chairs:	Michaelita and Tom Quinn

You gave us a memorable weekend!



Regional News

Northeast

by *Bill Murnion*

My first Circle of Directors meeting and FCM National Assembly (July 16-18) and everyone's first Joint Conference of FCM, CORPUS, RCWP, and WOC (July 18-20), at the Hyatt Harborside in Boston, were enlightening and inspiring events. I was happy to begin working with the genial, forward-looking, and dedicated membership of the Circle. And I was heartened by the enthusiasm, the scholarship, and the leadership displayed at the Joint Conference by all of the organizations in the Christian reform movement. The two keynote addresses by **Matthew Fox** and by **Jane Via** and our own **Jean Marchant** were especially outstanding.

Of the 270 people attending the conference, 155 (from all four organizations) were from the northeastern United States. NE Regional FCM members were prominent in various roles. **Mark Doorley** gave a felicitous introduction to Matthew Fox. Presenters of workshops included **Carl Yusavitz, Bill Manseau, Paul Stubenbort, Marie and Jim David, Joe Ruane, Eileen DiFranco, John Weyand, Tom Cusack, Leo McIlrath, and Julien Olivier. Jim Fitzgerald, Carl Yusavitz, and Mary Tanner** lent their services as greeters to arriving participants. And **Tom and Michaelita Quinn**, who led the team of representatives from the four organizations in planning and conducting the conference, and who assumed the presidency of FCM at its conclusion, distinguished themselves in every forum: the Circle meeting, the FCM National Assembly, and the Joint Conference itself.

We welcome the two newly certified members from the NE Region: **Mary Ann Schoettly** and **Donald Pachuta**.

Four local meetings have been definitely scheduled in the NE Region for the fall. **Mark Doorley** and **Kathy Nevins**, of Cherry Hill, NJ, will host the first meeting on October 4th. They will follow the same format they used at their last meeting: arrival and lunch about noon, followed by FCM news and a group discussion of ministerial experiences and concerns, with a final liturgy. Contact them at 856-429-1779 or markdoorleynj@verizon.net.

Ed Knight will host the second meeting on October 18th at the Holiday Inn in Springfield, MA, beginning at noon. Lunch will be served. As the theme for a round robin discussion, Ed has proposed, "getting involved in your community for the betterment of humanity." The meeting will conclude with a prayer service. Please contact Ed (chapcall@yahoo.com; 413-788-5054) by October 1st if you plan to attend. He will email complete directions to the Holiday Inn.

Deborah and I will host a meeting on October 25th at our home in Bellvale (Orange County), NY, starting at noon. We will follow the same format as at our last meeting: meet-and-greet with lunch, FCM news, an exchange of experiences and concerns about ministries, and a concelebrated Eucharistic liturgy. Please RSVP us if you intend to come (philosophyworks@optonline.net; 845-986-5406 or 845-986-6502), and we'll send you directions.

Nick and **Pat Mosunic** will hold a meeting on November 8th at their home in Pocono Pines, PA, beginning about noon. They will provide lunch, communicate FCM news, facilitate a discussion on ministries, and lead a liturgy or prayer session. If you plan to attend, please phone them at 570-646-1489 for directions.

In addition, **Jim Fitzgerald** from Jamaica Plain, MA, will organize a

meeting in November or December, time and place TBA. Likewise, Paul Stubenbort, who lives in Bensalem, PA, has offered to host a meeting in the spring. Check later issues of *Diaspora* for updates.

Please contact me by phone (845-986-5406) or by email (philosophyworks@optonline.net) to let me know how I can be of help to you in your ministries or if you can volunteer to host a local meeting. You might also consider nominating yourself or a willing friend for NE Regional Vice-President since I am, at this point, serving out the last year of Tom and Michaelita Quinn's three-year term as Vice-Presidents. My first official act will be to initiate the process for nominating and electing a Vice-President for the region.

Pacific

by *Nick and Mary De Los Reyes*

Many thanks to **Barbara Kaplan**, outgoing Pacific Region Vice President, for her service, dedication and leadership; and for her generosity in continuing with the Prayer Support Ministry. Barbara, you are an inspiration!

Congratulations to **Evelyn Gerard Challis** of Oregon who was re-certified at the July Meeting of the Circle of Directors. Evelyn originally joined FCM in 1994 and was certified in 1997. Due to geographical separation from other FCM members and because Oregon did not authorize FCM certified members to officiate at weddings, she allowed her membership to lapse. Evelyn decided to apply for reinstatement because Oregon's laws have changed in FCM's favor and because more FCM members are living in the Portland area. Evelyn, welcome back. We are proud to stand with you.

continued on next page

Regional News, continued

We would like to thank the leaders of FCM for warmly affirming us as the incoming Vice Presidents of the Pacific Region. We are deeply moved by the enthusiasm for collegial ministry, for competence and for justice shown by those in leadership. We appreciate the opportunity to be in fellowship and collaboration with them. Although we realize that we have much to learn, by accepting the VP role we hope to be of service to the membership. Please feel to contact us with your ideas and suggestions. NTDLR@aol.com and MDLR@aol.com

Mountains & Plains

by Michael Keefe

Hello again from the Mountains and

Plains region! We are still enthused from the Joint Conference in Boston. Hopefully you've seen the colorful photos and can appreciate the Spirit's movement.

I hope you all have heard from me either by e-mail or regular mail. Thanks for all your responses. Those responses I have received have all been positive and encouraging. If you haven't received any communication from me, please let me know. (See the Circle of Director's Page for contact info.)

We are planning a regional gathering as part of the Milwaukee, WI CTA conference. I have been in communication with CTA and have requested a meeting room Saturday, November 8 from 2:30 until 3:30. The people from CTA said they haven't confirmed it yet, I also

gave them 3:30 until 4:30 if they can't fit us in. Keep tuned and I'll let you know the final arrangements.

A more local gathering of various folks including FCM will take place October 5 in Lake of the Hills, IL 60102. If you're interested let me know and I'll give you more details.

I was fortunate to join the Reaching Out community August 10. As you may know they gather every two weeks in the St. Louis area. If you need more information just let me know and I'll help connect you with them.

As you can see there's a lot going on in our area. If I've overlooked anyone or event, please let me know and I'll help get the word out. PEACE. ☪

IN MEMORIAM

Deepest sympathy to family and friends of these FCM members:

Rocco Caporale, New York. If you wish to send condolences for the Legacy book for Rocco, please visit <http://www.legacy.com/NYTimes/GB/GuestbookView.aspx?PersonId=114531198>

Joseph O'Rourke, Oak Park, IL, formerly of Chicago

Richard Cassidy, Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey

Deepest sympathy also to Eleanora Marinaro in the passing of her mother. Elly is vice president of the southern region, with her husband, David Gaboury

Loving Water

by Barbara Kaplan, Prayer Services Coordinator

Holding a feeling of gratitude and thanksgiving is prayer. Masaru Emoto, from his book *The True Power of Water* says, "We must pay respect to water, and feel love and gratitude, and receive vibrations with a positive attitude. Then, water changes, you change, and I change. Because both you and I are water." The vibrations we receive are the water's aliveness, energy, or God ... however your outlook.

I have been practicing Emoto's way of appreciating and loving water when I fill a glass from the tap to drink. Honestly, the water tastes better and I am drinking more water. I am also considering the beginnings of the water I am drinking. Last spring I drove to the top of Mt. Baker, which was still snow covered. To my surprise, there was a lake resting at the very summit. On my way back down, I pulled off to watch with awe the torrential stream of melted snow as it etched its way along the mountain, cascading over a falls, and continuing on its path. From this experience, I can imagine this pure water that I saw at its source as I drink my "treated" water. I appreciate its beginnings and I am grateful for its life.

Water is a precious resource. As we become more aware of pollution, we can help the planet recover its balance. Emoto says that water needs respect, not purification. We each can offer a prayer to the water before drinking it or before using it to water plants or the countless other ways we use water. In his book he talks about the added healing effects of praying at bodies of water that are polluted. We can do that too; each of our prayers can make a difference. Emoto has conducted many scientific experiments on the power of words and how whether written or spoken, they can make a powerful difference. His powerful work is spotlighted in the 2004 film, *What the Bleep Do We Know?* Check out the movie or read his books; they are sure to challenge and inspire. ☪



Chair's Column

by Antoinette Marold

The July Circle of Directors' meeting took place July 16-18, prior to the Joint Assembly in Boston. For the first time, we held a special meeting for the Regional Vice Presidents which was intended to provide support and opportunities for sharing to those serving in these roles. Senior VPs **Michaelita & Tom Quinn** of the Northeast chaired the meeting. The Feb. 2009 meeting will be chaired by senior VPs **Eleanora Marinaro & David Gaboury** of the Southern region.

At the conclusion of the Joint Assembly, **Eileen Mackin** and **Clem De Wall** ended their four-year term as presidents. Clem gave a rousing speech (see "Farewell," pg. 1). FCM members at the meeting gave them a farewell blessing. Our thanks and gratitude for a job well done. Eileen and Clem will remain active in the Mountain & Plains Region.

Also ending their terms at the conclusion of the Assembly were these vice presidents: **Mary McGrath**, Great Lakes Region, Michaelita & Tom Quinn, Northeast Region and **Barbara Kaplan**, Pacific Region. Sincere thanks to all of them for their many hours of service to FCM.

Mary McGrath will be involved in the 2009 FCM Assembly in Columbus, Ohio. Barbara Kaplan, will continue with the on-line prayer support. Michaelita & Tom Quinn have been appointed as Presidents to complete the remaining two years of Clem's and Eileen's term. Thanks to Michaelita and Tom for their continued service to FCM.

Welcome to these members who joined the FCM Circle of Directors following the Joint Assembly: **Michael Smith & Tom Stricker**, new vice presidents of the Great Lakes Region; **Mary** and **Nick De Los Reyes**, new vice presidents of the Pacific Region (completing Barbara Kaplan's term); and **William Murnion**, new vice president of the Northeast Region (completing Michaelita and Tom Quinn's term).

A **HUGE FCM THANK YOU** to Michaelita & Tom Quinn who spent 21 months and endless hours representing FCM as part of the Boston Joint Assembly Team. The Assembly was awesome with standing ovations for **Matthew Fox, Jane Via** and **Jean Marchant**. Beautiful dances by newly certified, (Cleveland's own) CeCe Miller and the Spirit of Life Dancers. There were inspiring classes, delicious food, and a Spirit Filled closing service put together by the Liturgy Team. **THANK YOU TO ALL** who donated their time and talents to make this wonderful event a success.

The Assembly began with a short overview of the four sponsoring groups. I had the privilege of providing the



The closing liturgy at the 2008 Joint Assembly. From left, Antoinette Marold, (FCM), Juanita Cordero (RCWP), C. Russell Ditzel (CORPUS), and Aisha Taylor, (WOC).

overview of FCM. I announced FCM's new mission statement, which had been voted on.

It is Called by God's Spirit and grounded in personal spiritual practice, the Federation of Christian Ministries responds by worshiping God and supporting the growth in faith and ministry of its individual and collective members. Our Christ-inspired organization does this by welcoming people of all spiritual persuasions. We offer empowerment and certification to those who have discerned a call to ministry.

FCM members who attended the Assembly received a hard copy of the FCM member directory and a commemorative bookmark celebrating FCM's 40th anniversary. If you would like a copy of the directory, contact your Regional Vice President, (see the Circle of Director's page) who will email you a copy for your files.

Meeting members of CORPUS, Roman Catholic Women Priests (RCWP) and Women's Ordination Conference (WOC) was a pleasure and many of them are also members of FCM. The hotel accommodations and staff were excellent. We were on the harbor with a short boat ride to Boston proper. However, I never had a minute to see Boston. For those members who were unable to attend the Joint Assembly, I hope to meet you in Columbus for the 2009 Conference. Mark your calendars July 17-19, 2009.

Congratulations to FCM Circle member, **Bill Manseau**, who has been elected president of CORPUS. Bill will continue as FCM's Representative at Large.

I end this article with this interesting quote—yet no author credit was given...

"Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid only of standing still." ¶

I didn't even know what those needs were. Of course, that should be easy to find out. Just ask people what they need, right? No, it doesn't work that way. For example, how many people are ready to admit to being poor? Many are too ashamed to admit they cannot pay their bills.

Ten years later I took a Carnegie sales course, during which I learned a principle that began to solve part of my puzzle. It was a jingle or slogan that goes like this: "See John Jones through John Jones' eyes and you'll sell John Jones what John Jones buys." (Actually, the original mantra said "Jim Jones," but I changed it to avoid confusion with the cult leader who was in the news later.) If you want to sell someone a product, or provide a service, or get someone to accept what you have to offer, you must begin by seeing that person and that person's world through that person's eyes. So, in order to minister to others, all you have to do is ask them what their opinions are and how they see the world, right? No, it doesn't work that way.

There are two problems that keep us from seeing through the eyes of other people. The first is our own propensity to reinforce our own opinions. Consider Christian book stores. The reason they make money is that Christians read Christian books. Catholics read Catholic books, Mormons read Mormon books, and Muslims read Muslim books. We all watch the TV news shows that agree with our viewpoint and avoid people, books and TV news shows with which we disagree.

To break out of this trap we must seriously question where we get our information. To see the world through the eyes of other people, we must examine the sources of our

information, whether it is about religion, theology, economics, current events, or how well off people are today. We have to spend time learning opposing viewpoints.

The other roadblock to seeing John Jones through John Jones' eyes is that others do not tell you how they view the world. Instead, people all around you will consistently tell you only what they think you want to hear. That is why gay and lesbian children have such a hard time coming out of the closet to their own parents. Even your closest friends and family will tell you only what they think you want to hear.

The only way to break out of this dilemma is to become open-minded enough to learn about subjects and opinions that you tend to disagree with. And beyond that, you have to let others know that you are open to those viewpoints without condemning either those viewpoints or those who hold them.

All of this does not come easy. It is hard work. There is a Chinese proverb — it may have been created by Leno or Letterman, for all I know — that says, "Man on hillside — or woman on hillside — wait long time for roast duck to fly into mouth." But just as food does not come to us just by waiting for it, neither does knowledge or openness. If you are going to be knowledgeable as ministers — understanding the true needs of your people and how to meet those needs — then you will have to go out of your way and work for that knowledge and information.

Today Eileen and I thank you for the privilege of serving you, and we pass the presidential baton on to Michaelita and Tom Quinn. I have laid down a challenge for you today, because, as we leave office, we not only wish you the best, but even more, we wish that you be the best.

God bless you and your ministries. ¶

A Presidential Transition

Gratitude to FCM's Outgoing

Presidents: Clem DeWall and Eileen Mackin

"Is your ministry a success?" was the question posed by Clem DeWall to those at the FCM Business Meeting on the last day of the 2008 Joint Conference in Boston. This was his challenge as he and Eileen Mackin ended their time as presidents of FCM since 2004.

And this was the trademark of Clem and Eileen — questioning, challenging, making us all think beyond our own personal boundaries. Eileen inspired us with her creative prayer services at Circle meetings and her concern for the vice presidents. Clem forced us to think as he wrote deep articles for the Diaspora ranging from the meaning of Christian to Christianity to Ministry. Both entered into serious discussion about FCM's mission and vision.

They assure us, "We are still dedicated to the work of FCM and to you."

It is with gratitude that we will remember their gifts to FCM and to all of us.

A Message from FCM's Incoming

Presidents: Tom and Michaelita Quinn

In this, its 40th year of existence, FCM is on the cusp of a new vision, new programs, and new members. We carry the energy and the Spirit from the conference in Boston to our new role as presidents of FCM.

Our goals will focus on the essential mission of FCM while creating a path for the future.

We have set four goals: to complete and implement of the FCM Strategic Plan, to develop a program of support for the regional vice presidents, to carry the message of FCM to each of the five regions, and to strengthen the internal structure to better serve FCM members.

In November we will also have the privilege of representing FCM's Roman

Catholic Faith Community Council at the North Atlantic Federation for a Renewed Catholic Priesthood. From this international Congress in Vienna, titled "A Future for God's People – Service Responding to Needs", we hope to gain an international perspective on ministry.

This is an exciting time to be part of the FCM community. With our history as a source of inspiration to all of us, we invite your participation as together we respond to the call to ministry.

Tom and Michaelita live in Danbury, CT where Tom has a psychotherapy practice and Michaelita heads a management consulting business. ¶



Tom and Michaelita Quinn



Focus on a Ministry

by Dennis Condon

Throughout my adult life, service to others has been a pleasant, albeit sometimes challenging, driving force. Early on, I was a missionary priest in Mexico; later, there were 33 years when I was director of an emergency food pantry and crisis agency. Now there is a home church as well as a wide ranging ecumenical, non-judgmental wedding ministry.

As a result of two letters crossing CITI's Louise Haggett's desk at the same time, I was invited to serve a home church group whose origins were shortly after Vatican II at a shopping center on Chicago's southwest side. Under the egis of Cardinal Cody and later under Cardinal Bernardin, the original experimental parish, funded and staffed by the archdiocese, was called the Ford City Catholic Community Center. By 1997, when I was invited to help out, it was no longer at the shopping center, and it did not have archdiocesan funding or staffing. It is best described as a small faith community or home church and has taken the name *Project Search*.

Project Search has maintained its original communal nature in its makeup and decision-making. There is no pastor or leader and it utilizes the different abilities of all members: musicians, planners, priest, bakers of eucharistic bread, handlers of finances, hosts for the gatherings. We number approximately 17 and, in addition to the monthly liturgies, Project Search has a centering prayer group and a women's group. Financially, Project Search helps support a local food pantry and has an "adoptive" child in Guatemala. If you are interested in our liturgy schedule and locations, please contact me at the email listed at the end of this article.

My first wedding as an FCM certified minister was in July 1996. It had added significance as it involved the son of a friend from my seminary days in San Antonio at the Oblate School of Theology. For several years, a small group of us married priests living in the Chicago area pooled our resources for publicity and operated a coordinated wedding ministry. We received calls from catholic couples who either were not members of a parish or wished to have their ceremony at some location other than a church. Wedding coordinators happily found us as well and were pleased that each of us individually offered personalized ceremonies. At first we depended on the printed medium to get out our publicity but over the years that medium has been superseded by the

Internet. I now have my own website: www.wedding-priestchicagoland.com and depend on the web and "word of mouth" for the majority of the weddings, baptisms and funerals at which I am privileged to officiate. I have also been an exhibitor at wedding expos. The functioning of my wedding ministry is not unique. Like others doing wedding ministry, there are meetings with couples not only to discuss wedding planning but also the themes of any lasting marriage. There are rehearsals, ceremonies, certificates, stressed out brides, problematic family disputes to negotiate and yes, fees to establish. The question of fees can be stressful when one tries to balance the desire to be of service with the reality that one's time, effort and training have economic value. In coordination with others in the area, I have a set fee but also clearly state that "financial hardships are considered." In addition to offering a variety of materials to help each couple plan the ceremony of their choice, I also provide a 93-page workbook, which is used for the Chicago Archdiocese's Pre-cana meetings. This publication includes a wealth of exercises that force the couple to explore their personal thoughts and feelings.

Almost every couple asks me and my wife to join them for the reception meal and to give a blessing. We are happy to do this for a variety of reasons, especially as it gives us a chance to intermingle with the rest of the guests, some of whom are seeing a married catholic priest for the first time.

It is a pleasure when couples, whose weddings I witnessed, call me back in a couple of years to baptize their babies. Unfortunately, I have also had to bury the husbands of two very distraught wives, who, only a year or so earlier, stood before me to pronounce their wedding vows.

In 1975, when I received my laicization, I was told that one of the conditions of the laicization was that I not divulge the fact that I was ordained. For several years I attempted to remain silent. Thanks to the efforts of FCM, CORPUS and CITI, combined with the calls for service coming from couples and others, I have shaken off the cloak of silence. ¶

Reach Dennis Condon at his email address:

4denniscondon@gmail.com

Wonder-Full 2008 Joint Conference

by Regina Schulte, Member of CORPUS

Wonder-full.

The word kept cropping up when I spoke with people about their impressions of the 2008 Joint Conference in Boston, Inclusive Ministry and Renewal in a Complex Age, sponsored by the Federation of Christian Ministries, the Women's Ordination Council, Roman Catholic Womenpriests and Corpus. "Wonderful!... food... location... accommodations... people... ideas... challenges... ministries... speakers... workshops... enthusiasm... friendships."

For Jean McNamara, CORPUS member from Houston, TX, being together again with old friends brought great comfort. The Joint conference increased the number of participants and therefore the dynamism of the conference. Jean was most impressed to see what marvelous things people have done with their lives. She attended workshops on the Archeology of Women's Ordained Ministries and Catholic Adulthood and Personal Authority. "Inspiring!" was her summary. Jean especially loved keynote speaker Matthew Fox's comment that "none of us is leading the lives we intended." For Jean, coming to this conference was like coming home, but with lots of new people to meet and exciting ideas to explore.

Rev. Peggy Howland and Rev. LaVonne Alhouse are old friends and ministers. Each is a past President of the International Association of Women Ministers. Peggy is a Presbyterian and LaVonne is a minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Peggy, from central Pennsylvania, and LaVonne, from Yonkers via Brooklyn, expressed their delight in the shared commonalities of people, especially the women, at the conference. Lavonne was pleased by the "immersion experience" of sharing unique stories with other women ministers and priests. These old friends were innovators when they started out in ministry, and they felt they had lots in common with women striving to find their places in their churches today. Peggy, ordained 50 years ago as a Presbyterian minister, was particularly happy to note how widespread the current renewal efforts are among church communities. She found it valuable to see how women outside of official church structures have been able to innovate and improvise. She related this to Matthew Fox's image of birth coming out of chaos. Both women appreciated workshops on the Archaeology of Women's Ordained Ministries and All are Welcome...Really?, a discussion of affirmation for gay and lesbian parishioners.

Jeanne Tessier, a "Catholic-to-the-core" FCM member from Louisville KY, came to the conference because she has felt a call to priesthood in the Roman Catholic tradition. She came to the conference to explore how other women with similar tugs have been able to approach the possibility of priesthood in their lives. Jeanne attended a workshop on



Jane Via, left from California and Jean Marchant from Massachusetts joined to present the keynote address Tomb to Womb: Birthing New Communities of Faith at the Joint Assembly.

alternative Catholic communities, where she heard ideas that she will take home to her local parish for further discussion and development. Jeanne was particularly helped by being able to meet and talk with Roman Catholic women priests who are further along in their journey toward priesthood. She was most grateful for Matthew Fox's honesty and challenge. Jeanne summed up the conference by saying it was "wonderful and exhausting." But honestly, she didn't look exhausted, she looked and sounded renewed and motivated.

Julien and Jane Olivier are also FCM members. Julien, a married priest, is now a hospital chaplain; his wife, Jane, is a labyrinth facilitator and dancer. They minister to the prison population in New Hampshire. Jane loved the intermingling of people at the conference and enjoyed hearing about the diversity of ministries. She thought the Sunday liturgy was exceptionally beautiful, and she loved the homily by Old Catholic Bishop Peter Hickman that focused on three parables. Julien was delighted by the renewal of old friendships and by seeing a surprising number of young people. He was pleased to meet with so many people who shared the same worldview. Although he has been to many religious and professional conferences, Julien said that none was as intense as this one. He felt plugged in immediately to the sense of like-minded people—still seekers, still open, still caring—about their ministries and caring for others. For the Oliviers, the mix of focused workshops and meeting new and old friends made this conference special.

My husband and I (both Corpus members) found the weekend encouraging. While we love our Corpus friends, we found new stimulation in talking with people whose spiritual focus may take different forms. I attended a workshop offered by vigiling parishes whose churches are being closed. There I was able to hear new ideas on a topic I know little about. Other workshops explored such issues as alternative Catholic communities, women's ordinations, diversity, racism,

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Matthew Fox: An Interview

by Mark Doorley

How do you understand the role of suffering in a person's spiritual development?

MF: It makes us stronger. Pruning is a helpful image. The rose bush gets stronger when you cut it back, closer to its essence or purpose. There is a lot to learn about other people's suffering, from learning about your own; that is compassion. My car accident in 1976 was important for me; it created an overnight shift in lifestyle; I was in pain 24 hours a day, for two years. I discovered [Meister] Eckhart at that time and wrote my book on compassion. The darkest times are often our deepest moments of education, in retrospect of course. My experience of losing the use of my legs at 12 and not knowing if I'd walk again was actually a liberation. My father was a football coach, and my brothers played football, and I was moving in that direction. Not knowing if I would walk again I had to find another model of malehood than the one I had had. I met a young Dominican brother who was contemplative and peaceful, a very different model that I found attractive. When I regained the use of my legs, I played sports, but with a detachment I would not have had without that experience

How do you understand your role in the Christian Church today, as a post-denominational priest?

MF: That phrase popped into my head when I literally sat down on my front steps when I received the letter from the Vatican expelling me. It means for me the primary role deep ecumenism plays in our time. We often think of ourselves in these different boxes (denominations); it is very Newtonian—atoms as rugged individuals, impenetrable. The new physics is about the interpenetrability of all

atoms; this opens the door for deep ecumenism. There have been as many sins committed in the name of denominationalism, as in the name of racism, sexism or all other -isms. Being post denominational, one is still rooted in a tradition, but not defined by that. Church is not a box. The question is what we are giving birth to in the name of our own communities; this is "ecclesio-genesis" as Leonardo Boff puts it.

What does the future hold for the Christian Church?

MF: It is time for some divorces. Those Christians who think justice is more important than sexual peccadilloes should ban together. This is happening in a natural way. Those who think the end and be all of theology and ecclesiology is a celibate priesthood or homophobia should go their way. History is full of these shakeups. This is the path of creativity. The amount of energy that is being wasted to heal a church split on these things (homosexuality, women, etc.) is a waste of energy. It is sinful. It saps the energy that should be used for the more important moral crises of our time such as the ecological disaster. The divorce is natural, organic and necessary. Hopefully it is done with some grace, ritual, wishing each other well.

What advice do you have for FCM in the preparation and support of its members?

MF: What we've done for 29 years in our master's program is a tested and proven pedagogy and would be a good model for FCM. It involves the right and left side of the brain, involves the body, the lower chakras, not just the head. Spiritual leaders have to be awakened to their mystical life and exposed to an awareness of our mystical tradition. It is pitiful that so many young people think they have to go East for mysticism, when we have so



2008 Joint Assembly Keynote Speaker Matthew Fox, left with FCM member Mark Doorley.

much in our own history. Or that we reduce spirituality to psychology when it is far more cosmic than that.

What gives you hope?

MF: To start: the women's movement, fresh thinking, questions and actions, the return of the goddess and the divine feminine. She is not sweet, but tough and strong, which we all need. The very despair of our time gives me hope. Many people do not experience God or transcendence until they are in despair. The cutting through of denial is a work of the spirit. People often change only with a collapse. There is a growing interest in spirituality as opposed to religion; it is a very hopeful trend. This is part of a healthy movement away from ideology and institutionalization. Even the Internet is a sign of hope since it increases communication. It has its shadow, no doubt, but ideas get out there. There is always hope. The gift of science is another source of hope. View from the Center of the Universe, by Joel R. Primack and Nancy Ellen Abrams, is a wonderfully hopeful book. They've taken the findings from Hubble of the last five years and turned them into a meaningful way of looking at the universe and our place in it. I also take hope in the potential reawakening of men—the return of the Sacred Masculine as distinct from the toxic masculine—we are on the cusp of this. ¶

chaplains, the nature of priesthood, the development of a retreat center, jail ministries, Catholic adulthood and personal authority, building a personal spiritual life, the archeology of women's ministries, and archetypes of our lives.

The address by keynote speaker Matthew Fox brought to light the concept that the goddess tradition honors chaos. Fox's focus on creativity ("a far more divine virtue than obedience") resonated with conference attendees. He said that it is our duty to re-awaken the sense of the sacred, and to do so, we must open our hearts to the wonders of the universe.

Women priests Jean Marchant and Jane Via told with

humor and sensitivity and appropriate pride the story of the birth and growth of their communities. Sunday morning's magnificent liturgy thrilled everyone. One dancer (from the lovely Cleveland-based Spirit of Life Dancers) told me with shining eyes that she was enthralled by the synergy among all the participants who were there drinking it all in. She said she had never seen a group so swept up in the thrill of a liturgical celebration. The colors, the scents, the sounds of the palpable joy present in the ballroom of the Hyatt Hotel matched the grand cityscapes at the water's edge in Boston. The 100-degree weather outside could not diminish the enthusiasm of those taking part in the events inside the hotel. Wonder-full. ¶

Bill Manseau Receives Anthony Soto Award

by Joe Ruane

(Joe and Nancy Ruane, 2003 recipients of the Soto Award, presented the award.-ed.)

The presentation of the prestigious Anthony Soto Award to **Bill Manseau** marked a highlight of the FCM business meeting at the Boston Joint Conference. The Soto Award is given each year to the FCM member who exemplifies the spirit and vision of longtime FCM member, Anthony Soto, a Franciscan pastor, sociologist and theological scholar, idealist and activist, husband and father. He was also a leader in the struggle of Mexican Americans for justice in the workplace.

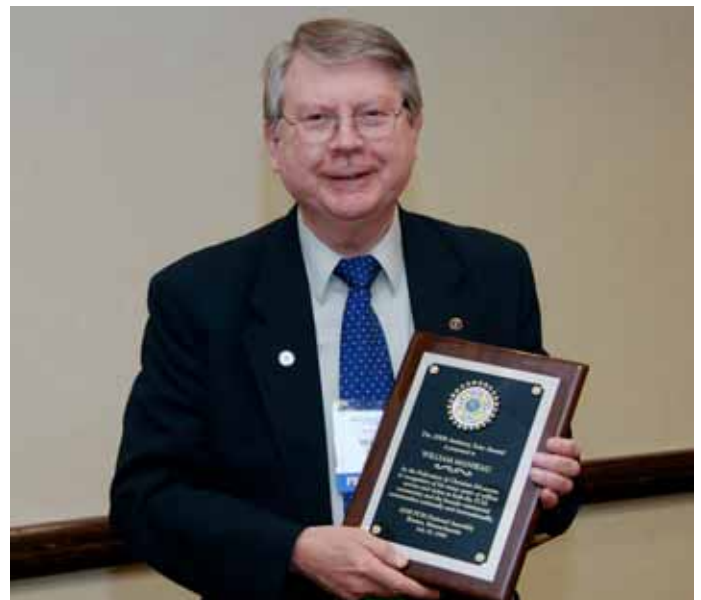
The Anthony Soto Award honors members whose varied work and lives demonstrate affinity to the work of Anthony Soto, who, with his wife founded a small vibrant faith community and created an innovative job training program that was replicated around the country. Award recipients are challenged to work for the betterment of their own communities and the broader society through their continued faith and contributions to FCM. This year at the historic meeting of four renewal groups, there could be no more deserving recipient than Bill Manseau.

The award is granted to a member in the region in which the national assembly is held. An Award Committee of the Northeast was polled for nominations and they overwhelmingly selected Bill Manseau. In nominating comments, Bill was called a visionary who was grounded enough to know and use the nuts and bolts that make change in our church possible. He has been faithful

to the Gospel, and he has maintained his pastoral integrity despite opposition and ridicule. He lives his life and practices his ministry with grace and humor. Bill has taken the lead in some difficult and technical endeavors such as the fight for pension benefits for resigned priests. His early development of FCM certification and his more recent work on endorsements for special ministries has broadened the scope and professionalism of FCM.

Bill is Dean of Religious Studies for Global Ministries University. He developed the Roman Catholic Faith Community Council of FCM so that the renewal of the ministry that started FCM would not be lost as FCM moved toward ecumenical and interfaith work, and in doing so developed a council structure for FCM's further growth.

Bill has served as FCM president and has been in leadership positions since FCM's beginnings. Bill is a church reformer and a member of the loyal opposition. He is a deserving recipient of the Soto Award. ¶



Bill Manseau, long-time FCM member and current Representative At Large, received the Anthony Soto Award at the 2008 Joint Assembly

MEET THE FCM NEWLY CERTIFIED

NORTHEAST REGION



Donald M. Pachuta opted to expand his ministry to holistic and spiritual healing after spending many years as a medical doctor, working with such well-known personalities as Elizabeth Kubler Ross and Dr. Bernie Segal. He gives day retreats around the country and was a member of a team doing three-day heal-

ing retreats for professionals and lay people in churches of various denominations and in hospitals. More recently, since retirement from his medical practice, he has devoted his energies to supporting parishes in Boston and other parts of the country where parish closings are imminent. He is viewed by the parishioners as a spiritual leader and teacher and presents classes in Scripture, spirituality, and healing. As a certified member of FCM, he looks forward to working with FCM colleagues in ministry as part of the FCM community.



Mary Ann M. Schoettly was certified in FCM on July 19, 2008, and was ordained as a Deacon the next day on July 20, 2008, in Boston. Her ordination was for her a source of "... joy, hope, trust and exhilaration." She said "The joy was radiant in people's faces...and the hope for renewal and Spirit-driven celebration

was palpable." She looks forward to working with FCM in ministry and sees FCM as supporting and enhancing her continuing work with her own small faith community. She has taught theology at the undergraduate level at two colleges and has been facilitator for numerous women's retreats. Mary Ann's ministries include hospital chaplaincy and facilitation of spirituality groups for out-patients of mental health. She has an MA in Theology and will begin a CPE program in September.

GREAT LAKES REGION



The Great Lakes Region was delighted to present **Cece Miller** from the Cleveland area for certification in Boston in July. As artistic director of the Spirit of Life Dancers, she richly graced the whole weekend from the opening dinner to the closing liturgy and it was a real honor to certify her to legally per-

form ritual for all community. Cece was a certified pastoral minister in the Cleveland diocese for 20 years. She is no longer involved in parish work. The Spirit of Life Dance Group is just one of her creations. She is cofounder of Sacred Space, a 20 year non-profit center of spirituality and learning. Cece's has a breadth of talent and interest that includes teaching the Aramaic Words of Jesus, ritual dance, Middle Eastern Tribal Belly Dance, the Enneagram, parenting skills, and ecospirituality. She also leads retreats and offers spiritual direction. She is treasured for her gifts as a liturgist by the feminist communities that she serves. She is a great addition to our FCM community!

PACIFIC REGION



The Pacific Region enthusiastically welcomes **Evelyn Gerardo Challis**, newly certified as an FCM minister at the July Circle meeting. Evelyn currently works as a NACC certified chaplain for 450 residents of Mary's Woods in Oswego, Oregon. She gives tribute to her parents as her greatest teachers. She says, "In

their daily life and in later years, in their illness and grief, transition and death, both inspired and taught me what was necessary to partner with them and others who experience similar challenges, pain, beauty, and sorrow." Evelyn lives in Portland with her husband. If you get a chance, drop her a welcoming note at emgchallis@aol.com as she would appreciate connecting with other FCM members. ¶



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GMU offers degrees completion programs, certificates, courses online. FCM members are eligible for a 5% discount on degree programs. For more information, call: 760 238-7570, email: info@GlobalMinistriesUniversity.org Or visit web site: www.GlobalMinistriesUniversity.org

FCM Certificates

These lovely certificates are available from the Secretary. Please specify your choice: Baptism, Marriage, Holy Union and the number you need. The certificates are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Each is printed on certificate weight paper in blue ink and carry the FCM logo and seal.

FCM Central Registry

The FCM Central Registry for Baptism, Marriage and Holy Unions is managed by Paul Reithmaier, 7415-K Triwoods Dr., Shrewsbury, MO 63119. Forms are available from Paul or can be printed from the regional website <http://home.att.net/~fcmmp>. A small donation to cover the cost of maintaining the service is appreciated.

CERTIFICATION

The certification dates correspond with the Circle of Director's Meeting and is posted in the *Diaspora*.

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*Check out the
Official FCM site!*

www.federationofchristianministries.org



- Information on FCM Certification.
- Links to earning a Pastoral Ministry Certificate or a Degree in Religious Studies.
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