

***EASTER,
a Message from the Regionary***



The Resurrection of Our Lord is the second great Festival of the liturgical year, and the one presenting the clearest prefiguration of the destiny of mankind as proposed to us by St. Paul: “*until we reach the fullness of the stature of Christ*”. For centuries, meditations on the events of the life of Jesus of Nazareth have been proposed to the faithful as the perfect illustration of the stages of their transformation from their natural state to their glorious condition as children of God, sharing Christ’s heritage.

Thomas van Kempen’s, also known as *Thomas a Kempis* (1380-1471), gentle book, the *Imitation of Jesus-Christ*¹, filled with the spirit of the love of God, has for more than 500 years, brought understanding and comfort to millions of readers in over fifty languages. It has also provided them with a source of heart-felt personal prayer. These meditations on the life and teachings of Jesus, written in times even more troubled and dangerous than our own, have become second only to the Bible as a guide and a source for inspiration.

Our Church’s Liturgy has kept this proven method for our guidance. In the first half of every year, liturgy brings us step by step, from Bethlehem to Calvary, and at each Festival we have the opportunity to identify with one of the stages of human evolution towards perfection. The observance of the Services of the Holy Week are of particular importance in our understanding of the Work of Transformation by our mystical death and resurrection.

+Maurice.

¹ The text of the *Imitation of Jesus-Christ* can be downloaded from the section *Mystical Writings*, in our web site.

ABOUT THE RESURRECTION

From the Letter to Rheginos, Nag Hammadi Library

The Savior swallowed up death. He transformed himself into an imperishable being and raised himself up, having swallowed the visible by the invisible, and he gave us the way of our immortality.

So, never doubt concerning the resurrection, my son Rheginos! For if you were not existing in flesh, you received flesh when you entered this world. Why will you not receive flesh again when you ascend into the being? That which came into being on your account, is it not yours? Does not that which is yours exist with you? Nothing, then, redeems us from this world.

What, then, is the resurrection? It is always the disclosure of those who have risen. For if you remember reading in the Gospel that Elijah appeared and Moses with him, do not think the resurrection is an illusion. It is no illusion, but it is truth! Indeed, it is more fitting to say the world is an illusion.

But what am I telling you now? Those who are living shall die. How do they live in an illusion? The rich shall become poor, and the kings be overthrown. Everything is prone to change. The world is an illusion!

But the resurrection is the truth which stands firm. It is the revelation of what is, and the transformation of things, and a transition into newness. For imperishability descends upon the perishable; the light flows down upon the darkness, swallowing it up. These are the symbols and the images of the resurrection.

AN EASTER MESSAGE, by Tara.

The Great Sacrificial Power of Christ is symbolized by the death and Resurrection of our Lord. This double Power directed by the transcendental Fire and growing during the purification period of Lent, awakens to burst into a joyous Easter, Hallujah.

Transcendence becomes Immanence. The new Fire brings blessing after the cold of winter: man feels vibrate within the premises of Renewal!

EASTER! CHRIST IS RISEN!

Man, that sublime fool, takes measure of the year. One can, if one does so desire, unite oneself with the Great Beings, to take part through one's own fire - in the elevation to the Subtler Worlds.

At carnival, one lets go of one's inhibitions and habits and "change one's clothes".

During the forty days of Lent one has purified the three bodies and one's Word, one is ready to penetrate into the Mystery of Transcendence, and take part in the Great Passion, which is expressed in the suffering of the Fire, descending from plane to plane into physical matter.

Through the purification of lent is given to us the vision of the Great Easter Mystery. The Star of Resurrection shines within us, in the transcendence of our sky, in the very special Blessing which is bestowed upon us., in the understanding of and the communion with the Easter Mystery.

In our sacrificial Communion which has been growing during lent, in our yearly sacrifice of Fire, we ascend towards the All which purifies, and delivers us from suffering and death.

And our individual Fire, joined with the other fires, rises from the Deep, bringing light and dispelling all earth's darkness and obscurity.

Joyous Easter to all of you. May we share with all, the eggs of good will.

OUR LADY AND HER ANGELS, by MHW.

Several Liberal Catholic Congregations have chosen the magnificent name: Our Lady and Her Angels; and this choice represents the great devotion that the members of our Church have for Her and for Her Holy Angels. It may surprise many of us to find so little about the Our Lady's Angels in the official documents of the Liberal Catholic Church. Outside a short and vague phrase in the Statement of Principles: "*There is a ministry of the Angels,*" two festivals and a few invocations in our Liturgy, they are conspicuously absent. This absence is probably due to the care we take not to offend anyone's belief, and as many Protestant Churches have a reserved attitude towards Our Lady and the Angels, the authors of our Statement of Principles may have chosen to be prudent.

However, many Liberal Catholic authors as Bp. Leadbeater, the Revs. Geoffrey Hodson and Jan van der Stok have written abundantly about the Angelic Kingdom. Their works report their observations by their mystical faculties, and we should be grateful for their teachings. Our Church has adopted the traditional nine Orders of Angels listed in the Preface of the Holy Eucharist, but celebrates only two of the Archangels, Michael and Gabriel. The Orthodox Churches venerate Uriel as the third Archangel. Although Christianity recognizes the unlimited number of the Angel Hosts, many Christians believe that the teaching about them is a recent revelation.

When we look at the official position of the Catholic churches, the teachings are limited to a few references in the Bible. The most enterprising students of the Angels will probably not dare to study more than what is written in the Jewish tradition and the most courageous may quote the Cabbalah, while the conservative Christians will focus mainly on the Angels of the Book of Revelation and see them as the executioners of the wrath of a destructive God.

The discoveries of Qumran and Nag Hammadi have shown how much of the teachings of the early Church have been lost, and how much more shall probably remain lost for eternity, and the loss is greater than all what anyone may hope to discover in the future. After the discoveries, however, more and more attention is given to the teachings of the Christian Gnostics. Much of what is accepted today both in our Church and in others what regards the Holy Angels is taken from Apocryphal books, even when there is no confirmation in the Canonical books of the Bible.

The Liberal Catholic Church recognizes that the books of the Bible are generally inspired by God, but also that they are of unequal value. Its members recognize also the value of the Christian books excluded from the Biblical Canon, knowing that such Canon has varied over the centuries, and that even today the major religious currents (Judaism, Catholicism, Protestantism) cannot agree on its contents.

In 1937, just before world war II, the English translation of a lost Apocryphal book was published by Prof. Edmond Székely, under the title *The Gospel of the Peace of Jesus-Christ by the Disciple John*. The book was quickly forgotten because of the turmoil of the war. Its importance was later overshadowed by the important discoveries of Qumran and Nag Hammadi. It remains a very instructive reading for those who are interested in Our Lady, the Mother, and Her Angels. This book is probably the only source known today providing a clear classification of these angelic beings associated with Our Lady, and a description of their relationship with mankind.

According to this source, the Angels of our Lady consist of: the Angels of the air, the Angels of the water, Angels of Light, the Angels of the earth, the healing Angels, the Angels of warmth and cold, the unknown Angels and the Angels of Love. The text is presented as a teaching given by Jesus to those approaching Him to be healed.

It begins with the following promise, then goes on with the description of the nature and work of each category of Angels:

“And Jesus said: Blessed are you, who want to escape the power of evil, because I will lead you to the Kingdom of the Angels of Our Mother, where the power of evil cannot enter, and happy will you be when you have known your Mother Earth, when you will have received her Angels, and followed Her laws.

Fast alone to purify yourself, search the company of the Angels of your Mother, fast until all evil has left and that the Angels of Our Mother Earth have come to serve you.”

ANGELS OF THE AIR.

“Search for the pure air of the forest or of the fields, because there you shall find the Angel of the air. Remove your clothes that the Angel of the air may embrace your body. Inhale deeply, that the Angel of the air may penetrate. Amen, I say unto you: the Angel of the air shall clean your body from all

impurity. No one shall be presented before the face of God if the Angel of the air doesn't let him pass. Blessed is the Angel of the air."

ANGELS OF THE WATER.

"Search for the angel of water and let water baptize your body, inside and outside, and all impurity and ugliness shall be washed away. Amen, I say unto you: the angel of the water is holy. No one shall be presented before the face of God if the Angel of the water doesn't let him pass. All must be reborn by water and truth. May your bodies be washed in the terrestrial river, and your spirit washed in the river of Eternal Life. Also, let the Angel of the water baptize the inside of your body, that you may be free from the sins of the past and become pure as the water of a river reflecting the light of the Sun."

ANGELS OF LIGHT.

"After the Angel of the air and the Angel of the water, call for the Angel of Light. Let the light of the Sun embrace your body and the Angel of Light shall clean your body of all impure material. No one shall be presented before the face of God if the Angel of Light doesn't let him pass. Blessed is the Angel of Light.

The Angels of the air, of the water and of Light are brothers. They serve the children of Mankind and are ever ready to serve. All impurity and sin shall quickly leave the body of those who are protected by these three Angels. If you believe in the Angels of the Mother, and respect their laws, your faith shall sustain you, and you shall never know sickness. And when you will appear before the face of God, Her Angels will testify of your good deeds."

ANGELS OF THE EARTH.

"The Angels of the air, of water or of Light are not the only ones who can soothe your pain, you may call for the Angel of the earth. Clay mixed with water shall heal your bones; pain, impurity and illness shall disappear."

HEALING ANGELS.

"Bless your Mother, the earth, for sending Her healing Angels, and act in such a way that they remain with you. Killing to eat and eating dead bodies make the Healing angels depart, your body is left alone, and evil will enter your body. But ripe fruits and vegetables, prepared by the fire of life are the gifts of the Angels of our Mother. Truly, the strength of the Angels penetrates your body with the living food the Lord gives at His royal table. You should also call for the Angels of joy, and never eat while being angry, sad or without desire, because all food shall be changed in poison to the body."

THE ANGELS OF WARMTH AND OF COLD.

"Avoid what is too hot or too cold. It is the will of the Mother that heat nor cold shall hurt your body. Do not let your body be warmer or colder than what

the Angels will heat or cool. Your Mother shall send Her Angel of warmth when your body is cold, and Her Angel of cold when your body is warm."

THE UNKNOWN ANGELS.

"And, every morning, God shall send the Angel of the rays of the Sun to wake you up. Get up and obey the call of your Father, because the Angels of the air and the water are waiting for you. Work with the Angels of the Mother the entire day, so that you may learn more about them and about their work. But when the Sun is set, your Father shall send His Unknown Angels to spend the night with you. And the Unknown Angels shall teach you many things about the kingdom of God, as the Angels of the Mother have instructed you about their kingdom. Amen, I say unto you: every night you shall be the guest of the kingdom of the Father, and when you will wake up, you shall feel the power of the Unknown Angels, and the Mother shall send Her Angels to build your body. Truly, if the Mother takes you in Her arms during the day, the Father shall blow a kiss upon you during the night, and the Sons of man shall become the Sons of God."

THE ANGELS OF LOVE.

"Then Jesus prayed and said: 'Peace be with you!'. His peace came upon them and the Angel of Love descended in their hearts. Jesus prayed again and left after saying: 'As your bodies have been regenerated by the Angels of your Mother, may your spirits be revived by the Angels of your Father in Heaven.'"

Are we sure that the Angels of Our Lady are really those described above? Of course not. We are no more sure of their names and classification than we are sure that the nine Orders of Angels we invoke in the Preface of the Holy Eucharist are nine in reality, or that the names of Michael, Raphael or Uriel are their true names, or that Kadosh is the real name of the Angel of the Consecration.

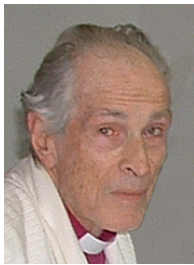
We accept the teachings about the Holy Angels in good faith, because we see them as the result of the experience of others who came before us. This acceptance is probably what Paul -- who was not really an Apostle and never met Jesus -- meant when he wrote: We shall be justified by faith alone (Romans 3:24). Such is the teaching of Paul to the Catechumen. Faith alone will allow the beginner to lock up the teaching in a corner of his memory, to bury it in the dust of his brain. If it remains there, the teaching will die with the body and with it, the opportunity to increase in value, as the buried talent of the "bad servant" of the parable. (Matthew 25:24-30)

James, who lived with Jesus during the entire three years of His ministry, had the full benefit of His teachings, instructs the Baptized. He enhances Paul's teaching: *"You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone"* (James 1:24). As we live in the presence of the Angels, as we pray and act -- *Ora et Labora* -- by seeing the effectiveness of their action, we are gaining more knowledge of them, and our knowledge will replace our blind faith.

And one day, while cooperating with their work, we will truly experience their presence. We will have gained absolute certainty, then faith and knowledge shall fade away. When will that happen? Probably when we shall be presented before the true face of God, and the Angels of Our Lady shall let us pass....

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH. HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE....

Our Presiding Bishop



The Rt. Rev. Tom Degenars is slowly regaining his strength and has resumed his work as our Presiding Bishop. In spite of the discomfort of his illness he has kept his sense of humor.

Members in the Netherlands visit him on a regular base and help him with his administrative duties.

The Province of Belgium

After several years of inactivity due to the absence of a priest, the Congregation of Our Lady in Antwerp has the hope to reopen a Chapel. The Rev. Ronald Engelse has offered to provide his assistance. The Rev. Engelse is currently the priest-in-charge of the Church of St. Francis Rotterdam (the Netherlands) . He and his wife Ietske travel once a month to Antwerp for the Theosophical Society. Although his offer is promising, there is still much work to do to achieve the celebration of regular services. The most difficult part of the project is to find suitable premises.

The Province of Canada

Diane Temblay, the spouse of the Rev. Archambault, who was hospitalized for major surgery on November 19, 2004 was again operated on in February 2005 for complications resulting from the previous intervention. She is recuperating very well and is regaining her strength.

The Rev. David Carter, who left the Mission of St. Gabriel in Bridgewater N.S. about five years ago to pursue a career in Hong Kong, China, has notified me that he is resigning from the Canadian Province of the Liberal Catholic Church. The Rev. Carter had announced in several occasions his desire to come back to Canada. I have accepted his resignation with regrets. The Mission is now definitively closed.

The Province of Denmark, Norway, Iceland.

At the request of Bp. Tom Degenaars, our Presiding Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Kai Jørgensen has come out of retirement and has accepted the responsibility of Regionary Bishop for the Province of Denmark, Norway and Iceland. We welcome our sisters and brothers from the Congregation of St. Gabriel in Århus, who have recently elected to join our movement

The Province of the Netherlands



Natashja Hoyer from Denmark received Minor Orders up to Acolyte by the hand of the Rt. Rev. Frank den Outer, Regionary Bishop of the Netherlands on March 6, 2005 in the beautiful Chapel of Our Lady and All her Angels in Arnhem, the Netherlands. Natashja will serve in the Parish of Copenhagen.

The preparations for the double Episcopal Consecration of the Revs. Peter Baaij and Evert Sundien scheduled for May 16, 2005 in the Church of Saint Gabriel in Amsterdam, the Netherlands are nearly complete.



In the United States of America



The consecration of the Rev. Michael J. Warnon as Auxiliary Bishop for Canada and the northeast of the United States is scheduled take place on Saturday July 23, 2005 at 10:00 a.m., in the United Church of Christ, in Middletown, New York, USA. (Picture of the left)At this point of time, five bishops will attend this important event An informal reception will be held in the hall of the church after the ceremony.

Church of Saint Francis, Minneapolis, MN.

Sunday Eucharist services and Our Lady's Rosary of the Seven Rays on the first Saturday of each month were held. Our quarterly vegetarian potluck on February 27 also coincided with Rev. Curney's birthday and was a doubly-themed get-together. We lost two members unexpectedly--Rev. Richard Curney's brother, Jerome Curney, died on January 19, and this was followed only five days later by the death of Edward Cody, a long-time member of the church. A requiem Eucharist was held for Jerome on Sunday, January 30, and we accordingly postponed our annual meeting to the following week, February 6. A memorial for Ed will be held later in the year.

At the annual meeting we finalized re-establishing our advertising program, and we have arranged for three ads this coming year in the *Minnesota Women's Press*. The text of these ads welcomes everyone, gives our address, phone number, website, time of Sunday service, and lists these four points:

- o Freedom of Conscience and Belief
- o Est. 1916--Seven Christian Sacraments
- o Holy Orders for Women since 2004
- o Sermons on a wide range of spiritual thought

Other advertising venues are planned for later in the year as well.

Mission of the Holy Sophia, Stockholm, WI.

The Rev. Wallace Zick reports:

Work on the church of St Sophia progresses well. Basement sheetrock is almost done. I have the bases for the six ray candles turned on the lathe out of red elm and have carved appropriate symbols into them. I will paint them next week.

I will begin classes in April and run them each Thursday evening at 7 pm. I have had so much to do lately that I just have not had the time (or energy) to do it now.

Pat's mother died Sunday so she went to Rhode Island (Providence) to be with her brothers and sisters and son for the funeral. Her mother had not been well since a stroke 30 years ago and she has been bed ridden for the last year.

Church of Our Lady, Mother of the World, Rock Tavern, NY.

All the services of the Holy Week have been celebrated in our Chapel. Of particular importance was the consecration of the Holy Oils destined to the ministry of our Congregations in Belgium, Canada, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Buck Lawrence, who has served at the altar for many years, has accepted to

receive the sub-diaconate, as a preparation for the Major Orders. Buck became a members of the LCC in the Parish of St. John of the Cross in New Orleans. He was admitted by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Robert S. McGinnis, Jr. When he moved to the northeast with his family, he became an active member of our congregation and has regularly and faithfully served at the altar. His ordination is scheduled for April 10, 2005, the second Sunday after Easter.

ALBANUS Press.

The new edition of the General Constitution and Code of Canons of the Liberal Catholic Church, reflecting the decisions of the Meeting of the 2004 General Episcopal Synod is now available. Orders can be placed at: <http://kingsgarden.org/ALBANUS>

The Liberal Catholic Church in cyberspace.

The domain names providing access to our international LCC web sites have been standardized. Each of them is giving immediate access to the pages in their respective languages. They are:

<http://TheLiberalCatholicChurch.org/> (English);
<http://DeVrij-KatholiekeKerk.org/> (Dutch);
<http://EgliseCatholiqueLiberale> (French);
<http://DenFrieuniversellekirke.org/> (Danish);
<http://LiberalaKatolskaKyrkan.org/> (Swedish).

The Digital Library on our web site: *TheLiberalCatholicChurch.org* has been considerably expanded this Winter, as snow and ice kept me at my keyboard. The entire Nag Hammadi and Qumran libraries in English translation are available, and many writings of the Early Fathers of the Church as well.

All this material can be accessed by selecting the new option SACRED WRITINGS on the main menu. The Liberal Catholic literature remains accessible through the option LIB. CATH. AUTHORS. Another new option: COMING EVENTS is also available, providing detailed information about events in our Church, regardless of jurisdiction.



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