



VOL. 51 NO. 1

Happy New Year

2017

Federation of Christian Ministries

January/February 2017 Newsletter



Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter - January/February 2017 VOL. 51 NO. 1



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The New Year beckons...

*We stand on the shoulders of those who
believed, preceding us over the past
2000 years.*

*Now we can build our part.
FCM's mission calls us and its community
supports us in our growth for others.*

2017 we are ready!



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CHAIRPERSON.....TOM STRICKER

Answering the Call to Be Prophetic

In this first Newsletter of the year, I would like to consider our opportunity in 2017 to be prophetic, as an organization and as individual members. Given the events of the past year, I see people on all sides are seeking change and hoping for a better future. Many are fearful and our different perspectives can lead us to see each other as enemies. Deep feelings of frustration and resentment are alive. There is a need for compassionate leadership.

How we respond will determine if we will be relevant in the future. We claim to be an inclusive organization and in fact we are. I believe our identity calls us to speak out for those who have no voice, to challenge hateful rhetoric from any side. We must speak out for justice.

Our Mission states, "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 commissioning to those who have discerned a call to ministry."

The Gospel message is the core of our ministry. We are to bring glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind and set the oppressed free. This is our ministerial call.

In light of this I am overwhelmed by the challenges. I feel like one of the seven blind men in the story asked to describe the elephant. One says a rope another, a tree and so on, depending on where they stand. The division, pain, fear and concern in our country is no small matter. At times I find myself holding only one part of the division, fear or concern. Holding on to one part seems to ignore the existence of other parts.



I believe that we are all connected. Seeing and believing this reality will affect the way we respond. We can start by understanding that we are connected in our brokenness.

Perhaps we can discover our unity by understanding our own pain and the need beneath the pain: to learn and to listen to the pain and need in those around us. We all have a need to contribute and therefore a need to be open to receive the contributions of others, from friend and adversary alike. In other words we have a responsibility to listen to the struggles of all because we are all interconnected. If one person is the victim of oppression we all suffer. The oppressed and the oppressor both suffer. So it is counterproductive to take sides in judgment.

Name-calling only builds the walls higher. It is when we deepen our awareness and attentiveness to the suffering of all people that we begin to walk with each other.

Martin Luther King Jr. offers these words in his sermon *Loving Your Enemies*: "People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other." This endeavor means we need to adopt a new way of thinking, a new language that is not judgmental but focuses on communication. We need to learn to speak in a way that our adversaries are able to hear us. Likewise we need to listen in a way so that we can hear our adversaries. Our adversaries are not our enemies. They too often are victims of misinformation as I have often been. We must seek truth together. This is a commitment to a new type of power that is non-violent, truly a commitment to love.

King went on to say, "Now there is a final reason I think that Jesus says, 'Love your enemies.' It is this: that love has within it a redemptive power. And there is a power there that eventually transforms individuals. Just keep being friendly to that person. Just keep loving them, and they can't stand it too long. Oh, they react in many ways in the beginning. They react with guilt feelings, and sometimes they'll hate you a little more at that transition period, but just keep loving them. And by the power of your love they will break down under the load. That's love, you see. It is redemptive, and this is why Jesus says love. There's something about love that builds up and is creative. There is something about hate that tears down and is destructive. So love your enemies."

So what can we do?

Listen to all people with empathy and compassion especially the hurting people with whom you disagree or whom you do not know. Seek understanding and our connection with the down trodden. Judgement of others only blocks communication so seek first to understand. Seek to have a deeper understanding of a saying by **Thich Nhat Han**, "We are here to awake from the illusion of our separateness." When we understand this we will be headed in a new direction.



Given that the majority of our membership is caucasian we have a special responsibility to understand and express the truth of white privilege and the effects of it in the USA. **John Dorhauer** spoke eloquently on this topic at our 2016 National Assembly.

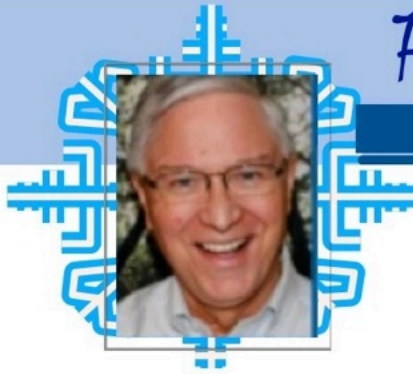
If you need a resource for this area, consider "White Privilege: let's talk" a downloadable adult curriculum from the United Church of Christ designed to invite church members to engage in safe, meaningful, substantive, and bold conversations on race <http://privilege.uccpages.org/>. My own faith community, Living Beatitudes will begin this program this month.

Resist the temptation to be the savior for other people. At times when we try to save people we cause more harm and pain. Be ready simply to stand with the oppressed. Listen to their solutions and walk with them. Speak out and be a voice for the voiceless. Form alliances, join with others organize and be ready to speak the truth to power.



I conclude by offering another observation of **Martin Luther King**: "On the one hand we are called to play the good Samaritan on life's roadside; but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring."





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PRESIDENT.....TOM CUSACK

Tuesday 10...in '17

Our Newsletter reaches you on January 1 of the new year. This is an auspicious time of new beginnings and new promises. These new opportunities abound on the inner plane of spirituality and personal development. The new beginnings are not affected by the many challenges the outer world offers to each of us. The new beginnings and new promises of spiritual growth are ours to seize.

We are members of a unique community. FCM has a history of offering new paradigms of ministry to bring the Good News forward in new ways and to new sets of people. We attempt to walk the walk and not so much to talk the intellectual talk. We empower people for ministry, and we support them in those ministries. We have come together from many Christian backgrounds. Like the astrologers from the East finding Jesus we have come on a long journey to be together.

So, what is the opportunity for '17? It is to consciously grow spiritually for the full new year. Spiritual growth harnesses the greatest power in the universe, the power of love. It is ultimately all conquering. And the 2017 spiritual opportunity comes not a moment too soon. We are confronted globally with large and numerous challenges. They are human challenges, such as the economic, ideological, racial, and the results of wars and rebellions. There are environmental changes such as increase of ocean levels and acidity. Species, God's creations, are moving toward extinction. Challenges also reside deeply within us. We know we are not in full control of our own impulses and desires. The 2017 opportunity for spiritual growth addresses all the external issues and our internal ones at once. If we can seize it.

My desire for FCM in the new year is that we consciously and with determination pursue spiritual growth. Here's a way:

In the general context of your spiritual exercises, continue the basic **2 x 2 4 FCM**, which I call for. That is, **2 minutes of prayer and 2 minutes of meditation 4 the benefit of FCM and its mission**. This exercise is good, please continue it or begin it. And *it is no longer enough* in the face of the world's challenges. For FCM I now ask that you add without fail **Tuesday 10**. On each Tuesday in 2017 and going forward, **spend 10 minutes in specific prayer and meditation for the benefit of FCM and your part in it**. Please install this 10 minutes onto your daily calendar. This concentration will energize our mission.

But the **2 x 2 4 FCM** and the **Tuesday 10** must occur in the context of your determined effort for spiritual growth. I suggest that you format a corner of your living space with a table and chair. On the table place your special spiritual symbols, a statue or representation of Christ, and/or a candle, the bible, etc. When you conduct your devotions to Christ, use that space. It will give you physical feedback that you are now in spiritual time and are about to accomplish your spiritual exercises.

Read scripture or the writings of a spiritual leader for 1/3 of the time you devote. Pray (speak to Jesus and God) for 1/3 of the time. Meditate (listen quietly to Jesus and God) for 1/3 of the time. Aim for 1/2 hour of devotions per day. That way, **Tuesday 10** will not take a disproportionate part of your spiritual exercise time on Tuesdays.

We have a responsibility to be leaders bringing others to the deeper realities of life and their own souls. We can only fulfill that responsibility by continuously attempting to grow more deeply into our own spirituality. Make it personal, make it intense, and make **Tuesday 10** an essential part of your day. A great deal is depending on you.

Thank you for your efforts and your involvement in FCM. I am very grateful that you provide me the chance to provide some leadership to FCM. I am challenged and rewarded by my position in FCM. I am continually inspired by you and the work you do. May we all be blessed and led by our friend Jesus. I'm looking forward to seeing you in the new year.



Save The Date!



Federation of Christian Ministries 2018 Assembly

July 20-22, 2018

CELEBRATING



DOUBLE TREE
BY HILTON
PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT

PHILADELPHIA, PA



FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

CALL TO SERVICE FCM President(s) Nomination Form

It is time for the membership of FCM to nominate a member(s) to fill the position of President(s). The position is critical to the direction and vitality of FCM. In this edition of the FCM Newsletter, we are calling for nominations for this national office on the Executive Committee of the Circle of Directors.

Any member in good standing can be nominated for this office. A couple may be nominated for the position. Any member may place himself or herself on the slate of nominations. Both talent and time are required by those who will fill this position. Service on the Executive Committee requires a substantial investment of time. The term of office for this position is three years. The term will begin after the 2017 Circle of Directors meeting and end after the 2020 Assembly.

Members holding an office can be re-elected to that office for a second term. After two elected terms, a director must take a one year break before holding the office again.

Current President Tom Cusack is eligible for a second term if nominated and elected.

The President(s) is responsible for:

Serving as chief executive(s) of FCM, overseeing existing programs and committees, initiating new programs in response to suggestions and needs of the members, serving on the Executive Committee, chairing the membership meeting at the National Assembly, chairing the Vice Presidents meetings, overseeing the Vice Presidents election process, filling vacancies in Circle offices between elections, and engaging in public relations and outreach to make the Federation visible and known.

To nominate a member for the office of President(s), complete the nomination form and mail it to:

Thomas Stricker, FCM Nominations
9660 Hemple Road
Germantown, Ohio 45327-9516

or email: Tomstricker2009@gmail.com

NO PHONE NOMINATIONS

All nominations must be received by **January 31, 2017**. The balloting for the National Election will be in March and the results will be published in the July/August 2017 FCM Newsletter.

NOMINATION FORM

FOR PRESIDENT(S):

I nominate: _____

Why I am nominating this member(s):

My Name: _____

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Northeast Regional News

VICE PRESIDENT.....DAN PELLEGRIN

Highlighting Connections

Northeast Regional Gathering... There's a lot to share about this. Your committee is working hard to make this an especially refreshing and rewarding weekend, one that will honor the needs of our members. We envision a time where we can "**Come to the Well**," to simply be with our loving Father, our brother Jesus and their Loving Spirit. So plan on some quiet time "at the well" to be a part of the weekend because we all need it! And because our site, the Eddy Farm is directly on the Delaware River, and it will be a wonderful place as those of us who attended there two years ago well know.

We want this to be a **spiritual** weekend, and a weekend of **spirituality**, so part of the time will include sessions on meditation and contemplative prayer/centering prayer: doing it as well as how to do it. As we share personal stories of healing and being healed we can find a chance in contemplation to be restored. A third opportunity will be thinking about our actions and voices as working toward justice in the world, as one member suggested we are going to be needing a lot of that soon!

The weekend is set for *Friday to Sunday, May 19-21, 2017*. Eddy Farm is conveniently located in east-central New York, a comfortable drive for all our Northeast members. FCM members from all regions are most warmly invited to come together with us.

Time to Be Together Online... Getting to know our fellow members, being warmed and encouraged by them, and yes inspired: I see these as prime reasons for our membership in FCM. A member in our region volunteered to host a gathering, but thought it would be best to wait until the spring because of the uncertainty of winter weather. Other members independently demurred from attending a local meeting I tried to organize for their area. They kindly let me know the probability of snow and worse would make it foolish to schedule an event.

But we have to get together! So I am focused on meeting via a workable video site. In fact, I expect this will be on our next Circle agenda in February. If you have any suggestions or experiences (good and bad) with any video provider (e.g., Skype, Google, etc.), please share it with me. I will work on it and bring it to our Circle meeting. It would be a valuable vehicle by which we could meet, as well as an economical way to do so.

But in the meantime, let's keep planning! Happily, I have an offer to host a meeting in the Albany area at the end of March. If you would like to do the same or suggest a meeting place (e.g., church basement, a home, or restaurant), please let me know and I'll set it up.

A Sharing Request... I think it would be special and inspiring if our commissioned and endorsed members would write me about their work so I could feature it in our next article. Please send it to me at northeastvp@fcmmail.org

2018 National Assembly... I hope you will be excited as I am at the thought of our **FCM 50th Anniversary!** We will conveniently celebrate it in our region in Philadelphia. As members of the host region this is our opportunity to be a part of planning of this celebration in many ways so please keep it in mind as July 2018 approaches. More to come for sure!

A Most Excellent Spiritual Book... **Divine Dance – The Trinity & Your Transformation** by Richard Rohr immerses the reader in the truth that God is Trinity, first and foremost Relationship. I can't begin to do it justice by giving you a quote or a paragraph. It presents the loving, dancing relationship among the Trinity, one in which you and I are included, a dance of love and life. We (and all of creation) are a part of that loving and living dancing circle. It is keeping me going at a part in my life when I needed it. May we specially share and dance together in 2017.



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Virginia



St. Luke Church, McLean, VA



L to R: Peter Kim, Warrenton, VA; Judy Lorenz, Bowie, MD; Shane MacCarthy, McLean; Diane Dougherty, Regional VP; Ken Knapp, Fairfax, VA

Southern Regional News

VICE PRESIDENT.....DIANE DOUGHERTY

FCM Gatherings Enliven East Coast

My latest journey as Vice President of the Southern Region has taken me to the creative and ingenious people of FCM in Virginia, Maryland and Florida. It began in Virginia where, thanks to **Peter Kim** of Warrenton who put out the request for a space and **Shane MacCarthy's** connections at St. Luke's, four FCMers were able to meet on December 3rd with many others sending their regrets.

Each person spent time simply telling their stories within the context of the diverse and crooked journeys that led us to FCM. This was one of those rare experiences best shared slowly. We spoke of where we came from, how we got to FCM and how FCM can help us. In every gathering we were left with hearts filled with joy and new friendships.

A newly-commissioned member of FCM who is a board certified chaplain, **Peter Kim** brings his training and experience in religious education to an area with a diverse ethnic makeup. His ministerial practice now includes spiritual support through chaplaincy.

Shane MacCarthy is a married priest who is presently a member of the PAX Intentional Eucharistic Community that has met since 1969. It is Catholic community with a lay leadership that is "cautiously associated" with the diocese of Arlington. A long-time member of FCM, he has played many ministerial roles in developing this community. We thank Shane and the community of St Luke's for providing our first sacred space in which to gather.

A new member of FCM, **Judy Lorenz** is excited to find this organization as she steps out of a long-term relationship with her parish and begins following her call to be a leader in a small Catholic faith community, presiding at funerals and ministering to those who need hospice care. She is also proud to have been an officiant at her first wedding this summer. Judy looks forward to networking with those who have gone before her and to the FCM community for support.

Another FCM veteran with a lengthy ministerial resume, **Ken Knapp** is a wedding officiant with vast experience, having witnessed over 900 nuptials! After leaving the priestly ministry to marry, he welcomed membership in FCM where he received the credentials to continue his ministry. Ken served many years as treasurer of our organization and is also a full-time care giver for his wife. Ken shares this information with FCM and thanks the membership for their many prayers and great support.

The Living Water Inclusive Catholic Community

Maryland

Moving from Virginia on Saturday to Catonsville, MD on Sunday, I met up with FCM President **Tom Cusack** to celebrate a Eucharist with a thriving Inclusive Catholic Community, **The Living Water Inclusive Catholic Community.**

When FCM became a Convention of Churches and expanded its membership of small faith communities, this was one of the first to join. With over 7 female pastors, they are giving witness to a 21st century vision that will provide comfort, opportunity for worship and a home for those whose churches have left them without a place to belong.

The celebration was very moving as the music called us to worship and a female deacon (**Marilyn Rondeau**) and priest, (**Patricia Jones**) forbidden in the Catholic tradition, moved toward the front of the altar to call us to worship. There was no doubt that God was present in this community and was alive and working in the lives of the members. Women who for so many years were denied access to ordained ministries are given access through this church.

Maryland



One of the members (right foreground) of Living Water Inclusive Catholic Community, Catonsville, MD holds a seasonal liturgical booklet professionally prepared by the staff.



Joan Sipes

Their new deacon was able to offer this congregation her first sermon. That God has called women to serve and that they are responding through ordination is a miracle in our time. And that miracle is expanding as FCM, instrumental in the effort to allow married priests to minister, now continues to address the needs of new ministers providing resources and networking as their communities grow and thrive.

Rev. Gloria Carpentio graciously gathered people to celebrate after Mass with a delicious pot luck, including time to talk about FCM, our goal to develop small faith communities and share how proud we were to be able to witness the joy of this gathering. You can read more about this beautiful community and the many options they have for small faith gatherings at www.thelivingwatercommunity.org

Florida



L to R: Franklin Delano Reagan, Katy Zatsick, Diane Dougherty, Jan Magray, Jim Barrens

I was amazed to learn that the next state I visited – Florida – is home to 28 of our 67 members, over 40% of the Southern Region. It also covers huge distances, so most would have to travel 3-5 hours to come to a gathering. It seemed to make sense to arrange the state into five areas where members would not have lengthy drives and **Jan Magray** volunteered to host the first gathering at the **Metta Center of St. Petersburg**. <https://www.facebook.com/mettacenterstpete/>

The beautiful rose window rug around which we sat gives the essence of the unity and spiritual witness they share with FCM and the communities that have been part of that development.

Members **Jim Barrens** and **Jan Magray** live in close proximity and share an interest in interfaith ministries in St. Pete and **Franklin Reagan** is not that far away. Their goal to meet others in FCM and share a support for ministries was met. **Katy Zatsick** is supported by other FCM members through her strong faith community in Sarasota.

Franklin Delano Reagan is new to Florida, having moved from Missouri. He is also new to hospice management and desires to connect with people in that profession. He is interested in the topic of compassion fatigue in ministry and is a presenter at trauma symposiums.



Florida

Katy Zatsick is an ordained Catholic priest at Mother Mary of Jesus, a Catholic community in Sarasota www.marymotherofjesus.org and lives in Sun City Center. She is treasurer of the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests Movement and archivist for the group. Katy is doing coursework with the People's Seminary, an on-line theological training service for Catholics.

Our host **Jan Magray** is on the board of a new concept in church building called Integral Church. As an experienced musician and director of music in churches, she is a dynamic addition to their interfaith community as well as to the Interfaith Tampa Bay association. She is very interested in the spirituality of wisdom as displayed in the multiple expressions of religions experienced in the Integral Church <https://integralchurch.wordpress.com>

With an eye out for justice, **Jim Barrens** shared how life brought him into interfaith ministries and how his experience helped this become a valued part of his work. The promotion of Jewish-Catholic dialogue is a goal and he works with many in the area to use develop strategies and use tools that work in community organizing. Subscribe to his blog at www.thejusticefactory.org

What these members seek from FCM

Everyone mentioned that FCM was a gift in their life that allowed them to continue a ministry they were called to share that their congregation or denomination would not. Listed below is a summary of their **gratefulness for FCM**:

- For an endorsing body that is non-denominational and offers a *lifeline of support*.
- For former priests, the opportunity to be commissioned to *pursue sacramental ministries* beyond denominationalism.
- For those experiencing the need to rediscover a faith community that *embraces and inclusiveness of women's gifts* and balances multiple dimensions within a variety of spiritual experiences.
- Knowing there are members in close proximity to call on for support and a listening ear.

There was also mention of how FCM can continue to be of service to endorsed members:

- Providing the names and places of *other endorsed members* and a possible network for gathering at the National Assembly and/or regional gatherings.
- Seeking out workshops or seminars that deal with *maintaining emotional and psychological balance* as they engage at the intersection of trauma and life.

and to commissioned members:

- Network to address the needs of those beginning *small faith communities* ie. technical support regarding 501(c) (3) organizations need of insurance for board members, use of funds and book keeping issues for state filings etc...
- *Network of resources* for spiritual experiences, community gatherings, successes and failures.
- Growing need to network *how members are attending to interfaith gatherings and how people are managing celebrations* throughout the nation.
- *Self care for older ministers* who are transitioning from active ministry while caring for spouses who are sick and or offering support for the next generation in their families.

My goal is to continue keeping in contact – especially through email and social media – to develop these gatherings and publish the stories so that everyone can get a sense of who we are in the Southern Region and how FCM can keep growing as a resource to its members.



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Pacific Regional News

VICE PRESIDENT.....DONNIEAU SNYDER

Renewing and Preparing

While this is a time of renewal in so many ways, it's also exciting to think we're also in the midst of preparations for a new year with FCM. I greet you with great warmth and joy as with all the hustle and bustle we find ourselves in amazement that time is a constant and consistent element, even though it feels like the clock is on hyper-drive propelling us all at the speed of light into a new year.

With that in mind, I offer a heartfelt welcome to our newest FCM members. As I connect with members both new and well-acquainted throughout the region, it is humbling to know I am amongst such amazing, compassionate, and loving persons.

I'm absolutely delighted to also share that we can look forward to additional local gatherings. These events offer an alternative in lieu of one large regional gathering and hopefully will offer an increase in opportunities to connect with others at local venues. The following gatherings are under construction at this time:

- Oregon – fall 2017 (location and date TBA)
- Washington – fall 2017 (location and date TBA)

Another element I want to offer as part of new things to try this new year is a "virtual suggestion box." Here's how it works (fingers crossed!) If you have an idea for our region, maybe a topic for future gatherings, ways to improve our connecting as a region, or just what's on your mind, email me with the subject line "Suggestion Box" at: pacificvp@FCMmail.org

And finally, as we ease into 2017 either willingly or hesitantly, looking forward seems to be the direction that lets one continue to journey into the unknown. A hope filled journey to us all. Let us continue the journey together.

The hero's journey always begins with the call. One way or another, a guide must come to say, "Look you're in sleepy land. Wake. Come on a trip. There is a whole aspect of your consciousness, your being, that's not been touched. So you're at home here? Well, there's not enough of you there." And so it starts.

Joseph Campbell, The Hero's Journey



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Great Lakes Regional News

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS.....AMY SIMPSON BENNETHUM & RON DAVIS

Region Celebrates Area Reps, 2017 Gatherings



As we take time to reflect on 2016, I am grateful for the many events which happened in our region over the past twelve months and the wonderful people who helped make them happen.

First, we have had local group meetings in Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio this year. It is a real joy to watch our members enjoy fellowship, ordination ceremonies, and prayer in homes across our region. These area representatives are working hard to bring them together:

- ◆ **Tony Heitzman** and **Shannon Queenan**: Louisville, KY
- ◆ **Antoinette Marold**: Cleveland, OH
- ◆ **Bea Broder-Oldach**: Cincinnati /Dayton, OH
- ◆ **John Schultz** and **Bob Funaro**: Michigan
- ◆ **Ron Davis**: Columbus, OH
- ◆ **Staci Striegel-Stikeleather**: Indianapolis, IN (new for 2017).

Thank you all! You have gotten behind this FCM initiative and have worked to make it successful. It is a beautiful thing to behold. All are invited to mark your calendars for events in the first half of 2017 when gatherings are scheduled throughout the region:

2017 Scheduled Gatherings

Cleveland

March 19 @ 2 p.m. hosted by **Elise Leitzel**
June 25 @ 2 p.m. hosted by **Antoinette Marold**

Louisville

January 28 @ 9:30 a.m. hosted by **Shannon Queenan**
May 20 @ 9:30 a.m. hosted by **Peggy Holthaus**

Cincinnati/Dayton

(hosts to be announced)

March 18 @ 10 a.m.
June 3 @ 10 a.m.

Columbus

Feb 18 @ 10 a.m. hosted by **Ron Davis**
May 13 @ 10 a.m. hosted by **Ron Davis**

Indianapolis

(hosts and dates to be announced)

We will have our Fall Retreat at Maria Stein Conference and Retreat Center September 29 – October 1. This is a time for the whole region to come together for fellowship, worship, food and fun.

Believe me when I say this, we wouldn't turn away any of our friends from other regions! Save any of the dates which are of interest to you.

We look forward to seeing you in 2017. Happy New Year to all!

FCM Great Lakes Region

Save the Date

Our 2017 Regional Gathering will be held at Maria Stein, OH on...

September 29 until October 1, 2017

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Mts. & Plains Regional News

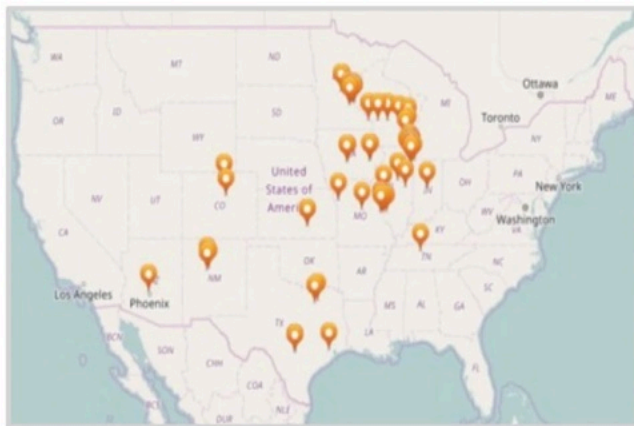
VICE PRESIDENT.....RICHARD JAMES

Plans, Accomplishments Highlight Region

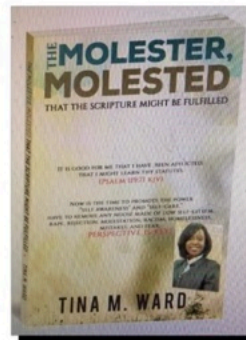
Greetings and salutations to all FCM members across the nation and those in particular in the Mountain and Plains Region. As I write these few words, I sit between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. It is my prayer that each of you has enjoyed a fruitful year. I trust that you experienced good health, the well-being of peace of mind and spirit, the satisfaction of relevant ministry that responds to the needs of real persons, and answers the Divine call. I just want to take a few moments to highlight a few recent and coming events for this year.

First, please know that during the first quarter of 2017, we will establish seven FCM Area Representatives. I am looking for persons to serve as FCM Area Representatives in the following areas; **Chicago, Illinois - St. Louis, Missouri - Milwaukee, Wisconsin - St. Paul, Minnesota - Albuquerque, New Mexico - Denver, Colorado and Dallas, Texas.**

As the accompanying map illustrates, the size of our region dictates that we make use of this new feature in our organization so that our members remain connected and supported. I also look forward to encouraging and enhancing our communications and fellowship via online computer and phone video conferencing, via the free software program Zoom. It is my hope that the next publication of this newsletter will include local area gatherings and a Regional Gathering announcement for the summer of 2017.



Second, In the last year we have been blessed to add to the ranks of FCM Mountain Plains Region Several Commissioned Ministers, and Endorsed Ministers that are doing relevant ministry. I am happy to say that all of them have accomplished much and are doing important ministry.



For example, a few FCM members and the local community attended a book signing release held at McCormick Theological Seminary celebrating **Rev. Tina M. Ward's** new book entitled **The Molester Molested.** It was a great occasion.

Because we should not keep the news of the wonderful Divinely inspired ministry taking place a secret, I want to continue to encourage each FCM member of the Mountain and Plains Region to write for publication a Reflection on Ministry. Please see prior releases of the FCM newsletter in the Mountain and Plains Region section of the newsletter for examples.

Finally, I want to thank all of those who have renewed their FCM Memberships, including those baring Commissioning, and Endorsement status.

I trust that this year will be yet another fruitful endeavor as we continue to be open to the needs of persons that God has called us to, as we lean into Divine grace, mercy, and guidance.

Left: Locations of Mountains and Plains members

Federation of Christian Ministries

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BY CHRISTY HOWARD-STEELE, SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES - CO CHAIR



Chicago Minister Anything But Retiring

It's hard to miss **JoAnn O'Reilly**! A member of FCM for more than 20 years, she will retire soon from 33 years of ministry at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago where she served as an Association of Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) supervisor. She is credited with introducing "the Arts" to CPE at Rush and using "story" to transform the lives of her students.

JoAnn is one of the first FCM members I met and has been active in the organization though perhaps not very visible. We met through **Jeanne Hale** who as my ministerial colleague recruited JoAnn to be on my endorsement local interview committee. A little known fact about JoAnn is that every year since at least 2008, we have endorsed at least one person who found out about FCM from JoAnn or from someone one degree removed from her – by my count 13 endorsed members!

Over the years JoAnn has been very active in ACPE serving in a variety of capacities: she was Chair of the North Central Region for 9 years and continues to serve on the Certification Committee. In 2012, she received the distinguished service award for the Region. Along with her colleague and friend **Beth Burbank**, JoAnn co-chaired the first Women in Pastoral Care gathering in 1988 in Minneapolis. Entitled "Healing Woman at the Threshold," it was a two-day event held in conjunction with Dialogue '88, a conference attended by members of the cognate groups involved in pastoral care.

She truly is a pioneer for women.

As the eldest of six daughters, JoAnn's interest in supporting the contributions of women, particularly in the arena of religion, was nourished from early years. She entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame and taught in Academy of Our Lady, an all-girls high school in Chicago. When she left the community, she did so with the help of the action reflection process model of education that is CPE, a model of education that resonated with her years of theater involvement.



JoAnn is a woman of stature physically as well as in the lives of those who have received her ministry. At her retirement celebration I couldn't help feeling like I really missed something by not having had her as one of my CPE supervisors. Here are some of the ways JoAnn was described:

- She fills the room when she enters.
- She made me the minister I am today.
- I am grateful for the healing she helped in my spouse that allows us to enjoy deep intimacy in our relationship.
- She is frank – one never has to worry about JoAnn thinking something about you that she hasn't said to you!
- Passionate, creative, curious.
- A champion of including those who haven't been included at the table yet.
- I appreciate that she is not orthodox; that she does not always follow the rules; otherwise known as having flexibility.

Although retiring from her ministry at Rush, she plans to become involved in Loyola Medical Center's distance CPE program.

At the graduation ceremonies of her CPE students, JoAnn often uses the following quote from T.S. Eliot:

"What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from."

I look forward to JoAnn's new start and her continued active ministry in FCM.



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FCM COMMUNICATIONS...ANTOINETTE MAROLD



It Is Time To Renew Your Ministry Listing On The FCM Website

Are you listed on the FCM website under the FIND A MINISTER tab? If you are, it is time to renew your listing. If you do not renew your listing each calendar year at this time, it will be deleted from the FCM website.

To Renew....Login to the FCM Member Login area (on the right bottom) of the FCM Home Page. After you login click on the Members Only area (right top of page) and go to Ministry Listing Form. Complete the form and submit.

New and renewed listings will be updated by February 2017.

Not Listed on the FCM Website for 2017? Follow the instructions for renewing above. A website listing is a benefit of membership. You can request a listing under three (3) categories. You can only be listed under the Weddings area if you are commissioned by FCM.

If you have not registered as a member in the Members Login Area and need assistance please contact me at communication@FCMmail.org.



LIKE the FCM FACEBOOK PAGE

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT...and go to the FCM Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/Federation-of-Christian-Ministries-179262215432851/

Click LIKE



ATTENTION

All FCM members who preside at BAPTISMS
You are required to register the Baptism with the FCM Registry Office.
The registry form is available on the FCM website.

- ▶ Go to www.federationofchristianministries.org
- ▶ Login to the Members Only area of the site.
- ▶ Click on the Members Only link on the top right of the page.
- ▶ Click on the Baptism Registry Form
- ▶ You can complete the registry ONLINE or download a PDF form and mail it to the registry office
The address is on the form.

Recording the Baptism assures that a record will always be available.

Questions? Please email registry@FCMmail.org. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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BY PAUL STUBENBORT

FCM Veteran Anticipates Gathering

Editor's note: Thanks to Paul, a Northeast regional member – and former VP – for offering this reflection on his years in FCM and how he continues to be inspired by events like the regional retreat.

As an active Roman Catholic priest and a member of the Franciscan Order, my training and mindset was in sync with the founders of FCM. When Patricia and I married in 1970, I began a 27-year career teaching German and English in a public school in New Jersey. Raising two daughters and coaching several sports left me little time to think of ministry.

About 20 years ago I began getting requests to officiate weddings, and then baptisms and funerals. When I first joined FCM it was merely to have the legal status to minister in that capacity.

As a Franciscan, I taught for years at our seminary near Chicago, so I had little opportunity to minister in the way I had been trained. Now, with FCM, a whole new experience opened up for me.

It was only as VP for the Northeast that I realized the extent to which FCM touched so many lives. The resumes coming to me from ministers needing FCM, just as I had needed it, were real eye-openers for me. The dedication to the wide range of ministries they were involved in, the palpable spirituality each of them projected, and their eagerness to embrace FCM as a family opened a new window for me to view FCM. Who these people were, and what they were doing was very humbling. I had no idea so many people were doing so much in their ministries.

As humbling as this was for me, I began to take pride in the little things I could do through FCM, to clear their paths: commissioning to minister, endorsement for chaplaincies, arranging local commissioning ceremonies, attending Women's Ordinations to welcome them to our family and so much more.

As FCM moved from Catholic to Christian, it brought to us a richer experience. It now became clearer that Catholic ministry was no better or worse than the ministry of the Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian or Jew. It is in the person of the minister that the grace of God informs the people we serve. I look forward to seeing the wonderful people from our region once again at our gathering in May.



Northeast Region 2017 Gathering

May 19 - 21, 2017

Eddy Farm

*Addition information....
Northeast Regional News*

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FCM GROUP MEMBER...SANCTUARY OF PEACE
BY CARL YUSAVITZ

Philly Group Offers Welcome Atmosphere



Sanctuary of Peace is a "house church" that has been meeting for over 10 years in the Germantown /Mt. Airy neighborhoods of Philadelphia, PA.

We formed after the ordination of **Eileen DiFranco** (a Roman Catholic Woman Priest and FCM Circle member) and met at "Mishkan Shalom" (which means "Sanctuary of Peace") synagogue in Philadelphia.

When Eileen formed her own RCWP church in another Philly neighborhood, a group of us stayed behind and began meeting every other Sunday in people's homes. We are normally anywhere from 12 to 18 people on any given Sunday.

Our gathering has no priest presider and no one wears liturgical vestments. All participants share and rotate liturgical leadership. We normally follow the common lectionary and almost always break bread and share a common cup. We call what we do a "common Eucharist," as we all recite the "words of institution."

There is always a time for shared personal reflection and exploration of the readings which is often very personal. We decide where our monetary offerings go together and there is always plenty of food and fellowship after worship.





Federation of Christian Ministries

Fostering Peace Through Education: A GMU Update

BY GERALD GRUDZEN, PHD

As the world grapples with the growing threat of religious extremism in the Middle East and Africa, we are realizing more each day that our geographical separation in the USA is no longer sufficient to cordon us off from the rest of humanity. We live in an increasingly complicated and interdependent universe which calls us out of our past parochial and insular perspectives. We are thrust into the dynamic and daunting cosmopolitan marketplace of conflicts and confusion which characterize much of our contemporary world.

Global Ministries University and the Federation of Christian Ministries can provide a different perspective than that we have just recounted. Within our interfaith and spiritual frame of reference we believe that the future of humanity and of our fragile planet rests securely in the embrace of our Creator who draws us forward into the future enlightened by the flame of love and heartfelt compassion.

One of the major centers for our compassion lies now in Africa where religious extremism has become a growing problem. Global Ministries University has established **Paths for Peace** Kenya, an interfaith training program for teachers, community leaders and religious professionals seeking to build a new foundation for peace and understanding in Kenya through interfaith and intercultural dialogue. . (See facebook site of **Paths to Peace Kenya**)

Over the past five years we have established partnerships with several organizations there including the Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics. (CICC), the Bishop Hannington Theological Institute in Mombasa (Anglican affiliated), Columbia University African Regional Center in Nairobi, The Maryknoll Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Lay Missioners based in Kenya, the Muslim affiliated Respect Foundation and Light Academy in Nairobi and Mombasa, the Jesuit Hakimani Social Justice Center, and indigenous tribal leaders from the coastal region who are affiliated with Pwani University on the coast of Kenya.

Four of us who are members of FCM have developed this outreach to Africa over the past five years: **Marita and I, Frank Pisciotta, and John Raymaker**. In the past two years our work in Kenya took us to three areas of the country: Nairobi, Mombasa and Lamu Island. In Nairobi we sponsored a week long interfaith training course in collaboration with the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers who hosted 25 students and faculty attending the course at the Maryknoll Center in Nairobi.

We have also established in Nairobi a relationship with the Kenya Institute of Education, the government approved developer of curriculum for Kenya public schools. We have been providing this governmental organization information about successful interfaith training programs in other parts of Africa and the world as well as piloting new approaches to teaching interfaith skills to teachers in Kenya.

In Mombasa during 2016 we partnered with the Bishop Hannington Theological Institute to sponsor an interfaith training course for teachers from the coastal region of Kenya. Following the program in Mombasa in 2016 we travelled to Lamu Island near the border with Somalia to sponsor an interfaith program for teachers, administrators and students from the Lamu region which recently has experienced terrorist attacks by Al Shabab terrorist organization based in Somalia.

Many of the Christian students near the border region with Somalia have been traumatized by these terrorist attacks. Christian and Muslim teachers who took part in our 2015 training course in Nairobi organized a drama program in the Lamu region to help the Christian children and parents realize that Christians and Muslims can live peacefully together in Kenya. These students made several dramatic presentations to us on Lamu island in 2016.

Our 2016 interfaith program in Kenya was featured in an article of the Cambridge University Woolf Institute. (<https://woolfinstitute.blog/2016/08/30/mombasa-lamu>)

This expansion of our work into Africa is a sign of GMU's and FCM's mission to expand its outreach beyond the borders of the USA but also encourage FCM members and GMU students to understand and participate in a cutting edge interfaith ministry where life and death are at stake.

FCM can benefit from a closer relationship with the emerging Church in Africa which will be one of the centers for the expansion of Christianity in the next 50 years. As FCM prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary, we seek to embrace a relationship with the people of Africa in Kenya where many scholars now believe that humanity found its first home and from which we all have come.





BY JOHN P. WENTLAND

FCM Brings a Justice Message to the SOA Watch Convergence at the Border



Manuel had traveled from El Salvador, through Guatemala and Mexico to the U.S. Border at Nogales because he wanted to get away from the militaristic repressive reaction to gang violence in his country and planned to help support his family. In 2015, 6,656 people were killed in El Salvador, a murder rate more than 17 times the global average, according to the government organization *Instituto de Medicina Legal*. Just 21 years old, he'd crossed into the U.S and survived in the lethal heat of the Sonoran Desert. But shortly after crossing the border, something happened to end his plans.

"I heard the 'Migra,'" he told me, the pejorative Spanish word used to refer to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or any of its law enforcement arms, "so I hid under a fallen tree. After they'd left the area it was daylight, and I had to stay hidden there until nightfall. And I'd run out of water. It was a long hot day under that tree. When I finally felt it was safe to move at nightfall, I was on my way to a home of friends I knew I could trust. But just as I was approaching their house, the Migra came speeding up in their patrol, and grabbed me, forcing me to the ground. My friends had to disavow knowing me because of the legal implications they'd face being suspected of harboring border crossers. I was coughing and vomiting, suffering so much from dehydration and fatigue that, once I was in their Chevy Tahoe, they had to take me to emergency. Once I recovered a couple days later, they asked me questions and filled out papers and then took me to drop me off back in Mexico." As a "first-time border-crosser" Manuel was held for 72 hours to complete processing before being transferred over to ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations.

My encounter with Manuel was at "El Comedor" in Nogales, Mexico. El Comedor is a cooperative service for immigrants run under the Jesuit Refugee Services program, Kino Border Initiative. .



Manuel gave the author the cross he wore around his neck during his crossing as they exchanged blessings before leaving.

The morning I met him there, he was among 65 men, women and children who were being served breakfast. In addition to a nutritious meal every day, the border crossers receive the kindly and encouraging care of other services—including everything from medical attention to civil rights education—aimed at recognizing dignity and political empowerment against possible abuse by law enforcement

Manuel, like the others at breakfast that day—some of whom had come from as far away as Colombia—had spent all his money for travel to the border. Most pay for the services of a "coyote" who gets them across the border, but from there they were on their own. But then, when they get picked up, Border Patrol agents drop them back across the border in Mexico. When I asked if he'd try to cross again, his forlorn expression accompanied his response: "I don't think so." But he still faces the uncertainty of how he'll be able to get the money to make the more than 600 mile return trip home.



As names of missing border-crossers are intoned, a participant respectfully tips his hat as he joins vigilers in responding "Presente"—indicating that they are not forgotten by those who continue to work for justice.

Why Did SOAW go to the Border this year?

The story of Manuel and the constant flow of hundreds of other "border-crossers" caught and "dumped" back across the border by U.S. Border Patrol and being served everyday at El Comedor and other such charitable service centers along the border is at the heart of why there was a 2016 School of the Americas Watch Bi-National Encuentro, October 7-10 in Nogales—on both the U.S. and Mexico side of the border wall. During three days before meeting Manuel, I was taking part with over a thousand activists from the US and Mexico in the event organized by SOAW. Meeting him gave a human face to the reason SOAW had chosen to hold this event to increase awareness of the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border and Latin America, as well as the criminalization of immigrants, asylum seekers, refugees and people of color. This is the first time SOA Watch is turning all eyes onto the borderlands and the way this country has responded to the mass migration coming from our neighbors to the south.

Most importantly, this year's annual gathering wants to reinforce solidarity during times when xenophobia, racism and imprisoning humans for profit seem to be at all-time high. Workshops included talks on how the US has spread mass incarceration in Mexico; the human rights crisis faced on the border; the deportation of veterans; and indigenous resistance: from the Tohono O'odham Nation to the Lenca peoples of Honduras fighting against military repression, as they struggle with the detrimental effects capitalism has had on their environment and livelihoods.

Why the vigil at Eloy Detention Center?

For several years SOAW has held a rally at Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia, in conjunction with the convergence at the gates of Ft. Benning. Those rallies served as a prelude to this year's weekend at border which began with a gathering of hundreds on Friday evening at the Eloy Detention Center, an almost two hour drive from Nogales. This center and the one in Lumpkin are just two of a number of for-profit facilities around the country run by CCA [Corrections Corporation of America]. Operating since 1983, CCA is the fifth-largest corrections system in the nation, behind only the federal government and three states. CCA houses nearly 70,000 inmates in more than 70 facilities, the majority of which are company-owned, with a total bed capacity of more than 80,000.

The vigil at Eloy drew "more people than had ever gathered before" according to one comment and aimed at drawing attention to the abuses in such facilities that depend on keeping detention levels at capacity to justify their existence and to maintain profitability. An interesting side note: on the day following the November election, the stock in Corecivic Inc., which operates CCA, rose sharply by 6 points and has remained at about that level since then.

Highlighting the militarization present on the south border of our country, the figures tell the story of statistics, not the human cost. The U.S. Border Patrol keeps track of only those apprehended at the border, not of those who die or "disappear" crossing the border. The U.S. CBP reports that "in Fiscal Year 2016, total apprehensions by the Border Patrol on our southwest border, between ports of entry numbered 408,870. This represents an increase over FY15."

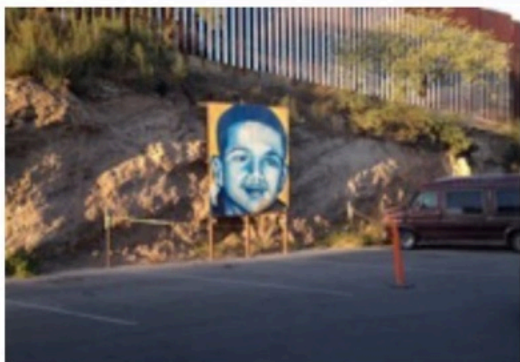
Through the first six months of fiscal 2016, which ended on March 31, border officials apprehended 27,754 unaccompanied children, the CBP reported—a 78 percent jump from the 15,616 apprehended in 2015, and just shy of the 28,579 apprehended in 2014.

A year ago the LA Times reported that "even more people died attempting the perilous crossing: 117 bodies have been recovered along migration routes in southern Arizona since Jan. 1, (2015) compared with 108 bodies during the same period last year" and that "most of the migrants who crossed the U.S. border last year were from violence-ridden countries in Central America." The majority come from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, where violence and repressive regimes hold sway – the only Central American countries, incidentally, which send officers for training at the U.S. Army School at Ft. Benning.

Meeting Manuel made the justice issues around these facts and figures very humanly alive. More pictures of the other activities of the weekend are at https://www.facebook.com/pcc4churchjustice/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1193364074043055



Relatives of detainees abused while in custody hold a poster proclaiming their sentiments about Immigration and Customs Enforcement tactics.



Jose Antonio is memorialized in a portrait on the Mexico side just below the slotted border wall through which he was shot and killed October 10, 2012.

Why this SOAW Convergence in October?

Since 1991, SOAW has held the annual convergence in Columbus, Georgia at Ft. Benning in November to commemorate the massacre of the seven Jesuits and their coworkers in 1989. While a smaller observance at Ft. Benning was held in November this year, the date chosen for this year's large gathering coincides with the 4th anniversary of the death of 16-year-old Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez who was killed on Mexican soil by a U.S. Border Patrol agent shooting through the border wall.

Autopsy reports show that Jose Antonio was hit from behind by ten shots. The wall of the building on Calle Internacional, which runs parallel to the border wall, still shows bullet holes, some outlined in red marker. During an incident at the border wall in which he was not involved, Jose Antonio was throwing rocks at the wall. Shooting by Border Patrol agents through the border wall was such a common occurrence that the U.S. Customs and Border Protection commissioned the Police Executive Research Forum to address border protection use of force review cases and policies in a position paper in 2013. The recommendations by PERF concluded that "review of shooting cases involving rock throwers revealed that in some cases agents put themselves in harm's way by remaining in close proximity to the rock throwers when moving out of range was a reasonable option." It took until September 2015 for an indictment by a Federal Grand Jury to bring a charge of second-degree murder against Border Patrol agent Lonnie Ray Swartz. The trial began this past November 7th.

On Saturday morning, over 1,000 participants marched the two miles from the hotel headquarters to U.S./Mexico, ending at *Ambos Nogales*, the city on both sides of the border created by the 1853 Gadsden Purchase—Nogales Arizona, U.S.A. and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. The program included testimony from those detained and deported, including U.S. veterans, interspersed with music from nationally known folk artists who led songs of protest. Later in the day there were various educational workshops, including how to build a grassroots organization, how trade agreements cause economic and labor abuse, and how to refuse to pay taxes so as not to support a war; concerts at the border; and a prayer vigil for young Jose Antonio.

On Saturday afternoon we participated in the Anniversary Vigil for Jose Antonio in Nogales, Sonora: starting with a march from the Plaza de las Palomas in Nogales, Sonora to the site where Jose Antonio was killed by Border Patrol and a mass with the Bishop José Leopoldo González González, who has served only a year and a half in the new Mexican diocese.

Following that vigil, an interfaith candlelight vigil at the border wall—planned by a national committee which included PCC members Janice Sevre-Duszynska, Silvia Brandon-Perez and Jack Wentland—was held.



Father Roy Bourgeois joins in the march preparations as he speaks with Jeff and Margaret Murphy Sweetland.

FCM and the Progressive Catholic Coalition

FCM was represented at this border convergence under the auspices of Progressive Catholic Coalition, made up of six other sponsoring organizations. This Catholic reform presence is made possible by the funding provided by these organizations.

Representatives of the organizations taking part include Kay Akers (WOC), Sophie Vodvarka and Rosa Manriquez (CTA), Janice Sevre-Duszynska and Silvia Brandon-Perez (ARCWP), and Jack Wentland (CORPUS, FCM and CITI Ministries, Inc.; funded also by a personal donation by Roll Away The Stone) whose participation make possible the PCC's valuable message for justice!

Vodvarka of Call to Action has created videos covering highlights of the two days:

Part 1 - Introduction, Background and Rally at the Eloy Detention Center

Part 2 - Crossing the Border with Background on Why "SOAW to the Border"

See the videos at <http://cta-usa.org/video-ministry/>



The March makes its way along the U.S. side of the border wall to one stage while others are marching on the Mexico side to another stage.

The Bottom Line

Many may wonder if there's a point to SOA Watch's activities over the years. The point is the consistent effort of SOAW to draw attention to the impact of U.S. militarism, both that exported to Latin America and that implemented at our southern border. Such exercise of military repression in their countries has forced people from their homes to save their lives up North only to meet with military abuses at the border.

In recent years, SOA Watch has been focusing attention on legislation in congress that would close the SOA/WHINSEC. Most recently they have gained the most bi-partisan co-sponsorship for HR 5474, the *Berta Caceres Human Rights in Honduras Act*.

The bill is named for a Honduran indigenous activist gunned down in March by forces of the regime set up in a coup by military who are graduates of the SOA. For more about Berta Caceres see the following link:

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/04/world/americas/bertha-caceres-indigenous-activist-is-killed-in-honduras.html?_r=0

Those who are advocates for justice in their states have contacted their representatives asking them to sign on as co-sponsors of this legislative proposal or thanking them for having already done so. You can see if your congressperson has signed on at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5474/cosponsors>

The "Manuels" and "Jose Antonios" of our world will appreciate our taking this action in advocacy. More pictures of the weekend are at http://stevepavey.photoshelter.com/gallery/Convergence-At-the-Border/G0000YdaPoYtRuSw/C0000L5ug8V_j7lw



Former FCM Circle members Mary and Nick De Los Reyes, CORPUS Board member emeritus Jack Wentland, Kay Akers and Janice Sevre-Duszynska hold the PCC banner representing CORPUS, FCM, CTA, CITI Ministries, Inc., WOC and ARCWP at the SOA Watch Convergence.

*Editor's note: Profound thanks to **Jack Wentland** for his witness on behalf of peace with justice and for submitting the following report on the recent SOAW action which included a significant presence on the part of FCM along with the Progressive Catholic Coalition. Jack and his colleagues appreciate the support of FCM members in making this Catholic reform movement presence possible at this national justice event.*

For further information and photographs please check out the PCC Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pcc4churchjustice-/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1193364074-043055

In addition, a slightly more amplified version of the article is at his blog Jack's Spats: <http://jacksspat.blogspot.com/> Finally, find more on the School of the Americas Watch at www.soaw.org)



Federation of Christian Ministries

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Newsletter Editor...John Polanski
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The FCM Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Federation of Christian Ministries, a non-profit religious body. As the informational publication of FCM, its mission is to keep members current

with the organization and its activities, to provide ideas to further ministry and to promote community building among local FCM groups and the national organization. All current members receive a copy. Articles and feedback are welcomed and can be sent to : newsletter@FCMmail.org by the 15th of each month (February, April, June, August, October and December).

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FCM CERTIFICATES

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

Endorsement for Specialized Ministries

Qualified FCM members may apply for "Religious Body Endorsement" for the specialized ministries of Chaplaincy, Pastoral Counseling, and Clinical Pastoral Education. Such endorsement is required by professional certifying organizations and many institutional employers. The FCM Circle of Directors acts on endorsement applications twice yearly. Endorsement application materials are available for downloading on the FCM website at: www.federationofchristianministries.org
Inquiries may be made at: specmin@FCMmail.org

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GMU offers degree completion programs and individual courses online. FCM members are eligible for a 5% discount on degree programs. For more information, visit the web site: www.globalministriesuniversity.org Email: GMU5053@aol.com
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