

THE PROGRESSIVE CATHOLIC REVIEW ***AN EVANGELICAL AND ECUMENICAL DISCOURSE***

Easter 2010

Vol. 1 No.1

**An Electronic Publication of
St. Francis Virtual House of Studies
(Ecumenical Catholic Communion)**

AN INTRODUCTION TO THIS ISSUE AND ITS AUTHORS

The essays for this first issue of ***THE PROGRESSIVE CATHOLIC REVIEW*** fall naturally into two groups: Ecclesiological Articles and Reflections on Spiritual Journeys. That is right and salutary because we need to listen to each others' narratives and we should also listen to each others' thoughts about the Church, *Ekklesia*, that embodiment of Christ on earth of which we are privileged to be a part. To begin this dialog we have eight distinctly different voices, but they are blended together in intricate harmony as we seek to unpack bits and pieces of what it means to be on this path and what it means to be a people gathered, redeemed and sent to proclaim the Good News.

The Rev. Dr. James Farris (member of St. Matthew, Orange, CA) offers us a view of both the practical and theological benefits of a Synodal Polity in which the conversation between the various ministries of the Church (both ordained and lay) parallels the conversation between the persons of the Trinity.

The Rev. Dr. J. Fred Ball, OFR (Pastor of San Damiano Church, Little Rock, AR) explores Trinitarian theology from a Franciscan perspective, presenting the idea of relationality as essential to divine and human being and relationship/communion as a place of discovery and strengthening of personal identity.

The Rev. Dr. Janine C. Stock (Pastor of All Saints, Vista, CA) suggests that we can adopt what is of enduring value from 16th century reformers without losing our Catholicism as many did during that time of turmoil.

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Holmes Singleton, OFR (The Community of St. Francis, Chicago, IL) offers a perspective on the laity as an order of ministry rooted in the most ancient of Christian documents.

The Right Rev. Raphael Adams, OSF (The Franciscan Community of Christ the King, Chicago and Louisville, until recently Suffragan Bishop of the ORCCNA, and a friend / fellow traveler of the ECC) explores the office of bishop prior to the rise of the monarchical episcopacy and urges us to recover that vision.

The Rev. Deacon Jeannine Carol Singleton, OFR (The Community of St. Francis, Chicago) traces her spiritual journey from the Lutheran tradition to the ECC (not as much of a journey as some might think) and explains how she was catechized by being a catechist.

Mr. Joseph Perry, Esq. (Associate of the Community of St. Francis, Chicago, IL, and soon to be a novice) takes us on his voyage from the Roman Catholic Church, to Tibetan Buddhism, and into the Ecumenical Catholic Communion.

The Rev. Kathleen Jess (Santa Rosa de Lima, Bi-Lingual Education Ministry, Calimesa, CA) recounts her recent experiences in the United States worshipping with a wide variety of ECC congregations and communities, then spending time in Europe with various Old Catholic national churches. It was more of a voyage of self discovery than tourism.

A final section offers brief comments on recently published books of potential interest to readers of this review.

We hope that you will find food for thought and meditation in this issue of *PCR* and that you might be stimulated to write in response and share your perspective with others through these pages.

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