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REMEMBRANCE OF A FELLOW MARRIED PRIEST:

Robert Fehribach (May 29, 1927 – August 5, 2009)

Bob Fehribach and his wife, Marie, who preceded him into eternity almost a year ago, were our best friends for over twenty years. My wife, Sigrid, and I miss them both very much. He deeply influenced our lives spiritually. Besides Call to Action, we shared with him Fr. Tom Lumpkin's House Church, Peace Action of Michigan and Pax Christi. Our shared commitment to the work of justice and peace brought us together at vigils, demonstrations, marches, as well as state and national conferences.

Even after Marie's death Bob continued each month to host and lead the book study club they both began. His suggestions for books were invaluable. Together we pondered and struggled with life's fundamental questions. What is the meaning of our human existence? How do we fit in with all of creation? What do we mean when we use the word God? Indeed, he enriched all of us spiritually.

Some of you will remember him even back in his days as pastor of Holy Rosary parish in Detroit. Others of you have known Bob since the early days of this thirty year marriage to Marie, or through his work in Social Services, or even earlier when he served in the U.S. Navy. Until his last days Bob continued his friendship with many priests, often joining them playing bridge, or tennis, or racquetball and sailing.

Bob's life was about striving to become fully human. He served more than 20 years as a priest in the Archdiocese. He never lost his voracious appetite for reading; he worked at keeping himself physically fit; he was deeply curious about the universe; he often shared his wonderful talents in the kitchen as well. Indeed, Bob strove to live life to its fullest in so many beautiful ways. Bob was blessed in life and he blessed others in life.

Personal note: "Bob, dear friend, I want to tell you that one of the most profound experiences of my life was the simple act of feeding you the dish of applesauce just two days before you left our midst. Until we come together in that great ocean we call God, you and Marie continue to be present and to deeply enrich every aspect of my life. With love, Ron"

Ron Dale, Warren

The Mission of Call to Action of Michigan

is to be a prophetic voice committed to the formation and support of inclusive Catholic communities of faith in the Spirit of Vatican II. This mission, rooted in the life and message of Jesus, compels us to reach out to empower people in justice, love, and compassion.

CTA Metro Detroit Update

We continue to meet on the second Sunday of each month from 2:00- 4:30 p.m. at Gerry Sellman's home, 1806 Leverette, 48216. Meetings include committee reports, a discussion of Bishop John Shelby Spong's remarkable book, *Born of a Woman*, inclusive liturgy and potluck. Please join us.

Social Justice Committee - In keeping with our CTA mission of "Catholics working together to foster peace and justice in our world, our church and ourselves", Detroit Metro CTA members have been praying, reflecting and discussing how we can best address the importance of being active in promoting justice and peace. We thought it best to avoid "reinventing the wheel" by developing another committee/group that would be repeating the J & P work that is already being done by many others.

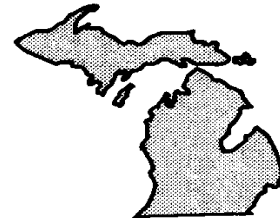
As a result, we have adopted the following paradigm: One of our members, Mary Jean Schoettle, will act as a liaison between CTA members and Justice/Peace Organizations. Mary Jean will keep her "email thumb" on important J&P issues in our world, church and ourselves. She will forward notifications received from other organizations to our Michigan CTA members who wish to be on her alert list. If you would like to receive these notifications, or if you belong to a peace and justice organization and would like your material distributed to CTA Metro Detroit members, please send email Mary Jean at adogpurrson@sbcglobal.net.

Intentional Communities Committee – Eileen Burns has received 5 inquiries regarding forming an intentional community. We will host a meeting in January on this topic.

Wakes/Funeral Committee – Jeanette Barks and crew continue to assemble materials. If you have a wake or funeral service you would like to share, contact Jeanette at jbarks2000@yahoo.com. The Committee is also compiling materials on green burials.

Upcoming Events – "The Bible, the Word and Art: Integrating Advent Prayer with the 'Art of Illumination. Saturday, November 28, 2009, 1 – 4 p.m. at Marianne's studio, 6820 Rattalee Lake Rd, Clarkston, MI 48348

Seder Meal - We will host our third annual Seder Meal on the Tuesday of Holy Week. It is a beautiful, prayerful and fun event. For info, contact Juliaaarcher@sbcglobal.net.



Lansing Update

Spent several months in planning the very successful State Conference featuring Edwinda Gately. Just over 100 persons attended the one day event in September. Thank you all who helped before and after the event. Many hands made the task lighter.

At the October meeting, on the feast day of St Theresa of Avila, our guest was Roman Catholic Woman Priest, Mary Ellen Roberts. We shared a very spirit filled Liturgy with her at which Mary Ellen spoke deeply of St Theresa comparing her to women of today. We had about 25 attend, all very appreciative of the effort Mary Ellen put into her presentation.

Early in 2010 we're going to show the film "Celebrate What's Right with the World". We had such a positive reaction at the state conference, we want to show it again.

Seventy seven (77) from Michigan attended the 3 day National Conference. We met the new Ex Director, Jim Fitzgerald. What a breath of fresh air. His enthusiasm & excitement is intoxicating.

I saw more "young adults" attending this year then ever before. It was stated that half of the CTA board is under 40 as well of the CTA staff. With Jim's help I see a new direction for CTA....the Spirit is working.

- Janet

Visit www.cta-mi.org for past and current newsletters!

2009 Call To Michigan State Conference



Edwina Gately is greeted warmly.

Rosemary and Ron Moon of Saginaw are surrounded by family as they receive the 2009 *"In the Spirit"* award which read:

"In recognition of your

- Persistent and prophetic leadership toward Church renewal;
- Dedication to building the kingdom of God despite adversity;
- Serving as a source of hope for Saginaw Catholics;
- Pioneering the breaking of barriers and encouraging dialogue;
- Living as responsible global citizens;
- Your example of living "In the spirit" of Bishop Ken Untener each and every day.

With heartfelt gratitude, Call To Action-Michigan gives you this award. On the 19th day of September, 2009.



CTA-MI members participate in the final prayer, energized and ready to build God's kingdom.

CTA National Conference Overview

CTA's National Conference in Milwaukee had an abundant agenda opening with a rousing address by Sr. Louise Akers relating her experiences in Cincinnati where she was dismissed after 40 years of teaching because she supports women's ordination. She stepped in for Fr. Roy Bourgeois who was called away to be with his ailing father.

Jim FitzGerald, our new director, addressed the opening session. He brings a new energy and perspective to CT A. He spoke to those assembled for the opening session and expressed CTA's commitment to "Everyone at the Table: Rejoicing as People of God". He also paid a brief visit to chapter leaders assembled with Bob Heineman on Thursday.

Workshops included everything from home church discussions to quantum reality. Many attendees were deeply moved by Imam Mohamed Abdul-Azeez's address focused on the lack of understanding most Americans have for the Muslim faith, and its resulting animosity. Milwaukee friends of Fr. Lorenzo Rosebaugh, OMI, held a memorial for this gentle man who was martyred in El Salvador last May.

Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estes shared her experiences leading to her conclusion that "the largest endangered species on earth is the human soul." She related her wisdom in storyteller fashion. The closing liturgy brought all of us 'to the table' in a very meaningful ceremony which included our very own Karen Schrauben and John Chuchman, who represented Michigan well at the microphone.

Jeannine Daly

Annual Appeal Letter – 2009

“CTA-MI is a prophetic voice committed to the formation and support of inclusive Catholic communities of faith in the Spirit of Vatican II. This mission, rooted in the life and message of Jesus compels us to reach out to empower people in justice, love and compassion”.

Dear CTA of Michigan Supporter,

SOMETHING BIG IS HAPPENING ACROSS CATHOLIC AMERICA!

Plans are underway for a daring and dynamic enterprise called THE AMERICAN CATHOLIC COUNCIL (ACC). The venue will be Detroit, Michigan. The dates will be Pentecost, June 9– 11, 2011. It is timed to CELEBRATE the 50th anniversary of Vatican II, (Rome, 1962- 65); it is located to CELEBRATE the vision of Cardinal Dearden, (Detroit 1976) who called Catholics together from across America to listen, to share, to speak, to pray and to vote for an INCLUSIVE CHURCH. It was the first Call to Action Conference.

This ANNOUNCEMENT will be followed with much more information in the months ahead as preparations for the Pentecost event unfold. Planners have already reported “We have flexibility in Detroit to have 2000-12000 attendees”. Wow, yes, big event!

But, why make this announcement in this Appeal Letter? Because, Call to Action, together with many other organizations, has played a role in leading up to this event.

If this ACC is a wake-up call to Catholics across America , then we in CTAMI can proudly say we helped and will be participants in an historical American Catholic experience. Maybe our work is paying dividends in more ways than we thought.

But, while we prepare for PENTECOST 2011, we in CTAMI must continue committed to OUR mission. Chapters will keep on holding meetings, scheduling conferences and events, volunteering hours, demonstrating, speaking out and praying. We must keep on doing the work of Church on a local level. The list of “Actions 09” again is an impressive one- including a remarkable State Conference, the production of four informative newsletters, partnering with other Catholic social justice and peace organizations to host programs, etc. We pledge to continue and expand our efforts in 2010.

And so, again all CTAMI members, we need your support to carry on and hereby make an appeal for your financial support. It is never easy to ask for money, especially in these difficult economic times we all face. Please know that the Board of CTAMI tries very hard to be good stewards of your hard earned money. We value a donation of any amount because small donations from ALL or MANY are the KEY WORDS.

We conclude this letter with a great big thank you for your support over the years, and reminder that our work is important and what a privilege to be an active member of CTAMI at this time.

Our best wishes to all during this holiday season and to all a Blessed New Year!

Peace,

Call to Action of Michigan Board of Directors

-- *Please use the enclosed envelope for your donation.*

OFFICER ELECTION

It's time for our biennial event, electing our Vice-President and Treasurer. Please check over the profiles and think of a CTA member who you know would fit the description. Send your nominations (w/ yours and their contact information) to Julia Ann Archer, 22259 Morley, Dearborn MI 48124 (juliaaarcher@sbcglobal.net)

Profile: Vice President

Prepare annual dues (Spring) and appeal (Fall) letters.
Assist President as requested.
Be responsible for membership.
Be willing to assume Presidency in case of an emergency.

Profile: Treasurer

Collect and deposit monies and make disbursements. Prepare budgets.
Give financial reports at Board meetings.
Assist in preparation of renewal of non-profit and other documents.





Call to Action has issued this powerful statement in support of the American Women Religious. CTA/Mi is proud to add its endorsement. Here the CTA statement:

Nuns Have Two Weeks

More than 2,000 Catholics gathered in Milwaukee as part of the Call To Action conference and on Sunday morning unanimously affirmed a statement of support for women religious:

"Since January of 2009, the Vatican has investigated and sought to silence Catholic sisters in the United States. They have set a deadline of November 20th for the women religious' communities to respond to its probing questionnaire. Now more than ever we must speak out against the few bishops who continue to wield the sword of division, rather than extend the hand of unity.

To our fellow Catholics in the United States and around the globe, women religious have taught us how to live the gospel and open our arms until they embraced all of God's people. It is now our responsibility to put into action the lessons we have learned and ensure that our sisters in faith are not ripped from the church's embrace,

To our courageous sisters, you who have been the bedrock of our church and country, know that the people you have faithfully served stand beside you as you have stood with us.

To those who are doing the investigation, your actions do not reflect the welcoming and embracing love that Jesus demonstrated in the gospels. We invite you to have a conversion of heart and join us in standing with the women religious.

In every generation God raises up prophets to point the way towards the gospel vision of inclusion. Women religious are these prophets. Today we stand not with those who cling to the gates of exclusion but with the prophets who open the gates and call us to live as one."



The President's Perspective

This year has been a very event-filled one! Our January board retreat was a powerful experience where our focus changed to "looking for what is right". Within this view we shared powerful stories of small faith groups, home churches and similar faith sharing opportunities happening in our state.

Here we revisited and revised our CTA of MI Mission statement. Edwina Gately presented her powerful challenge, Dare to be Faithful, at our state conference in Lansing, hosted by Karen Schrauben and Janet Glisson. Edwina enthusiastically related her personal journey to over 100 guests. She encouraged us not to leave the church we love, but to form faith communities which embody those of early Christian gatherings whose focus was to love and care for one another as opposed to prescribing rules which exclude members from participating. Many then chose to buy her spiritual autobiography, "In God's Womb".

Next year we have invited Fr. Roy Bourgeois to come to Michigan as part of the "Shattering the Glass Ceiling" tour, supporting women's ordination. We will also be discussing the American Catholic Council at that conference slated for September 11, 2010 at a site to be determined.

Recently I wrote to Jimmy Carter to acknowledge and support his decision to leave the Southern Baptist Conference after sixty years due to their refusal to accept women as equals. I also corresponded with Bishop Vigneron when he sent a representative to welcome CTA picketers at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, but he didn't accept my invitation to sit down and discuss the church we both love, but see from very different perspectives. He said he has to be protective of the people in his diocese, or something like that. Bishop Samples of the Marquette Diocese (where I was raised), did respond when I challenged his refusal to allow Bishop Gumbleton to speak on peace issues.

-- Jeannie Daly

If there is any one hope that symbolized what Vatican II was about and what that papacy of John XXIII was about, it was the emancipation of the laity from the status of being made to feel second-class citizens of the Church. Cardinal John Henry Newman wrote in 1851: "I want a laity not arrogant, not rash in speech, not disputatious, but men and women who know their religion, who enter into it, who know just where they stand, who know what they hold and what they do not, who know the creed so well that they can give an account of it, who know so much history that they can defend it. I want an intelligent, well-instructed laity" (The Tablet Nov 2008)



SUGGESTED ACTION ALERTS!

Put Your Faith Into Action

“I believe in an America that is officially neither Catholic, Protestant nor Jewish--where no public official either requests or accepts instructions on public policy from the Pope, the National Council of Churches or any other ecclesiastical source--where no religious body seeks to impose its will directly or indirectly upon the general populace or the public acts of its officials--and where religious liberty is so indivisible that an act against one church is treated as an act against all.”-- President John F. Kennedy, September 12, 1960, Houston Texas, The Greater Houston Ministerial Association.

Bishop Tobin has asked Representative Patrick Kennedy not to receive the Eucharist because of his support of President Obama’s health care bill. What YOU can do:

- **Contact Representative Kennedy's office**, voice your support for him as a Catholic, and ask him to continue working for affordable, universal health care for all. Call 202-225-4911 or send an email to him by [clicking here](#).
- **Contact Bishop Tobin** and *politely* ask him to stop using the Eucharist as a political weapon, and to direct his pastoral energies toward helping pass affordable, universal health care for all. Call 401-278-4500 or send an email to the bishop, care of the Communications Office at kdavis@dioceseofprovidence.org.
- **Consider writing a letter to the editor** - usually 250 words - for your local or a national newspaper. If you are interested in doing so, please contact us at media@catholicdemocrats.org and we will assist you in developing your key message points and the best media outlets.

Artist and CTA member,

Marianne Bernard gave a workshop, “The Bible, the Word and Art: Integrating Advent Prayer with the ‘Art of Illumination’” to help us get into the Spirit of Advent. Participants found creative skills they never knew they had, thanks to Marianne’s patience and love for creative expression.



How do we celebrate Advent?

Yes, we can be discouraged, but we can also have hope by trusting in God’s Word. Jesus has come. He will come again. This can be a season of great joy and also great hope if we continue to listen deeply to God’s Word and try to follow more faithfully the way of Jesus. Then we will discover a deep sense of joy and hope in our hearts.” – from Bishop Tom Gumbleton’s First Sunday of Advent homily 2006

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Time: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Location:

Interfaith Center for Spiritual
Growth
704 Airport Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI

(Located just south of the
intersection of I-94 and S.
State Street and just north of
the intersection of S. State
Street and Ellsworth Road)

Margaret Pooler
734-975-4632
mmpooler@sbcglobal.net

Joyce and Ron Mason
248-865-9544
ronjoymason@aol.com

His first book, *God Is Near*, published
in Australia in 1992, was an immediate
best-seller throughout Australia.

In 1997 he published *Tomorrow's
Catholic. Understanding God and Je-
sus in a New Millennium*, which be-
came a best-seller both in Australia and
the USA.

Michael has since written *Is Jesus
God? Finding Our Faith and Praying a
New Story*, which won an Award as one
of the best spiritual books of 2004 from
Spirituality & Health magazine.

His latest book, *From Sand to Solid
Ground. Questions of Faith for Modern
Christians*, won a USA Catholic Press
Award in 2008.



Washtenaw Area of
Michigan Call To Action -
Progressive and Inclusive
Catholic Community
working together for equality
and justice

www.cta-wc.org

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, April 24, 2010

Washtenaw Area of Michigan Call To Action presents:

Michael Morwood

**Reshaping Christian Thought
and Imagination**



*Much of Christian theology has been based on
dualistic notions of heaven-earth, with earth as
the center of the cosmos and God as an
overseeing, ruling deity. Jesus has been viewed as
the unique "way" to heaven or where God dwells.*

*Now theology finds itself caught in the biggest
shift ever in our understanding of the cosmos and
what it means to assert that "God is everywhere".*

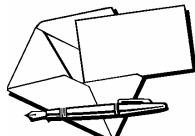
*Caught in this shift, we want to establish solid
ground on which to articulate Christian faith that
honors the mystery of God, Jesus as revealer of
this mystery in human form, the wonder of who
and what we are, our connection with all creation,
the purpose of prayer and sacraments, and the
role of the "Church" in the world.*

Call To Action of Michigan
P.O. Box 12161
Hamtramck, Michigan, 48212
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*Unlike some organizations,
National Call to Action does
not share dues with CTA-MI.*

*Therefore, we really
appreciate your support
when you send dues and
donations to CTA-MI.*



CTA-MICHIGAN NEEDS YOU!

CTA-MI promises to be good stewards of your hard-earned donations. We take this seriously. At a recent board meeting we discussed the topic of expenses and how to cut costs. The board made a tough decision.

Our mailing list numbers nearly 1600. Some of those members have been on our rolls since 1997. Active membership is about 300. By “active” we mean anyone who has sent a donation for anything – annual dues, appeal letter contribution, or random donation. Our printing and mailing costs are our highest operating expense. The cost to print one newsletter is about \$390 and about \$255 for postage. CTA-MI sends out four newsletters and a State Conference brochure. In addition local chapters send out reminders of events.

We need to address this large gap between 'active' and 'inactive' members. The Board decided that any person who is currently on our mailing list and has not made some type of contribution in the last three years will be removed from the mailing list in January 2010. By “contribution” we mean annual dues, appeal letter contribution, or donation. Even \$1 will hold a place for you on our mailing list. Believe me, we know how hard times are. And if you are “cash strapped” just let us know and your name will stay on our mailing list.

The Board did not make this decision lightly. This was very difficult because one of CTA-Michigan’s priorities is education. Some members felt that we are not being true to that mission if we remove names from the mailing list. Most thought that we don’t really know whether or not you read the newsletter or put it in “File 13” or the “Circular File” so mailing expenses could be a wasted expense. And there is a big difference between 300 “active” members and 1600.

The Board appreciates your understanding and we sincerely hope to hear from about 1300 people.

- Eileen Burns and Karen Schrauben