



## REGIONAL CONTACTS

### State of Michigan President

Sr. Beth Rindler  
[bethrin@prodigy.net](mailto:bethrin@prodigy.net)  
313-891-2192

### Detroit Metro

Eileen Burns  
[eb120246@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eb120246@sbcglobal.net)  
313-963-0448

### Detroit Metro North

Jeannine/Mike Daly  
[mikedaly@tir.com](mailto:mikedaly@tir.com)  
248-651-7075

### Grand Rapids

Jerry O'Bee  
[jerry@jerryobee.com](mailto:jerry@jerryobee.com)  
616-676-0749

### Lansing

Joe Droste  
[Drosteja@yahoo.com](mailto:Drosteja@yahoo.com)  
(517) 485-7871

### Kalamazoo

Kim Franke,  
[kimfranke4057@hotmail.com](mailto:kimfranke4057@hotmail.com)  
Jim Rose, [jrose@juno.com](mailto:jrose@juno.com)  
(269) 544-2486

### Saginaw

Ron & Rosemary Moon  
[roseron@sbcglobal.net](mailto:roseron@sbcglobal.net)  
(989) 781-0921

### Washtenaw

Arnie Messing  
[arniemessing@comcast.net](mailto:arniemessing@comcast.net)  
(810) 227-4609

## Michigan CTA Annual Conference Report:

The Conference was held on October 14 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brighton, MI. Fifty plus (50) were in attendance. Henceforth, please note that future State Conferences will always occur on the first Saturday of October. It's important to have a fixed date as plans are made to obtain a speaker and for folks to clear their calendars. For example, this year PAX CHRISTI held it's retreat on the same day as the Michigan conference.

We need to avoid such conflicts for the sake of those who might need or want to attend both events. Please know, too, that careful consideration is given to the location of the Conference, i.e., what is a convenient location for most members regarding travel time, distance, etc.

Now a few thoughts about the Conference day itself: Paul Lakeland's presentation was most enlightening; the reports by six different persons representing VOTF, SNAP, DIGNITY, WOC, PAX CHRISTI and CORPUS were informative and inspiring, and a quietly beautiful Liturgy of Eucharist brought our day to a close in a most fitting manner.

We bid each other farewell, sensing a new Presence of the Holy Spirit of the Risen Lord within us and among us as we returned to our homes.

(Note: We were very fortunate to have a quartet of the St. JOHN FISHER Music Group perform throughout the Conference day and lead us in song at various times. They brought much joy to our gathering. Terry Gonda, song-writer, singer and guitarist lead the singing for the Liturgy and actually wrote a musical Homily for the liturgy. What talent! Performers for the day, in addition to Terry, included Kirsti Reeve, John Marcus and Sharon Tioran. We thank you so much for your generous giving of time and talent to help make our day so special.)

How do we capture in a short report the full meaning of Paul Lakeland's presentation?

We don't. His book, "The Liberation of the Laity" is like eight books in one. Each of the eight chapters offers a seminar's worth of study and reflection. Too much to do in one day!

But he left us with much to ponder. For example, there was no laity, only Christians in the beginning. No distinctions were made between clergy and laity. One's general responsibilities simply grew out of their baptism. But since such a major difference between "clergy and laity" has developed over the centuries, now we have to begin to undo some of that separation or distinction, so that the lives of all Christians are be understood as not worse or better than the life of an ordained

*Continued on page ...*

## Regional News

### CTA Washtenaw Area -

Our liturgy/potlucks continue to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month and are well attended, usually 15 to 20 or so people on average. People take turns hosting these gatherings in their homes. Scripture readings from the Sunday provide the theme for our Liturgy of the Word and the basis for the dialogue homily. All come prepared to share. (Some who attend Sunday liturgy in their parish church also attend the home liturgy.)

We recently had our first Mary Magdalene celebration (July 23). It went very well and next year we plan to extend invitations farther and wider. Also, at our July meeting, a prayer group that normally meets in Adrian joined our CTA liturgy/potluck. It was wonderful to meet so many like-minded people.

Randy Vonck will begin serving as the new President. John Salcau is our newly appointed treasurer. A sincere thanks to Sandi Estep, Mary Howrey, and Sharon Tewes who have been serving as board officers. May the Wisdom of God rest in all CTA members of Washtenaw Area Region as we work and pray together for peace and justice.

### CTA news from Saginaw -

On October 14, 2006, a group of our local members headed for Brighton to attend the Michigan annual conference and listen to Paul Lakeland update us on the "place" of us laity folks in the Catholic Church. It's sad how "in the dark" we are kept as to what our rights and responsibilities are ACCORDING to CANON LAW. It could be threatening to the powers at the top if we take all this information seriously. Oh my!

One of the highlights of the day was the sharing by members of six different church reform organizations about their experiences. Personal

stories were impressive. The groups represented were: VOTF, SNAP, DIGNITY, WOC, PAX

CHRISTI and CORPUS. We became aware of what's happening with other Catholics who are struggling with their place in the church. It was a very good start. We need to become more aware. All in all a great Michigan conference!

Those of us who attended National CTA Conference in Milwaukee (117 in all from Michigan, wow) came away with our usual "shot in the spirit". It's always a wonder that so many great minds and speakers like Joan Chittister, John Dear, and too many to name them all, are gathered there in one place to share deeply their gifts of intelligence and wisdom. Of course, the crowning glory is always the closing liturgy. It causes a great swelling of the heart when 3000 voices are raised in worship, song and prayers of consecration.

Here in Saginaw we are arranging to meet with members of the Muslim community for an open discussion, where are we the same, where do we differ. Also, we are planning to attend a mass by campus ministry at Saginaw Valley State U. and address the students there to acquaint them with Call to Action. Fr. Joe Schabel, our vice-chair, encouraged us to strongly urge our pastors to homilize from the pulpit about non-violence and the war, subjects that seem to be avoided when they should be emphasized.

May your days be merry and bright and your hearts be filled with Christ's peace and grace!

Rosemary Moon

*(Editor: Good job, Rosemary, and commendations to Saginaw people. Great report and Action!)*

## CTA Lansing area news---

After prayerful discernment I chose to be part of Michigan Peace Team's Fall 2006 violence reduction mission to Israel and Palestine. We, as a team of four, assisted the Palestinian people with their olive harvest and worked with other international groups to resist the unjust occupation of their land.

Both Israeli and Palestinian people continue to invite Michigan Peace Teams' presence and action. They tell us that: "Now more than ever international peace teams are needed in Palestine to walk with Palestinian and Israeli people who are working non-violently to create a society grounded in peace and justice."

What did we do? We did check point watches, documented human rights violations and educated for peace, networked, etc.

Financial support is always invited and needed. One may send checks payable to:

Michigan Peace Team earmarked for "MPT Fall Team 2006". Please send to: Michigan Peace Team, 1516 Jerome St., Lansing, MI 48912.

Peacefully and prayerfully, and gratefully yours,

Joe Droste

*(Note: CTA of Michigan commends you, Joe, for your courageous endeavor and your example of working for peace and justice, at home and abroad. We hope to hear more about your experience. Bless you and all Lansing area CTA'ers for their support.)*

## CTA news from Detroit Metro

CTA Metro Detroit Upcoming Dates.  
All are welcome!

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Meeting. Reconciliation service. Pot luck. At Gerry Sellman's, 1802 Leverette.

In 2007 we will discuss Paul Lakeland's book, "The Liberation of the Laity: In Search of an Accountable Church".

Sunday - January 17, Chapters 1 & 2.

Sunday - February 4, Chapters 3 & 4.

Sunday - March 4, Chapters 5 & 6.

Sunday - April 1, Chapters 7 & 8.C

Call Eileen Burns 313-963-0448 for more info or e-mail at [eb120246@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eb120246@sbcglobal.net).

World Day of Prayer for Women's Ordination

Sunday, March 25, 4:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Fatima Chapel

13500 Oak Park Blvd, Oak Park (on Coolidge between 9 and 10 Mile Rds)

For more information contact Kathy Calcaterra Chateau, 313-885-7994. Celebrate the women's gifts and her call to participate in all ministries of the Church.

**"...God looks at the heart"** 1 Samuel 16:7

"Day of Reflection for Catholic Parents of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Sons and Daughters", sponsored by Fortunate Families. January 20, 2007 from 9:30 a.m to 5:30 p.m., at St Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer Road, Westland, MI 48186. Cost: \$25.00 per person, \$40.00 per couple. Make checks payable to: Fortunate Families, c/o Linda Karle-Nelson, 376554 Russett Drive, Farmington Hills, Mi 48331.

# Looking ahead to 2007

What is a Lay Synod? Please explain! O.K. Here's a try.

First of all Michigan CTA Agenda is clearly in step with National CTA Agenda regarding the whole issue of Lay Synods. One of CTA National's attempts to define Lay Synods or to state its purpose is "to help form opportunities for Catholics from a diocese to come together to 'learn the rights and responsibilities of the laity, study the issues facing the local Church and provide input and influence on solutions'".

We in Michigan CTA already have done a lot of ground work over the past two years, even going so far as defining a Lay Synod as "AN ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC FAITHFUL WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO EDUCATE THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE

SPIRIT OF VATICAN II, TO IDENTIFY AND DELIBERATE ON LOCAL CHURCH ISSUES AND TO FORMULATE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION". (Thanks to Eileen Burns for her lead on this)

Properly understood, a Lay Synod is formed to work with the bishops and priests and religious of a Diocese, not as an organization to work against them. CTA may play an important part in getting a Synod started, but CTA and a Lay Synod are not the same.

A Lay Synod is intended to reach out to a much BROADER and DIVERSE group of Christian Faithful, having members from parish usher teams, teachers, RCIA people, financial experts, scientists and biologists, farmers, doctors, attorneys, psychiatrists, marriage and family counselors, football and basketball coaches, landscapers, construction workers, etc. The list goes on. In other words, people who may not want to be CTA members, because of certain CTA agenda issues, may want very badly to become members of a Diocesan Lay Synod. This will be their opportunity.

So in effect then, CTA becomes a valuable role player in developing a Lay Synod, but remains a separate entity in several ways. After all, isn't CTA still considered to be like an outsider looking in, so to speak, whereas a Synod would be an integral and vital part of the operation of a Diocese and of parishes, following the clear directions of 27 Canons of the Canon Laws of the Catholic Church. Therefore, properly understood and formed, a Lay Synod could only be embraced by Cardinals, Bishops and Priests as a "sine qua non" arm of the Church, nothing less than an assembly of adult, committed, educated Christian faithful, with a full "stamp of approval", ministering out of their baptismal vocation.

(A previous newsletter provided a copy of those 27 Canons, which still seem mysteriously buried in the "official archives", even 23 years after the 1983 Code of Canon Law was written.)

Please keep this attempt to define or describe a Synod in mind in your discussions and study and prayers as we move forward into 2007 as adult Catholics. Better still, help to define it even more clearly and accurately.

Thanks. The Board.

Lena, please peruse this statement. It is my attempt to understand the subject and stimulate discussion, perhaps even to bring it all to the table on January 11 at Beth's house, or wherever the meeting will be held. Beth and I see this whole Lay Synod business in different ways, at least up to now. I will be interested and open to your comments. Thank you, and Merry Christmas.

Arnie ([arniemessing@comcast.net](mailto:arniemessing@comcast.net))



## CTA of MI Audio-Visual Tape Library Is Open for Business

Education is one of the key elements in Call To Action of Michigan's mission. Toward that end the organization has begun an audio visual tape library that is open to all CTA members. For a fee of \$10 we will send you the tape of your choice and a return envelope and mailing label. The fee covers the cost of shipping, the envelope, label and the return envelope and mailing label. Any surplus money will be used to purchase additional tapes for the library. Tapes are on loan for one month. They can be for your personal use or for group discussions. Such a deal! Right now our library includes:

### CD Tapes

Chittister, Joan, OSB, "On Women in the Church" Dearborn, MI 2006

Doyle, Tom, "The Sexual Abuse Scandal in Today's Church" Tucson, AZ 2006

### VHS Tapes

Balasuriya, Tissa, "Theological Reflection on the Way to Jubilee" - CTA 1998 National Conference

Collins, Paul, "The Church and the Papacy in 2015" - CTA 1998 National Conference

Documentary: "Hidden Wars in the Middle East" (A thoroughly captivating look the history of Western involvement in the Middle East from the 1920's to present day.

Gatley, Edwina, "Plenary Session and Award" - CTA 1998 National Conference

Gumbleton, Thomas, "Proclaim Jubilee: Practice Justice" - 1999

McClory, Robert, "The Necessity of Dissent" - CTA 1998 National Conference

Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, "Stop the Bombs" (24 minutes)

Padovano, Anthony, "The Unfinished Agenda of Vatican II" - CTA 1998 National Conference

Voices of the Catholic Common Ground - "Forming a Catholic Common Ground Dialogue Group" 1998

### Feature Films

"Dead Man Walking" (Inspired by Sr. Helen Prejean's relationship with a death row prisoner)

"The Mission" (Powerful epic about a man of the sword (Robert DeNiro) and a man of peace (Jeremy Irons) set in 18<sup>th</sup> century colonial empires in South America

I am also accepting donations of tapes, CD's, DVD's that are timely and good quality. Contact me at [eb120246@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eb120246@sbcglobal.net).

Let's use this resource to its full potential!

Eileen Burns

## Michigan Annual Conference Report

*Continued from page 1:*

minister, but that they both share in “ministry” of the Church, only with different tasks. (Talk about a task!) Also, “there is no distinction between ‘laypeople’ and ‘clerics’ in the vocabulary of the New Testament”.

Or what about his treatise on what Cardinal Suenens brought to the Council’s deliberations? “The pope is one of the faithful before he is the pope, and one of the faithful when he is the pope. --- a Pope’s finest moment is not that of his election or consecration, but that of his baptism”. There’s much to ponder there.

Or again, still from another of his chapters, (p.270) when talking about parishes of the future “---take away the requirement of celibacy, take away the prohibition on women, and the understanding of ministry will change. Or change the understanding of ministry and watch celibacy and gender become IRRELEVANT. There’s so much to do.

Perhaps the best way to remember our Conference 2006 is simply as another step in growing up to becoming an “adult” Christian, baptized, neither “lay or clergy”, to help carry on the mission of the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Thanks to all who helped organize the Conference and to every person who came to share their Presence, their thoughts, their feelings and their support.

Arnie

## Updating our Mailing List

We are updating our mailing list which has nearly 1800 addresses! In an effort to be good stewards of your donations to CTA, the Board is trying to cut costs wherever possible. By far our biggest expenses are postage and mailings.

Please take a moment to complete the form and return it via mail or send the information electronically to Rita Carey.

### Call to Action Mailing

\_\_\_\_\_ I would prefer to receive Call to Action newsletter via e-mail

My e-mail address is: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print clearly)

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*Please cut and mail to:*

**Call to Action of Michigan**  
**P.O. Box 12161**  
**Hamtramck, MI 48212**

*Or e-mail Rita Carey at [ritamae@ameritech.net](mailto:ritamae@ameritech.net)*

## Summary of CTA-MI Caucus at National CTA Nov. 2008:

Major efforts of the past two years, and moving forward, have been a preparation for a SYNOD of the LAY FAITHFUL in 2008. Beginning March 2007 (specific dates and locations to be determined) Sr. Kate Kuenstler, canon lawyer, will tour the state and present the canons that outline the rights and responsibilities of the laity. Remember her? She is Dr. Kate, having earned a Doctorate in Canon Law and she is also a Judge. She was the main speaker at our 2005 State Conference. This time around she will visit each branch and spend more time on how to go about developing a Synod and what kinds of activities can take place within such a Synod. She can help us get into the ‘nitty-gritty issues’ facing Catholic people today, like in parishes without a priest, or in parishes where there might still be strong resistance to transparency issues, governing issues, etc., etc. Catholic Christian faithful might be surprised to learn how their roles within the parish and diocesan structures will be changing over the years ahead. There is so much to be sorted out as we begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium of Christianity. Sr. Kate’s tour in March should be invaluable as we prepare for a “Synod 2008”. We’re ready and waiting.

Thank you, Kim Franke for reporting on the Michigan caucus at National CTA Conference and thanks to more than 50 individuals who participated.

*Call To Action of Michigan*  
P.O. Box 12161  
Hamtramck, Michigan, 48212

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