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SERVING THE SIX-COUNTY DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES

DECEMBER 9, 2012

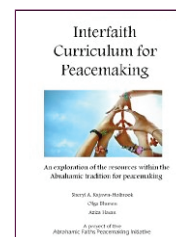


Local authors publish books on Advent, interfaith peacemaking

A professor and a student at Bloy House (The Episcopal Theological School at Claremont) have recently released books; one on Advent meditations, one on interfaith peacemaking.



Francisco Garcia, a seminarian at Bloy House is the author of *Cheer Our Spirits: Make Safe the Way — Meditations for Advent and Christmas*, a book of daily meditations based on hymns and songs of the season season, published by Forward Movement. The book is available in English and Spanish, in print, and on the Kindle and Nook electronic readers. “These are personal theological reflections but cover issues of social justice and the spiritual journey, Latin religious traditions and experiences, themes related to migration and journey, work, family, and soul care,” says Garcia, who recently became director of peace and justice ministries at All Saints Church, Pasadena.



The Rev. Dr. Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook, faculty member at Bloy House and the Claremont School of Theology, is a co-author of *Interfaith Curriculum for Peacemaking*. This book draws upon the resources within the Abrahamic tradition — Judaism, Christianity, and Islam — to offer a peacemaking curriculum that can be used in any of these traditions or in interfaith dialog. Included are activities and discussion guides based on the texts and traditions of each of these faith traditions. The three authors, Kujawa-Holbrook, Rabbi Olga Bluman, and Aziza Hasan, each has extensive interfaith experience and bring their expertise to this source-book for mosques, churches, synagogues, and schools. †

Advent retreat and quiet day feature former presiding bishop. Frank Griswold, former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, and Barbara Braver lead “An Advent Puzzle: Fitting the Pieces Together,” a clergy retreat at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul just before the beginning of Advent. The two, who have given similar programs in several other dioceses, also led a Quiet Day program Dec. 1. Griswold focused on the need for “discernment of spirits” as informed by the spirituality of the Desert Fathers, while Braver used poetry to explore “growing into the people God created us to become.”

Climate change: Why should churches care?

Workshop to explore how congregations can take steps to protect God’s creation

“Climate Change: Why the Faith Community Should Care” is the title of a workshop to take place from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 12 at Holy Nativity Episcopal Church, presented by California Interfaith Power & Light and endorsed by Bishop Diocesan J. Jon Bruno.

According to CIPL, a new UCLA study predicts that by 2050, temperatures in the L.A. region will rise an average of 4.6 degrees Fahrenheit if greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase at current levels. Meanwhile, California is preparing to implement new environmental regulations as certain provisions of AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, take effect Jan. 1

This workshop will explore what congre-



gations can do to take action to protect God’s creation.

Holy Nativity Church and its rector, the Rev. Peter Rood, have been active in environmental causes for several years. The parish is the home of a community garden as well as a “second harvest” program that collects produce from local home gardens for distribution to the poor, and hosts “Environmental Change-makers,” a civic action group.

The church is located at 6700 West 83rd Street, Westchester (Los Angeles) 90045. For information and reservations, contact Allis Druffel of CIPL at 310.752.3436 or by e-mail at allis@interfaithpower.org. †

AROUND THE DIOCESE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 3:30 p.m.
Advent Organ Series: Emma Lou Diemer
 Trinity Episcopal Church
 1500 State Street, Santa Barbara
 Information: 805.687.0189

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 4 p.m.
Christmas Concert: LagunaTunes
 St. Mary's Episcopal Church
 428 Park Avenue, Laguna Beach
 Information: 949.494.3542

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 4 p.m.
Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols
 St. Alban's Episcopal Church
 580 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles
 Information: 310.208.6516

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 4:30 p.m.
The Golden State British Brass Band
 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
 1231 E. Chapman Avenue, Fullerton
 Information: 714.870.4350

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 4:30 p.m.
Advent Procession of Lesson & Carols
 St. James in-the-City Episcopal Church
 3903 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90010
 Information: 213.388.3417, ext. 200

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 7:30 p.m.
Lessons and Carols for Advent
 1175 S. San Gabriel Blvd., San Marino
 Information: 626.793.9167

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 7:30 p.m.
Advent Taizé: Waiting for the Light
 St. Luke's Episcopal Church
 7th & Atlantic, Long Beach
 Information: 562.436.4047

More listings and program information at
www.ladiocese.org (select "Calendar").

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FROM THE BISHOPS

Diocesan Convention Action Items

By J. Jon Bruno

Thank you to all participants in Diocesan Convention's 117th annual meeting held Dec. 8 in San Bernardino under the theme "Serving Together in Abundant Vineyards."

Our Convention meeting this year has emphasized ways in which our convention theme is calling each of us to live and serve in community, nurturing one another and growing as followers of Jesus.

For example, this spirit of ministry is reflected in community garden initiatives around this diocese. From the Abundant Table program to Camp Stevens to the parish/mission center gardens in Westchester, Riverside, San Bernardino, and beyond, these practical programs engage participants in providing for people in need while also caring environmentally for God's creation. Please consider exploring new ways in which your local congregation can share in such outreach.

Other examples of serving together in the



vineyards of this diocese include our stewardship and interfaith work. At Convention, Bishop Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce pointed toward new online resources for stewardship development in our congregations (see stewardship.ladiocese.org/index.html), and Bishop Suffragan Mary D. Glasspool underscored a model that local congregations can share for dialogue within the Abrahamic faith traditions (see Just Action video feature at www.youtube.com/justactiondiocese). I commend these resources to you for use locally.

Please remember, as well, my encouragement to strengthen and renew youth ministries in this diocese as a top priority. Together, as we implement these action items, our diocese will continue to grow in service.

Again, I thank you for your partnership in these areas, and wish you God's continuing blessings in these days of Advent.

Please note: The most current news of Convention actions and elections can be found online at www.episcopalnews.org. ✝

TAKE NOTE



Messiah, Santa Ana, to host Las Posadas

Church of the Messiah, Santa Ana, will hold its annual Las Posadas and children's Christmas pageant in Spanish on Saturday, Dec. 22. The pageant will begin at 5 p.m. at the church. Afterwards, everyone (children and adults) will process with Mary

and Joseph to neighborhood homes, seeking shelter. Everyone then returns to the parish hall for homemade tamales and a pinata for the children. Participants are encouraged to dress warmly and bring a flashlight. Church of the Messiah is located at 614 N. Bush Street, Santa Ana 92701. For information, call 714.543.9389. ✝

Did you know?

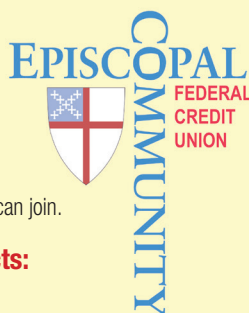
The Diocese of Los Angeles has a full-service Credit Union.

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