



# Ascension–Alliance for Spiritual Renewal

A MOVEMENT WITHOUT WALLS OR CEILING

## Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 2 • March, 2010

### Mailing List Corrections

You have received this newsletter because we thought you might like to receive news from us. If you do not wish to be on our mailing list please send an e-mail with your name to:

cosmas@concentric.net

In the subject line simply say, "Remove from mailing list." We will remove you from our databases immediately. In this event, we apologize for any inconvenience.

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### New Doctoral Program for Experienced Clergy

Ascension Theological College, previously the Ascension Ordination Program, is announcing that it is accepting applications for its new Doctor of Ministry program.

Ascension made the decision to develop the program in order to serve the needs of applicants who already have an accredited M.Div degree, or equivalent, and three years ministry experience. In addition to preparing for ministry in our movement, these candidates can earn a valid doctorate. Four members of the core faculty have earned doctorates from accredited institutions and are qualified to teach at this level.

The program requires completion of at least one year of advanced full-time study plus an approved ministry project and written dissertation.

### Bishop Howard Dugan Joins Ascension

We welcome Bishop Howard Dugan of Mount Shasta, California to the Ascension Alliance.

Bishop Dugan first received guidance and Holy Orders from the late Archbishop Herman Adrian Spruit of the Church of Antioch in 1986. He was ordained a priest in 1989 and consecrated a Bishop in 1991. He served on their Board of Governors and as Bishop of the Midwest.

Bishop Dugan is well practiced in numerous spiritual traditions, dedicated to interfaith dialogue, original blessing, and freedom. He brings many years experience to our movement and has agreed to serve on our leadership Council.

### Ordination Program Granted Exemption to Confer Degrees

Ascension Theological College has been granted religious exempt status by the Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board. While we are not an accredited institution, the exemption means that we are now able to lawfully grant college credits and confer degrees.

The exemption covers the B.D., M.Div, and D.Min programs. The Bachelor of Divinity, B.D., and Master of Divinity, M.Div., require completion of 30 courses, including two practica. The B.D. program is open to exceptional candidates who lack an accredited degree. Study at the M.Div. level requires having a prior accredited baccalaureate degree. The D.Min program is open to experienced ministers with an M.Div degree (see article this page).

We are now accepting applications from those who wish to pursue ordination and/or a degree. In the future, we hope to develop programs in areas such as pastoral counseling and spiritual direction. Our current catalog is available on request.

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## ***Three New Seminarians Begin Ordination Program***

Three new seminarians, Casey Tonrey, Kathy Diederich, and David Paulson, have been accepted into our ordination program.

Casey, from Taos, New Mexico, is a professional educator, currently working as an administrator in the K-12 public school system. He has a deep interest in youth ministry.

Kathy, from Villa Park, California, is interested in healing ministry and energy work. She was previously a student under the late Archbishop Dexter Woods, who was well-known for using spiritual energy to help medical professionals.

David, from Portland, Oregon, already has a master's degree in religious studies and has served in ministry for many years, initially with the American Baptist Church and later with the United Methodist Church. He is new to the independent Catholic movement. He currently serves as a hospital chaplain with the Providence system.

## About Ascension Renewal

### One small branch of the Mystical Body

- **A movement without walls or ceiling.** We are born of a free Catholic vision, in the tradition of a fledgling Independent Catholic movement, inspired by the intuitions of the Emerging Church, and following in the example of Jewish Renewal. We require rigorous preparation for ordained ministry but encourage maximum self-determination and a creative response to the needs of today's world. Our bishops and priests trace their apostolic succession as far back as that of even the most ancient of Christian communions.
- **We are about fellowship, the spiritual path, and love.** We strive to be a fellowship of spiritual pilgrims. Without imposing dogma, we give ourselves and others the freedom and encouragement we need to live the truth and become ever more renewed and transformed. For us, Christ's ministry is the law of love and truth. Saint Augustine may have said it best, "Love and do as you will."

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