



Ascension Alliance

A FREE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 1 • January, 2011

Father Rand Gillen is Consecrated a Bishop

Group Exemption Application



On December 14th, the Alliance applied to the IRS for its group exemption letter, which, when granted, will allow affiliated ministries to benefit from the central organization's 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

Ten "plank holder" ministries are included in our initial application. They will hold "lifetime" charters - valid for as long as they are in good standing.

The ten "plank holder" ministries are: Church of the Holy Spirit (Mt. Shasta, CA), Ascension Mission Ministries (Gig Harbor, WA), Community of the Celtic Cross (Pepin, WI), Gentle Shepherd Church (Richmond, VA), Beloved Disciple Church (Baltimore, MD), Angel of the Presence Chapel (Portland, OR), Spiritus Christi Independent Catholic Church (Fairfield, IA), Sanctuary of the Machenim Groves (Crestone, CO), Blessings (Santa Fe, NM) and Sanctuary of Holy Wisdom (Chandler, AZ).

Future ministries can charter for the modest annual fee of \$153, the number of fish Jesus caught after the resurrection (John 21: 10-11)

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.

Pictured above is Bishop Rand Gillen (in profile right and seated) being vested by the Alliance's Presiding Bishop, Alan Kemp (seated left), after his consecration as a bishop in Christ's Church. He is surrounded by co-consecrating bishops Daniel Danganan, Roberto Foss, Jorge Eagar, and Patsy Grubbs.

Clergy from around the country converged at the Little Chapel of St. Thomas, the Doubter, on the grounds of Bishop Alan and wife Claudia's Hermitage, near Gig Harbor, WA. In addition to the co-consecrators, clergy included Father Ted Feldmann, pastor of Beloved Disciple Church in Baltimore, Mother Sandra Olson of San Francisco, Rev. Margaret Fisher, a friend and Episcopal priest from Spokane, WA.

Bishop Rand will be an autocephalous, or independent, bishop. A vowed "urban contemplative," he has an active ministry in Ellensburg, WA. He studied under Matthew Fox at Holy Names College in Oakland, where he earned a master's degree in Creation Spirituality. To recognize his gifts, Ascension Theological College, our seminary, has also awarded him an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree.

Contact Information

Presiding Bishop
Alan R. Kemp, D.Min

Mailing Address
PO Box 167
Vaughn, WA 98394

Telephone
(253) 961-9775 (cell)

E-mail
cosmas@concentric.net

Inside

Rand Gillen Consecrated	1
Convocation 2011	2
Group Exemption Letter	1
Council Appointments ...	2

Appointments to Council

The Ascension Alliance began as a result of the efforts of three men: Bishop Alan Kemp, Father Chuck Cooper, and Bishop Bernie Finch.

Since then, we have experienced rapid growth, including many women clergy. To better represent our diversity, Mother Sandy Olson has been appointed to a one year term and Bishop Patsy Grubbs to a two year term on the Council. The Council is the administrative body that approves all by-law changes and new clergy. It serves as the ethics review panel and also oversees our seminary, Ascension Theological College.

Convocation 2011

Clergy, members, and friends of the Ascension Alliance will gather August 19th to the 21st, 2011 at Seabeck Conference Center, on Washington state's Hood Canal, for our 2011 annual convocation.

Convocation information and call for presentations are going out with the mailing of this newsletter. Registration forms should be returned to Alliance headquarters. Presentation proposals to Father Tom Gallub, in Richmond, VA.

Ascension Alliance
A FREE CATHOLIC CHURCH
PO BOX 167, VAUGHN, WA 98394

About the Ascension Alliance

One small branch of the Mystical Body

- **A "Free Catholic" and "Emerging" Church.** 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 Catholic and Orthodox communions.

- **We are about fellowship, the spiritual path, and love.** Honoring the legacy of Archbishop Herman Adrian Spruit, 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."

U.S.
Postage

«Prefix» «FirstName» «LastName»
«Address»
«City», «State» «Zip»