



Ascension Alliance

SPIRITUALITY IS A RENEWABLE RESOURCE

Newsletter

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Chaplaincy

Over the past few years several clergy have expressed an interest in pursuing chaplaincy as their ministry. Indeed, chaplaincies, such as those in hospitals, the VA, and military provide some of the best opportunities for paid ministry. For example, earlier this year we learned of GS 11-12 chaplaincy positions that pay in the range of \$67,000 to \$105,000 per year.

Having a clergy endorsement from a denomination is a requirement for employment as a VA chaplain. And, having a specific candidate for a VA chaplaincy is a requirement for the organization to become an authorized endorser. Reverend Mother Cathy Chalmers, who was ordained this year in Nashville, intends to apply for a VA position and has asked the Alliance to apply for endorsement authority.

As of this writing, the Alliance has submitted its application to Veterans' Administration to establish our authority to "endorse" candidates for VA chaplaincies. Our hope is that achieving this status with the VA might also help us establish ourselves with other organizations.

Persons interested in chaplaincy should also be aware that it is the norm for organizations who employ them to require completion of at least one unit, and often two units, of CPE, or Clinical Pastoral Education at a program accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE). ACPE in turn is recognized as the chaplaincy accrediting body by the United States Department of Education. Reverend Mother Chalmers completed CPE as part of her M.Div. program at Vanderbilt. Our seminary, Ascension Theological College, encourages ordination candidates to consider CPE as an option when pursuing their practical requirements.

Photo ID Cards

This year when members receive their ID cards they are getting a card designed to accommodate a passport-sized photo. At the urging of Father Spencer Wood, we are moving toward permanent photo ID cards.

The reason for this is that many ministry venues, such as hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, and jails are concerned about security and want to ensure that persons working in their settings are properly credentialed.

We have not as yet made a final decision about who we will hire to print our permanent ID cards or what machine we will purchase if we decide to issue them ourselves. However, we are sending out the temporary cards as a first move in the direction of permanent photo ID cards.

In addition to ID cards, clergy are reminded that they also need to be affiliated with an ordinariate and have a letter of faculties from their bishop to validly administer the sacraments. Members and bishops mutually discern the assignment of an ordinary. Those not assigned automatically come under the jurisdiction of our central office.

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:

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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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Inside

Chaplaincies	1
Photo ID Cards	1
<hr/>	
Leslie Aguiard Ordained	2
About the Alliance	2

Leslie Aguillard Ordained



We are very pleased to congratulate Rev. Leslie Aguillard, who was ordained to the Catholic apostolic priesthood on Cinco de Mayo by Bishop Michael Adams in Fairfield, Iowa.

Mother Leslie joined Sophia Divinity School in November, 1995, and transferred her credits to Ascension Theological College a few months ago, where she also completed the requirements for the Master of Divinity degree. Her sacerdotal ministry will be in Denver, Colorado.

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."

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