

The Community of Hope International

'Creating Communities Committed to Pastoral Care'

Volume 2, March, 2006

Community of Hope International will have a booth at the upcoming General Convention of the Episcopal Church to be held in Columbus, Ohio, June 13 to 21. We are excited about this opportunity to tell the church the story of CoHI as it has spread across the country. The booth title will be "The Community of Hope International, *Growing Community and Ministry in the Benedictine Tradition.*"

Mary Bredenberg (marybre@swbell.net) and Madge Brown (madgebrown@aol.com) will be on site and in charge of the booth. Any of you planning to be in Columbus for Convention, be sure to drop by to see us! Better yet, step up and volunteer to help host the booth for a few hours. If you know you would be able to help, please let one of us know when you will be available. Or, if you know someone who might be available, let Mary know and she will be glad to contact them. And even more important, be sure all members of your Deputation know about the booth and are primed to come by for a good visit.



From Board President, Fr. Tom Papazoglakis: The decision at Camp Allen last June to expand the existing CoH program to involve a broader group of leadership is intended to be more representative of the growing geographic and regional nature represented by Centers in this program. The Board's intent in this first year has been to establish the organizational foundation for the long term success of this program on a national and international level. It is slow, but much progress has been made. With the General Convention booth we will begin to build awareness of CoHI on a national basis. We are working to have a web page up and running, and hope to be able to tell you of our web address by the end of April. The Training Manual has been re-written under the direction of the Rev. Bob Wells at the CoH Training Center at St. Luke's Hospital, Houston. It is on track for presentation at this year's Annual Training Conference at Camp Allen.

You are encouraged to make the trip to Texas for the Annual Conference. I will be serving as chaplain for Camp Allen and will be available to meet with individuals or groups as time is available between Monday afternoon and the start of the Conference. If you are able to come early and would like to meet, please e-mail me at fr.tomp@stbartspewaukee.com so we can schedule a time.



DIOCESE OF TEXAS

Bob Wells has designed a *Leadership Training Course for COH leaders* in the diocese of Texas. Once he has completed one class he could have it ready for others outside the diocese to use. The Course will be offered in six modules of two hours each: 1) Leadership Qualities, Skills and Issues; 2) Building Community; 3) Selection and Training of Members, 4) Spiritual Growth and Development, 5) Accountability; and 6) Pastoral Care Ministry. Each session has a 15-minute lecture on The Rule of Benedict and the theme for that session. The first class will begin on March 21. This sounds like a valuable resource for all of us, and we can hope it will be made available across CoHI.

Bob says that COH is becoming more integrated into the Department of Pastoral Care and Education at St. Luke's Hospital. He is now on the rotation of clergy who officiate at the chapel services; he and Laura meet with the chaplaincy/CPE staff every morning; and Bob is working in two of the ICU's as a staff chaplain. The Director has decided that "Benedictine Spirituality" will be the Lenten theme for the entire

staff this year. These are truly good developments, more than likely made possible when CoHI was formed and the Texas CoH group released the day-to-day operations and oversight to the regional reps on the Board.



WEST TEXAS

Pam Heidt, West Texas Regional Rep, reports they have an active West Texas Region Steering Committee, and they held two organizational meetings last fall. They had an attractive and popular CoH booth at their Diocesan Council meeting in February that told the CoH story to a large number of diocesan leaders.

Three new Centers are up and running in the Region: at St. Mark's, Corpus Christi, St. Helena's, Boerne, and St. Boniface, Comfort.

In November the Christ Church, San Antonio, Pastoral Care Office, the Rev. Eric Fenton, Associate Rector and CoHI Board Member, invited all the West Texas region Lay Chaplains to a lunch with the Rev. Dr. Helen Appelberg, founder and inspiration behind CoH. She spoke on "Spirituality and Aging." Afterward she attended the CoH Steering Committee meeting and shared the history and vision of this exciting lay ministry. That evening Helen joined the Christ Church Circle of Care meeting where she told the story of God's call to her to serve as a priest and chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital. If you are interested in contacting Helen about a possible program in your area, you can reach her at hwappelb@utmb.edu or by phone at (409) 77205362.

In December the Region hosted an Advent Quiet Day with Sylvia Maddox, co-author with Mary Earle of two books on Celtic Spirituality. In February the Region held its annual retreat at Mustang Island featuring the Rev. Dr. Les Fairfield speaking on Benedictine and Celtic spirituality



SOUTHWEST REGION (Dallas, Fort Worth, NW Texas, New Mex., Oklahoma)

Susan Yeang, Board Treasurer and Southwest Region Rep, says that at the Cathedral Church of St. Matthew, they are hoping to have CoH training as a first step for all those wishing to become Lay Eucharistic Visitors. The skills and knowledge gained greatly enhance this ministry. At the same time, Lay Chaplains all should consider serving as Lay Eucharistic Visitors. The ministries are very much interrelated, enhance one another, and both require the same skills and knowledge. In January they began their fifth training class.



HEARTLAND (Colo., Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Missouri, North Dak., Nebraska, South Dak., Wyoming)

Mary Bredenberg, Heartland Rep, tells of a new "Seniors Helping Seniors" program at Lakeview Village in Lenexa, Kansas. A Training was held at this facility, and their first class of seven new Lay Chaplains was commissioned in December. This is a continuum of care facility and residents in the Independent Living section went through the training in order to minister to their other residents in the Assisted Living and Nursing Home areas. The new Lay Chaplains "got right into their ministries and seem to love it!" Anne Wright was the Episcopalian who started it, and Quentin Reynolds, a DOC pastor, facilitated the training.



SOUTHERN (Ala, Ark., Fla., Georgia, Kentucky, Louis., Miss., No. Car., So. Car., Tenn.)

Madge Brown, Board Vice President and Southern Region Rep, finds lots of activity in this Region. Holy Trinity in Clemson, South Carolina, commissioned its first class in early January and had their first Circle of Care meeting on January 24.

After sad delays due to the hurricanes, the brave folks in Covington, Louisiana, were able to begin their first training in January. They report much enthusiasm for the training and for the group.

The large, active Training Center at Christ Church, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, continues its monthly Circle of Care meetings with large attendance of their almost 70 lay Chaplains, and enjoy excellent programs. Bill Niles continues to lead the Circle of Care. The Training Center has selected new leadership and plans to have another training next fall. This will be their fourth or fifth offering.

In Arkansas, after having to cancel last fall's retreat due to the hurricanes, plans are in place to offer the same program, "Care for the Caregiver Faced with Loss," for the scheduled September 29-30, 2006 retreat. Area wide Circles of Care continue to be held. The one held in November focused on ministry to the mentally challenged, especially those with dementia and those with diagnosed mental illness. There will be another one this spring with an emphasis on ministries to the dying and their families. We always have a booth at our Diocesan Convention.

There are 12 active Centers in Arkansas, with another one about to Commission its first class, and one in the midst of its first training. In addition, plans are in process to start training at a third location; and another one beginning recruitment of leadership with the goal of starting in the fall. Two other locations have expressed interest and we remain in contact with them. St. Peter's, Conway, the first Arkansas Training Center, just completed another class. In addition to Episcopalians, there were three Roman Catholics, one Baptist and one Lutheran participant. The Conway Lay Chaplains have been enlisted as volunteers to run the Chaplaincy program at Conway Regional Hospital.



WESTERN REGION (Arizona, California, Nevada)

The Rev. Sara Aseltine, Western Region Rep, has been very ill since the Leadership Training Conference at Camp Allen last June. Her New Year's Resolution is "no more nose dives or moving part replacements or other ailments in 2006!!!" She has just begun to drive again after all these months and is returning to her regular routine.

In early February she attended their annual clergy conference and retreat. Now she is in the process of contacting again all seven of the current California Centers. Some of them seemed a bit uninformed, so she has sent a packet of information and current forms to each Center. The Center at St. Mark's, Elk Grove, commissioned its first class in February. The Center at St. John's, Marysville, will start its third class in September.



GREAT LAKES (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minn., Ohio, Wisconsin)

From Fr. Tom Papazoglakis: In Wisconsin, we have two active Centers, one at St. Bartholomew's in Pewaukee and another at Christ Church, Whitefish Bay. New leadership in CoH at both churches has brought renewed energy and enthusiasm. The two churches are working together to increase the presence of CoHI in their region, and are planning to establish an additional two Centers in 2006. New classes are scheduled for St. Bartholomew's this spring, in the summer and another in the fall. Christ Church is going ahead with plans for another full class there. The first Center in this region was established three years ago. Since that time, we have been invited into a lay pastoral care training partnership with the regional hospital system. Through this relationship we have trained people from churches of at least seven different denominations and continue to expand awareness benefit of the Community of Hope.