

# THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

MOVEMENT FOR RELIGIOUS RENEWAL

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## Easter 2005

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Christ with Disciples and Pharisees by Rembrandt

## HUMAN DESTINY AND EASTER

*Cynthia Hindes*

As we get older we can often appreciate the blessing, strengthening power of our youthful ignorance. If as teenagers our angel had given us a panorama of what life had in store for us, if we could have seen all our joys and burdens and sorrows in advance, we might well have been outraged or overwhelmed. Had we known as tiny children how dark and painful life could seem in a human body, we might never have consented to be born.

But beneficent powers kept such knowledge hidden from us until we were mature and strong enough to bear it. As children we came into the world with a soul-pack overbrimming with love and openness to the world. When our pains came, we cried through them and let them go. Our youthful exuberance and idealism prompted us to take up our own life's burdens, and to tackle the problems of the world, even without knowing what that would really entail. Even now, as adults, the hour of our death remains hidden from us.

When Christ came to earth, his soul pack was imbued with the highest degree of love's abundance and openness. And he was consumed by the highest of ideals—nothing less than the salvation, the elevation of all of mankind. Nevertheless, as a being possessed of full foreknowledge, he had no such blissful ignorance about his future. He knew in advance fully and exactly what sort of destiny was coming toward him.

He knew that his ideal would lead him down a very dark path, a path that would subject him to evil and betrayal, a path through death, and into the darkest depths of earthly and cosmic existence. But he transformed this foreknowledge into a strength; foreknowledge allowed him to assent willingly to it all, not to be startled away by surprise at what he met. It helped him become the one who overcomes.

His disciples are to follow him along this path. We too, are to descend into the depths. As the one who walks in the spirit before us, our good shepherd, Christ takes pains to let us know ahead of time what is in store for us. He does not want us to remain blissfully ignorant of what lies ahead if we follow him. He wishes to strengthen us now by

lending us his strength of knowing, so that we can remain connected with him along the way. Foreknowledge of the truth about our path becomes our defense.

"All these words," he says, "I have spoken to you so that you will not be offended because you discover what destiny falls to you through being connected with me". John 16

**No matter what difficult destiny befalls us, we can take comfort in the fact that Christ, who got there first, will be there to meet us whenever we arrive. The only thing we have to concern ourselves with is trusting in his being, keeping ourselves connected with what works through him, not being startled away. For we have his word: all our sufferings are to be fruitful; they are birthing pangs. Staying connected with him will make our path one of highest meaning. And all our sorrows and burdens will ultimately be transformed into an unceasing depth of joy.**

## FOURTH ALTAR PICTURE CONFERENCE FOR ARTISTS AND PRIESTS IN NORTH AMERICA

In Columbus, Ohio, with Arthur Efland as our guide in drawing and painting and Jenny Floch as our host. The date is Wed., Thu. Fri, August 24, 25, 26, arrival Aug. 23, departure Aug 27. Please register with Jenny not later than July 24, at 614 268 8777, or cell 614 563 9031. For any questions or suggestions call Rev. Hartmut Junge at 313 823 5315.

## A MILESTONE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH AMERICA

On March 12, of this year Werner Grimm celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination in Stuttgart, Germany on March 12, 1955.

Rev. Grimm has worked in congregations in Canada in Toronto and Vancouver over many decades. During this time he has also served on the North American Translation Committee where his gift for languages and sensitivity to English as

it is spoken in North America combined with his native German made his contributions invaluable. Countless people have benefited from his pastoral care and concern for the sacraments. His dedication to the work of Christ in our time has been an inspiration. We join in thanking him for his 50 years of personal service in the vineyards of the Lord, and wish him many additional years of a blessing presence on earth.

### **Noah's Ark**

Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark..

ONE: Don't miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

THREE: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

FIVE: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

SIX: Build your future on high ground.

SEVEN: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

EIGHT: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

NINE: When you're stressed, float awhile.

TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

ELEVEN: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

**Most people walk in and out of your life.....but FRIENDS leave footprints in your heart!**

**TO KNOW CHRIST IN FREEDOM  
THE INDIVIDUAL AND  
THE POWER THAT UNITES**

***A CONTINENTAL  
CONFERENCE OF THE CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITY,***

***FROM SATURDAY, JULY 23 - FRIDAY,  
JULY 29, 2005.***

***THIS CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE AT  
WAGNER COLLEGE ON STATEN ISLAND. THE  
COLLEGE IS LOCATED ON TOP OF A HILL  
OVERLOOKING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN TO THE  
SOUTH AND NEW YORK HARBOR WITH  
MANHATTAN IN THE BACKGROUND TO THE  
NORTH. EACH DAY WILL BEGIN WITH THE  
ACT OF CONSECRATION OF MAN AND END  
WITH A CLOSE OF DAY SERVICE. THE  
CONFERENCE PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE  
LECTURES, CONVERSATIONAL AND ARTISTIC  
WORKSHOPS, PLENUM CONVERSATIONS,  
AND ARTISTIC PRESENTATIONS.***

***FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:***

***ERK LUDWIG***

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## **THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH AMERICA**

**AS OF March, 2005**

**On the Web:** [www.thechristiancommunity.org](http://www.thechristiancommunity.org)

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Rev. Erk Ludwig

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Rev. Franziska Hesse, Rev. Sanford Miller

**San Francisco USA (415) 928-1715**

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15 Margetts Rd, Spring Valley, NY 10977  
Rev. Carol Kelly

**Taconic-Berkshire Region USA  
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Rev. Michael Brewer, Rev. Peter Skaller

**Toronto CANADA (905) 709-4544**

901 Rutherford Road, Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1S2  
Rev. Susan Locey

**Vancouver CANADA (604) 215-9767**

5050 East Hastings Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5B 1P6  
Rev. Michael Kientzler

**GROUPS AFFILIATED WITH CONGREGATIONS**

(\* Not now regularly visited by a priest)

**Burlington, Vermont USA**

Contact Bill and Michelle Warnock  
(802) 862-7001 (Or contact Taconic-Berkshire Region)

**Camphill Minnesota USA Contact Chicago**

**Camphill Nottawasaga, Ontario CANADA** Contact Veronica  
Jackson, at (705) 424-4121 (Or contact Toronto)

**Chapel Hill, North Carolina USA** Contact  
Buddy Smiley (919) 933-5925 or Margit Gratzl  
(919) 467-9447 (Or contact Philadelphia)

**Copake Camphill Village, New York USA**  
Contact Corinna Komenda (518) 329-1140  
(Or Contact Taconic-Berkshire Region)

**Duncan, British Columbia CANADA**  
Contact Michael Balcomb  
(250) 701-0005 (Or contact Vancouver)

**Durham Area, Ontario CANADA** Contact Fritz and Hilde  
Stutzki (519) 369-6011 (Or contact Detroit)

**East Troy, Wisconsin USA Contact Chicago**

**\*Edmonton, CANADA** contact Muriel Tait  
7812 – 91<sup>st</sup>, Edmonton, Alberta. Tel. 780-466-0054

**\*Honolulu, Hawaii USA** Contact Bill and Genie Sakaguchi  
(808) 988-8808 (Or contact Los Angeles)

**Camphill Village, Kimberton Hills, Pennsylvania USA**  
Contact Philadelphia

**London, Ontario CANADA** Contact Herbert and Agnes  
Schneeberg (519) 641-2431 or Carol Lewis (519) 433-0090  
(Or contact Detroit)

**Maine (Southern)** Contact Tade and Nancy Mahoney  
(207) 865-4482 (Or Contact Boston)

**Minneapolis, Minnesota USA Contact Chicago**

**Montreal, Quebec CANADA** Contact Johanna Boelsterli  
(514) 289-9473 or Scotty Simons (514) 935-9074 (Or  
Contact Taconic-Berkshire Region)

**Nelson, British Columbia CANADA**  
Contact Helen Bischof (250) 352-5727 (Or contact Vancouver)

**New Hampshire (Southern) USA** Contact Hanspeter and  
Susan Weber (603) 352-7370 (Or contact Boston)

**Ottawa, Ontario CANADA** Contact Brenda St. Jean  
(613) 729-5328 (Or contact Toronto)

**Pioneer Valley, Massachusetts USA** Contact Eileen Noonan  
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**Santa Cruz, California USA** Contact Susan and Bruce  
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**Santa Fe, New Mexico USA** Contact Denver

**Santa Rosa, California USA** Contact Elinor Biller  
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**Seattle, Washington USA**

Contact Christina Lee  
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