



Junia's Journal



"They knew him in the breaking of the bread"

Finding an Inclusive Catholic Community While Traveling

BY JUNIA

After an intense April, in which inclusive Catholics joyfully participated in the 72 Hours of Easter, my husband and I are spending the month of May traveling. And while I know I can always tune into a Zoom Mass with Holy Wisdom, I am also eager to find in-person inclusive Catholic liturgies wherever I travel.

The best way I have found to locate inclusive or "alternative" liturgies is through directories online - (continued on p. 3)

Upcoming Events:

Holy Wisdom Hybrid Mass for Pentecost - 5 PM,
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Olympia. Carpool available!

Living Water Mass and potluck for Pentecost - 9:30 AM May 28th at Keystone UCC

The Archbishop's New 2.3 million dollar mansion



Open Letter to Paul Etienne

BY GINNY KENYON

Dear Paul Etienne,

I address you not as an Archbishop but as a brother, one sent to be servant and shepherd to the church, the people of God.

Francis has called for a time of listening to the people, the Church. I fear you have not heard our voices. Our Lord said that we should pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers to the field as the harvest is rich, but the workers are few. And the Lord of the harvest, Creator of all that is, sent millions to the field. Women married and unmarried, men married and unmarried, but the male hierarchy in its arrogance has decreed that only single males were holy enough to be called as shepherds and servants. (cont. page 4)

I Wore a Collar...and I Liked It!

BY ADINA MEYER

As my ordination to the diaconate approaches, I have been confronted with the perennial question: to collar or not to collar? On one hand, a clerical collar is a visible symbol of the church, a way to identify oneself quickly and easily in public situations; one of my mentors told me that I should definitely wear a collar when I begin my chaplaincy internship at Harborview this fall, for example. According to a publication by Extraordinary Catholics, a national group of inclusive Catholic clergy, female clergy members report being taken more seriously when wearing clerical collars. (continued on page 3)

Finding Inclusive Communities (cont. from p. 1)- the best ones are through Call to Action (<https://www.cta-usa.org/alternatives-directory>), Extraordinary Catholics (https://en.everybodywiki.com/Independent_Catholic_Eucharistic_Communities) or Roman Catholic Womenpriests (<https://www.romancatholicwomenpriests.org/find-a-community/>) although the latter is woefully out of date right now.

Another important technique is simply to "Google" inclusive/independent Catholic parishes in the area you are visiting. A few years ago when I visited my husband's family in Detroit, I discovered that one of the most beautiful Cathedrals in the US is now also a radically inclusive, dynamic, and fun place to attend Sunday Mass: the Cathedral Abbey of St Anthony.

Located in a neighborhood near the old Packard Plant that was once home to hundreds of European Catholic families, the building was closed more than ten years ago by the Archdiocese and put up for sale. Father Karl Rodig purchased the building and created the Ecumenical Catholic Church of Christ, of which Karl is now the Archbishop.

The liturgy is quite traditional - on Mother's Day we sang old favorites such as "Be Joyful, Mary," and "Hail, Holy Queen." But Deacon Michael, an attorney who helped Karl with the purchase of the building and then felt the call to ministry, gave a powerful homily about what it really means to be "pro life" rather than just "pro birth." And the Archbishop invited me to join them for Mass after my diaconate ordination!



I Wore A Collar - Continued from p. 2

Our friend Father Anne Tropeano reported a moving incident where she was able to make amends to a woman who had been sexually assaulted by a priest - her collar allowed her to represent Catholic clergy as she knelt before the survivor and apologized on behalf of all priests.

On the other hand, collars have been associated, perhaps more than any other item of clothing, with the hierarchy, clericalism, and dismissal of the laity which inclusive Catholics seek to avoid. Did Mary Magdalene wear a clerical collar? No! The collar wasn't even invented by Catholics - Catholic priests have traditionally worn cassocks, and only started wearing Roman collars recently. Today, figures like Mike
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Letter to Paul Etienne (continued from p. 2)

As a result of this sin, women have been relegated as unclean and unworthy, and through the centuries have suffered because of this stance. Apparently, none at the time bothered to read and understand the prayer of Jesus that started NOT our Father but Abwoon, Father-Mother. Womankind in partnership with males are honored as one.

The structure of the hierarchy has become an international corporation, full of opportunities for corruption and as a result, our servants have lost sight of their true calling, and have come to value power and money over service.

Over the centuries, millions of souls have been lost by the church, not because they strayed, but because they were abandoned by those who swore to serve and shepherd them. We, the people of God, long for the return of our shepherds and servants. We pray for deliverance from the evil that has corrupted our servants.

We will know that our church is healed when:

- All called to the service of Christ are joyously welcomed in, women married and unmarried, men married and unmarried.*
- When new priests are anointed by the Elders of the Church from which they come, as it was in the beginning.*
- Where anointing of the sick and dying is also done by the Elders of the church as it says in scripture. Why have priests monopolized this duty?*
- When the management and oversight of all things in the Parish are accomplished by the people of the Parish, not the hierarchy.*
- Where we have Bishops whom we, the people of God, the Church, elect to serve us and who co-celebrate at least once a month with the congregations they serve. They know the people of God and the people know them. They speak with our voices at the council of Bishops.*
- We the people of God do not have a Pope, Cardinals, or Archbishops - only Bishops who are our shepherds and servants.*
- The deeds to church properties are returned to us. The buildings where we worship belong to us, the people of God, the Church, not the hierarchy. We have paid for them, built them, and maintain them.*
- Our power and voice is respected and given back to us, the church, the people of God.*
- Our Servants and Shepherds know who they are and whom they serve.*

It is a sin against our creator and the church, the people of God, to destroy or attempt to destroy a community. The closing of Parishes is to STOP. How better for the Evil One to destroy the church of Christ than to do it from within.

The closure of St. Patrick in Seattle resulted in the loss of 47% of the community, who said they were leaving the Catholic Church. We are now scattered. Your actions have been misguided and devoid of spiritual truth, love, or charity. Thus, they have led to this evil.

I pray and continue to pray for you and for all the hierarchy, that the synod will hear our voices and our prayers for healing and wholeness.

Collar cont. from p. 3

Schmitz explain that a collar is a sign of a priest's extra holiness, a way in which he is "set apart" from his flock. This kind of reasoning is antithetical to my belief that each person has unique gifts, but we are all one in the Spirit. If I started wearing a collar, would I look pretentious? Sassy? Arrogant? Would I start bossing people around, like some collared clerics I have encountered?

There was only one way to find out.

I started researching "women's clergy wear," and soon learned the difference between the various types of garments. I decided to order an inexpensive women's clergy shirt with a plastic tab collar and see how it looked.

I have to admit there was something special about wearing it - an acknowledgement of all my hard work as a seminarian, as a co-founder of an inclusive Catholic community, as an aspiring pastor and spiritual director. Living Water board member Ginny admonished me, "You are to be a shepherd and a servant." Wearing a collar as a symbol of those roles felt right to me. And frankly, I thought it looked pretty snazzy. I like the idea of being easily identifiable in public spaces, such as a hospital or a Pride parade. I like the prospect of being taken more seriously as a woman deacon and, eventually, a priest. Most of all, I love the idea of being called by the community I love, to listen to them, to support them, to serve them. So while you might not see me wearing a collar most of the time, I definitely plan to "rock it" when the occasion calls for one!

