

CITI Ministries *NEWS*

CITI Ministries Inc. www.citiministries.org 301-464-5690
August 2018

CITI BOARD LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

President/Executive Director Judy Lorenz begins a leave of absence from her Board of Directors' leadership responsibilities effective August 1, 2018. In a July 2018 resolution accepting Judy's request for a leave of absence, the Board of Directors has appointed CITI Business Manager and Board member Mallory Schmitt Acting President/Executive Director. Working with the current Board of Directors, Mallory will handle all administrative functions for the Board and CITI membership. Board members living in the Bowie, Maryland area will work with Mallory to handle day to day operations and the upcoming membership renewal season.

CITI BOARD RE-EXAMINES OUR VISION AND MISSION

Our three year period of research and discernment has concluded with the Board re-examining our vision and mission. The Board's assessment of the state of CITI affairs is well represented by a letter that Mallory wrote for the Board of Directors' review in July and which the Board currently discussing:

Over the past few years, facing the continuing decline of membership primarily due to the aging of our priests, both the mission and future have been discussed. We had our Years of Discernment to decide if CITI should continue, join forces with another organization or be dissolved. I think we have agreed that at this point CITI is self-sustaining with no reason to shut down. I think we also saw no synergy to join with any other organization; in many cases we are more financially sound and vital than the other organizations we have interacted with.

One thing that we as a Board need to address is the Identity and Mission of CITI. I know that over the past 5 or so years CITI was re-envisioned as "Community is the Intent", moving away from "Celibacy is the Issue". To me, the nice Jewish girl of the organization, the strength of CITI is that its members are all validly ordained Roman Catholic priests who have resigned for whatever reason, all having similar education, training, and experience. CITI was founded to enable these resigned priests to minister again, knowing that a need exists for "our guys" to serve those who are underserved, turned off or ignored.

*I know that the idea of adding lay people as CITI ministers has come up in the past. My personal feeling is that it would dilute the thing that makes CITI unique. We are not FCM (that niche is already filled); I don't think we want to be in the business of ordaining ministers. What makes us who we are is the common experiences of our members - that is **OUR** Community. My vision is that CITI is a support organization that facilitates the ability for married and resigned priests to legally continue their ministry - weddings, funerals, baptisms, hospice, small faith communities, etc., serving those who have turned away or have been turned away from the institutional Church.*

We would love your input on this – please feel free to email your thoughts to mallory@citiministries.org

CITI BOARD HOSTS ICCC REGION B AREA ONE COMMUNITY DAY

On Saturday April 21, 2018 the CITI Board of Directors gathered in Bowie, Maryland to host the ICCC Region B Area One Community Day. Board Chair Charlie Schmitt wrote the following account of the day and many of the things that led up to it when he and Don Horrigan attended the ICCC Annual Conference in New Jersey, July 2017:

Picture Dr. Strangelove seated and attempting to refrain from raising his right arm by holding it down with his left arm/hand. This was not the case with Don as he and I sat in a gathering of our local Maryland region of the ICCC. The leader of the group requested a "church" in the region to volunteer for the annual community day and it seemed that we, CITI, were being steered into taking our turn. Catholic guilt kicked in, and suddenly we volunteered. "What just happened?" Don said. "You just committed us to Community Day", said I.

The interesting thing about CITI's relationship with ICCC, is the member churches have a difficult time understanding that we don't have actual buildings/facilities in which to host such a gathering. Kudos to Judy for overcoming that "shortcoming" by finding a welcoming church in Bowie where we could host our sister churches for the day.

The logistics initially seemed daunting. Asking for input about what was expected for a typical community day was met with generalities. There we were, experiencing performance anxiety. But we pulled it off, I believe, flawlessly. There were 40 attendees, well represented by CITI Ministries and Bowie's St. Pius X Parish. The highlight of the day was our discussion of racism, a dialog which will continue in subsequent ICCC gatherings. We also put together a prayer service to cap the day which took full advantage to highlight our own liturgical traditions.

Response from our sisters and brothers who attended was overwhelmingly positive and congratulatory. We are still basking in the afterglow of the day's success. Special thanks for planning and implementation go out to Judy Lorenz, Don and Pat Horrigan and Mallory Zolyan-Schmitt. We also appreciate our Pittsburgh Board Members and CITI Priests who travelled to lend a hand. It is gratifying that our efforts were so well received. I am certain that should we be called upon to do it again we would certainly do so having a better understanding of what to anticipate.

CITI NEWS

Will be re-working and refining our website, newsletters and our public interface to reflect the reaffirmation of our mission and vision – watch for some changes! Your input would be appreciated! CITI is in sound health financially thanks to the Board's success in cutting expenses and overhead and to the steady financial support of our membership

WELCOME

We welcome our newest CITI priest member, William Whalen. Now in New York City, Bill was ordained for the Archdiocese of Harford and worked as a Canon Lawyer on the Tribunal.



CITI Spotlight

One of our members, Joe Wadas, delivered a presentation at TEDxSavannah earlier this year. Titled “How Dying Can Teach About Living: Confessions of a Hospice Chaplain,” Joe examines the truly important priorities in life, inspired by the lessons learned from the hospice patients he’s worked with over the years. Here is the link to his presentation

https://youtu.be/wDw_YiWbmFw Joe can be reached at revjoe@savannahweddingminister.com

EXPANDING YOUR MINISTRY?

Have you received a request to perform something outside of your usual ministry?
Do you have any questions that you’d like answered by a fellow Priest?

The following members are available to answer your questions:

Funerals – Don Horrigan 301-646-5770 dhorrigan01@comcast.net

Hospital/Hospice Chaplaincy – Jeff Long 630-398-9553 frlong2015@gmail.com

Weddings – Charlie Schmitt 410-867-7880 charlie@fracharles.com

Home Masses - Don Horrigan 301-646-5770 dhorrigan01@comcast.net

If you are willing to answer questions that our members may have, please let us know.

Please email Mallory at mallory@citiministries.org

The CITI Ministries Board of Directors thanks you for your support!

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