

JANUARY 2024

COMMUNITY OF HOPE International



Reflections on the Rule at Advent

**DR BRANDON BECK - LAY CHAPLAIN, MONK
ST MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SAN MARCOS, TX
CHAPTER 60**

"It is hard to let go of the past, and yet, until we do, there is no hope whatsoever that we can ever gain from the future."

"[Priests] had been a world unto themselves and leaders of others. In the monastery, they would have to be formed in a whole new way of life and spirituality. They would have to defer to the presence and needs of others. They, who had given so many orders, would have to take some. They would have to begin again. It could be done but it would not be easy."

Chittister

Author Melody Beattie works with Hazelden Center and their publishing house to share theories of codependence recovery and what she calls "the language of letting go." In a series of daily devotionals, Beattie shares stories from people in recovery on that language of letting go and on the process of hope and beginning again.

In *The Language of Letting Go*, on December 31, Beattie references her textbook *Beyond Codependency*: "Fun becomes fun, love becomes love, life becomes worth living. And we become grateful."

Beattie gives a little advice for the new year ahead, and it sounds a lot like Benedict's Chapter 60 and Chittister's adjoining commentary: "Wait, and expect good things—for yourself and your loved ones. See the best in your mind; envision what it will look like, what it will feel like. Then let it go. Come back into today, the present moment. Do not obsess. Do not become fearful. Live today fully, expressing gratitude for all you have been, all you are, and all you will become."

Benedict and Chittister tell us it is hard for priests wishing to join a monastery to let go of the ways they had leadership, status and influence in the outside world; Beattie says those in recovery from codependency have trouble letting go of fear of what is coming and fear of what has been.

In each case, we can begin again through community, stability, and conversion of self, growing together in the fullness of Christ, knowing that everyone with us is beginning again as well.

Amen.



Seeking Newsletter Editor

PAM PIEDFORT - ST. GEORGE CHURCH, SAN ANTONIO

While it has been my pleasure to curate the monthly COHI newsletter since July 2020, I find I need to pass this ministry into new hands. In the process of collecting monthly articles, I've made friends all over the US and Malawi, and, in search of supporting details, I've explored countless rich websites from churches and organizations. I'd like to my profound thanks to our tech partner, Jessica Angeles, for taking my Word docs and emails and nebulous imaginings and bringing my vision to life each month, creating the rich, artful publications read by so many.



Thanks also to all the many contributors to the newsletter, who have shared center and church news and photos so faithfully.

We welcome any ideas for moving this ministry forward: maybe one person feels called to produce it alone or maybe a team of people feel drawn together for the project. For a look at past newsletters, go to <https://www.cohinternational.org/archived-newsletters>. Tell me your ideas!

Suggest something new! Email me for a more in depth explanation of what is required.

Until a new team has been found, the newsletter will move to a quarterly publication, with occasional e-Blasts for time-sensitive news. Please continue to send me or Jessica your news for the time being!

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Five Missouri Area Churches Join for Caregiver Training

SANDRA VUITEL-ST. MICHAEL AND ST. GEORGE EPISCOPAL CHURCH-ST. LOUIS MO

Fr. Andrew Archie commissioned these new caregivers on Sunday, December 10 at St. Michael and St. George, with Sandra Vuitel, who facilitated the training, saying, "It was a delight and privilege to be the facilitator for this group. We had a great reception for them after the service and many of the other COHI caregivers joined in the celebrations. Many of the candidates also had friends and family with them so it was a very festive occasion."



New caregivers include Jonathan Cureton, St. John's Episcopal; Andrew and Becky Dawson and Barbara Fraser, St. Michael & St. George Episcopal; Adrienne Dillon, All Saints & Ascension Episcopal; Janice Nihill, Kari Potts, and Alisa Williams, Church of the Holy Communion Episcopal; and Linda Russell, Grace Episcopal.



Welcome to Newly-Commissioned Lay Chaplains!

St. Luke's Episcopal Church San Antonio



L-R: Jay Fitch, Rev. Reagan Gonzalez, Elizabeth Turner, Gretchen Bealer, Rev. Irv Cutter, Mary Young.

St. George Episcopal Church San Antonio



L-R: Current Lay Chaplains Jane Ahuero, Carol Molina, Pam Piedfort, Catherine Carr, and Andy Nodine. New Lay Chaplain (in red jacket in front) Pat Zumbro. Rhonda Cunningham was commissioned on streaming service.

Christ Church Episcopal Church of Gilbertsville NY



The Christ Church of Gilbertsville NY Training Center has commissioned four new lay pastoral caregivers. Included in the photo L-R: Susan Beach, Anne Sebeck, Rev'd Dr. William Lytle, Jennifer Feeley, and Carol Angelone all of Christ Church. The highlighted are the new lay chaplains.



Included in the photo from left: Susan Beach; Josephine Meeker and Dan Branigan both of St. Paul's in Franklin NY; Carol Angelone, and Fr. Lytle. The highlighted are new lay chaplains.



2024 Annual Covenant Renewal Time is Approaching!

RENEWAL DEADLINE IS JANUARY 31, 2024

Do you know who receives your center's invoice for the Annual Covenant Renewal Fee? Is it your parish treasurer, your center facilitator, your vestry or other oversight body? Take a minute to find out who that person is to let them know that invoices have already gone out! All active centers should have received invoices. The deadline for the Annual Covenant Renewal Fee is January 31, 2024, so please contact COHI if you have questions we can answer to clarify your invoice. Payments can be made online to the COHI website at the [DONATE NOW](#) tab or mailed to COHI at:

7904 E Chaparral Rd, A-110
Box 510
Scottsdale, AZ 85250

Your Annual Covenant Renewal Fee helps to nurture and sustain the creative, productive work we are called to do. The renewal fee is a licensing fee which gives you access for one year to the COHI Curriculum and Training Videos, Facilitator Exchanges, Circle of Care Ideas, Topical Webinars, Monthly Communications, and Curriculum Updates.

Our community life is based on mutual giving which gives us the resources necessary to grow and serve in the Spirit of God. We deeply appreciate your support and celebrate with you the blessing of our life and work together.

Please Submit Annual Reports

Annual Reports are important for the board's ongoing planning. Some areas that you might report on are:



- Number of lay chaplains
- Number of hours served, if available
- Date of last training and # of chaplains trained, next scheduled training
- Areas in which your center serves (ministering to the elderly and ill, homeless ministry, pet ministry, quilting ministry, cards, phone calls, other)
- Circle of Care frequency of meetings, type of programs presented

Please contact us if we can be of help to your center. Send your report to either your regional rep or Sarah Roberts at Sarah Roberts sarah.roberts@cohinternational.org.




Welcome New Centers!



Christ Episcopal Church, Manlius,
NY



St. Margaret's Episcopal Church,
Carrollton, GA




QUICK SURVEY

We want to hear from YOU!

We would love to hear from everyone whether or not you have attended one of our conferences in the past.

Click [HERE](#) to let us know!





**The newest video password
has been released!
Please check with your
regional rep. for more
information.**

We want to hear from YOU!

Tell us about books & blogs you like, ways of reaching care-receivers, and training ideas that work!

Date of publication: April 2, 2024

Articles due: 3/28/2024

Email Pam Piedfort to share your story!

pam.piedfort@cohinternational.org

