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## March Lenten Edition

### 2023 Synod Meetings

The Vision for the Charismatic Old Catholic Church has always been one of relationships. The first relationship is that of the Holy Spirit and the Church. It is about how the Charis empowers the Bride to spread the Gospel year after year after year.

It is about how we propitiate the ongoing sacrifice of the Lamb of God that began 2,000 years ago. It is up to us to ensure its continuation till the end of time.

It is about how souls are nourished and raised up to go out and share the 'good news'.

It is about training and preparing the next generation to care for this gift we have been entrusted.

In odd numbered years our synods and gatherings are generally at the Diocesan level.

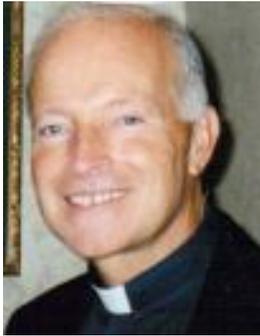
Holy Spirit of Hope will be celebrating its 21st anniversary this year on the Memorial Day weekend of May 26-28. Contact Pastor Robert for the Holy details of this Spiritual reawaking.



Holy Spirit of Hope serves as the COCC Cathedral of the West .  
When in town please visit us at:  
7728 Alameda Ave El Paso, Texas 79915

Holy Spirit of Hope has a Zoom Sunday Mass at 2:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. Request a free subscription to the weekly service by emailing [pastorrobert@holyspiritofhope.org](mailto:pastorrobert@holyspiritofhope.org)  
Please include your email address in the request.

## *Know the Mind of God!*



To pray, “Thy will be done” is to seek the mind of God. HE wants you to know it.

Shall God hide from us what he is going to do? Apparently not, for he has gone to great lengths to reveal his mind to us. Could he have done more than send his son to lead us? Could he have done more than give his word ,the Bible, to teach us ? Could he have done more than orchestrate events to awaken us? Could he have done more than send his Holy Spirit to counsel us?

God is not the God of confusion, and whenever he sees seekers with confused minds , you can bet your sweet December that he will do whatever it takes to help them see his will (Mind).

God bless the COCC , its members and its work.

**+** *Maurice McCormick*

## *Come Join Us!*



In anticipation of +Maurice accepting our invitation to join Holy Spirit of Hope's 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary celebration, **we invite you to join us**, fully realizing that being a weekend many will be unable to attend.

Considering arrivals Friday or Saturday with departures Sunday evening or Monday morning.

We have special rates (still negotiating but hope to get under \$100) at a Comfort Inn 3 miles from church that has courtesy transportation including to/from airport. Car rentals not required.

To those who can attend, **instead of a Synod, this is social gathering** to know each other better.

The weekend is centered on May 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday's 12pm concelebrated musical mass. I'm hoping **Dcn Marko** can collaborate with **Faith** (my techie daughter in FL) and me to orchestrate the Pentecost worship music.

Pentecost is special to me because I was ordained priest on Pentecost 2002 and Bishop on Pentecost 2007. We've been in our church building for the entire time of my service.

I'll have our party committee prepare an agenda that includes genuine Mexican food, Cattleman's Steakhouse and just plain ole' gathering and talking.



God bless us all!

***Robert Ortega***

## *A Special Note from a loyal Servant of the Church...*

TO: Clergy & Families of The Charismatic  
Old Catholic Church

For the past month, I have been experiencing much difficulty with Sciatica and other physical problems. While I was bedridden, my husband and I made important decisions. We are now in our 70's and it looks as if we will not be able to participate in the ministry requirements of weddings sacraments, etc.



For these reasons, I would like to submit my resignation and retirement from IOCC completely. We have decided to become simple parishioners within our local Roman Catholic community.

*Blessings*  
*+ Marian Tetor*

*[Partial transcription of Email dated Feb 28 2023 to Archbishop Maurice and the Editor]*

## MANS PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE

*Fr. Ken*



Fr KEN LAMBERT, DMin is a contributing member of the Shofar and instructor at Agape and St Thomas Seminaries. He is a prolific writer and published author with keen insights on the Historic aspects of religion.

**Intelligent  
Extraterrestrial  
Life Apart from  
Earth-**

**What a Famous  
Scientist  
Concluded**

Over the past couple years there has been consistent and growing talk in the media (and elsewhere) about the probability of their being intelligent life forms elsewhere in the universe. Much of this is due to grainy video footage and some Congressional hearings on the topic of Unidentified Flying Objects ((UFO's) (but they don't call them UFO's any more)!

IF these UFO's are not equipment that was launched by the USA or China, or Russia, and IF they are not some odd optical illusion of sorts, then by de-



fault they must be special aircraft that was created by some advanced life form from another planet or galaxy.

This statement of course would be at odds with Biblical teachings and Church history- regarding mankind's special place in Revelation. That said, it is a critical question and dilemma.

To that end, I recently read a non-fiction book (published in 1906) by famous British scientist Alfred Wallace. His book is titled, *Man's Place in the Universe: A study of the results of scientific research in relation to the unity or plurality of*

*worlds*. The "plurality of worlds" was a phrase back in the 19<sup>th</sup> century which essentially meant that what we have here on Earth is of course existing on other/ unknown planets.

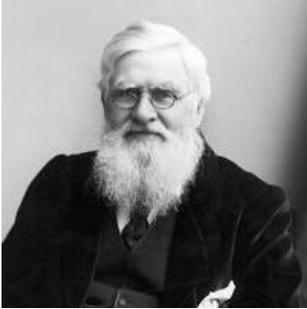
**Wallace was not a Christian (or Jewish) man.** He was, however, one of the preeminent scientists in the world in the mid-1800's until his death. He was a naturalist, explorer, geographer, biologist, and astronomer. Wallace is known as the co-author of the theory of evolution. His **1858** paper on evolution was a key precursor to Charles Darwin's famous "On the Origin of Species".

Over the past 50-60 years in the United States, I believe all or most public school students study evolution and also Charles Darwin. But very few people know of his counterpart, Alfred Wallace.

Late in his career, Wallace decided it was critical for him to analyze and determine the likelihood of there being intelligent life forms elsewhere in the universe. His 211 page book is the culmination of that effort, and it is quite detailed and pragmatic.

\*\*\*article continues on page 6\*\*\*

## MANS PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE *Fr. Ken*



*Alfred Russel Wallace OM FRS was an English naturalist, explorer, geographer, anthropologist, biologist and illustrator. He is best known for independently conceiving the theory of evolution through natural selection*

Wallace talks about the various advances in astronomy which completely changed the study of the galaxy, starting in the mid-1800's. This includes the progression of the telescope, amongst other developments.

Wallace knew a lot about biology and chemistry, and he speaks in depth about the essential characteristics of living organisms. One chapter of the book is "The physical conditions essential for organic life", and there he describes what the requirements for life to begin in a way that non-scientists can understand. Upon reading his entire work, I would state that he was very thorough in his methodology.

In the end, what is Wallace's conclusion about intelligent (or high-level) life somewhere else in the universe? (The following statements are quoted from the last chapter of his book.)

That no other planet in the solar system other than our earth is inhabited or habitable.

That the probabilities are almost as great against any other sun possessing inhabited planets.

**Man, the culmination of conscious organic life, has been developed HERE only in the whole vast material universe we see around us.**

I welcome everyone to read this book; it is a fine lesson in scientific reasoning and data analysis.

Wallace was not "religious", and it doesn't appear that his work on the subject was political in nature.

As the book was written over 100 years ago, some people may claim that it is not up to today's scientific rigor- but I would argue that there is nothing he claimed then that would be disproved in 2023.

Not being a professional scientist, I could be wrong on that. But I believe the topic is well worth the debate.

## ...WRITE IT DOWN *Fr. Hal West*

**Monsignor Harold (Hal) Ellis West, O.S.S.T., O.S.L., S.T.A., S.T.B., S.T.M., M.Div.**

**Fr. Hal is a Priest, Chancellor and Vicar General for the State of Florida of the Archdiocese of the Southeastern States and Missionary Dependencies. Order of the Most Holy Mary Theotokos in the Evangelical Orthodox Catholic Church in America and Shofar contributor.**



**IT WASN'T UNTIL LATER THAT I DISCOVERED THAT MON AND DAD WERE PRETTY SMART AFTER ALL!**

*I grew up in a newspaper family.*

My mother was the society editor for our local morning paper. Her passion for written communication led her to make sure I could read and write before I even began in kindergarten class. She encouraged me to read and write and made sure I had plenty of access to books at home and had my library card as soon as I reached the appropriate age.

Mother also encouraged me and offered much wise advice along the way. Sadly, like many young folks, I wrote most of it off until I later discovered that Mom and Dad were pretty smart after all.



I remember the time as a teenager when she handed me a magazine and suggested I read the cover story. The photo on the cover was of a man in a long white lab coat sitting at a desk surrounded by huge machines with blinking lights and giant reels of whirring recording like tapes.

She told me it was something new called a computer and someday every home would have one. I looked at that cover photo and

those huge machines taking up the whole room and looked around our tiny two bedroom home and thought, "Yeah, sure, who's gonna want to build a room on their house for one of those things." I listened politely as she told me of the great potential the article spoke of for young people who took up the study of these machines. Of course, the teenager in me quickly dismissed the whole notion of this new field of computer science as another one of Mom's crazy notions that would never work. Now, I sometimes look at the phone in my hand, computer on my desk, and the laptop in my case and say, "I should have listened, Mama!"

Mother the writer always gave me good direction. I have tried to follow her advice more faithfully than advice from other sources. When I do follow this advice it usually produces good results and when I don't, it can be frustrating. So, my advice about this advice is, "Do as I say, not as I do." I think if you can discipline yourself to stick to this practice, it will enhance your spiritual life and your productivity. My mother's advice: always keep a pen or pencil and some paper by your bed. Your most brilliant ideas and inspirations often come in the middle of the night. If you don't write them down as soon as you awaken, you will probably forget them before the day is over.

\*\*\* Continued on page 8 \*\*\*

## .WRITE IT DOWN *Fr. Hal West*



In this frantic world we live in, we tend to do everything “on the fly”. Sadly, it bleeds over into our spiritual lives. Our prayer life is one more chore to squeeze in when we can. We pray for our needs and have forgotten those who need our prayers.

Or, the reverse can be true, we pray for others and forget to give to God our own needs. And, worst of all, we don't stop to listen to God speaking to us. I believe it is when we finally go to bed and close our eyes that God tries to get our attention. Those ideas, inspirations, and thoughts may be God speaking to us while we are at rest and away from the daily rat race. We need to be receptive to that possibility and discern if that thought, dream, idea, etc. is God reaching out to us.

God called Samuel in the middle of the night. Samuel ran to answer the call to Eli. Eli finally concluded that Samuel was hearing the call of God and told him to go back to bed and tell the Lord to speak to him as he would be listening. (1 Samuel 3: 4-10)

Oh, how many times I have found myself not listening to the calls I hear in the middle of the night.

*Someone's name is put on my heart.*

*They need my prayer.*

*I need to reach out to someone I have not heard from in a while.*

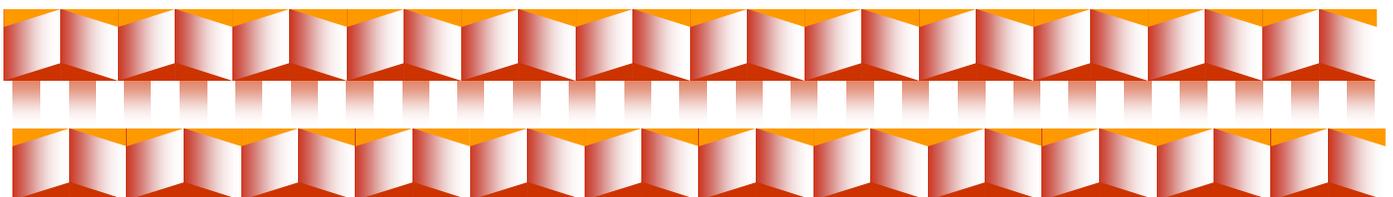
*They need my encouragement.*

*There is a ministry that I am being called to do my part in....*

But, I am tired. I will try to remember tomorrow when I have the time.

Tomorrow, if I find the time, I will probably forget or struggle to remember exactly what came to me in the night. God forgive my failing to listen. Teach me to grab that pen and paper when you speak in the night. God, put it on my heart to **write it down!**

*Father Hal*



## WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY

with Deacon Mark



The Brick n Mortar Church  
Developing Our Worship Team



Shalom everyone,

In the latest 2022 Issues of the **Shofar**, we have focused on Audio and Video **Worship Technology** for the traditional “**Brick and Mortar**” Church.

Topics of major importance in those issues included:

- Basic components (and understanding) of “Brick and Mortar Church” Sound Systems (Blog 3)

And

- Three “practical and appropriate” types of Sound Systems for each of your Churches (Blog 4)

These two topics tie in with this month’s blog: **Developing the Praise and Worship Team.**

Again, assuming that you have figured out which System was right for you and your parishioners (and had it installed correctly), in order for the investment to pay off, the next and most important thing needed to be heard (aside from a relatable message) is **really, really good music.**

**Beware of Pastors who become Music Directors and use Church Music as a personal jukebox**

Of course, the contents of the Message is up to the Pastor, but the music is often best left to an often misunderstood and underappreciated Church Profession: **The Music Director.**

That said, I have seen Pastors become Music Directors and use church music as a personal jukebox. Often times, the music played (usually from a Spotify Playlist) reflects the Pastors personal taste rather than *what the Congregation needs*. This almost always robs the congregation of the joy to be found in connecting with God in song. St Basil the Great will “shed some Light ” later on in the article on how important is this notion. Typically, the importance of retaining a “Professional Music Director” is not considered by many pastors when the Christian Music Ministry is called to help other Churches in development of a Worship Team.

I’m not certain why it falls on deaf ears except maybe Pride. Maybe it is because we are used to selecting our own music. Hit the play button in the car or click a box on Pandora. But there is a marked difference between selecting an easy listening station for the afternoon commute and creating a one hour, Holy Worship space.

Perhaps a reminder from both Scripture (NABRE translation used) and Tradition will warm us up to the idea.

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The Brick n Mortar Church  
Developing Our Worship Team



### Psalm 150[a] Final Doxology

Hallelujah!

Praise God in his holy sanctuary; give praise in the mighty dome of heaven.

Give praise for his mighty deeds, praise him for his great majesty.

Give praise with blasts upon the horn, praise him with harp and lyre.

Give praise with tambourines and dance, praise him with strings and pipes.

Give praise with crashing cymbals, praise him with sounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath give praise to the LORD!

Hallelujah!



An interesting footnote in the NABRE translation states the following:

“**Temple musicians** and dancers are called to lead all beings on earth and in heaven in praise of God. The Psalm proclaims to whom praise shall be given, and where (Ps 150:1); what praise shall be given, and why (Ps 150:2); how praise shall be given (Ps 150:3–5), and by whom (Ps 150:6).”

Notice how the author of the footnote states that “*Temple musicians and dancers*” are called to lead all beings on earth and in Heaven in praise of God. Not the Pastor!

St. Basil the Great, obviously guided by the Holy Spirit, also had some amazing insight to the Value of Music done properly in Worship. In his Commentary on the Psalms, the Holy Hierarch states:

“When, indeed, the Holy Spirit saw that the human race was neglectful of an upright life, what did He do? **The delight of melody He mingled with the doctrines so that by the pleasantness and softness of the sound heard we might receive without perceiving it the benefit of the words**, just as wise physicians who, when giving the fastidious rather bitter drugs to drink, frequently smear the cup with honey. “

“To the delight of Melody, he mingled the Doctrines...” As plain as the English states, It appears that The Word penetrates our hearts via the melody (as the Christian lifts their heart up to the Lord, or rather was “trained in Righteousness” to know how to lift up their hearts unto the Lord) by the Power of The Holy Spirit. Clearly, both the Psalmist and Holy Basil have laid the foundation for both the importance of Music in Worship, and how the Holy Spirit uses it to heal us.

We should never overestimate the importance of this admonition!

In my 35 years as being both a Church Musician, Record Producer, and Worship ministry leader, I am still amazed at how Music has impacted the lives of those with whom I both serve and worship.

\*\* continued on page 11 \*\*



## The Brick n Mortar Church

### Developing Our Worship Team



Now that two credible Sources of Divine Revelation have stated and explained this reality, where does that leave us? How do we make Music happen properly in our Church so the Holy Spirit can get to work? We start by creating and developing a Music Worship Team.



#### Part I: Starting Out

In order to develop a **Praise and Worship Team**, you need to start with the following:

- A competent Music Director who understands both the Liturgy and the “Congregant Culture”, (more on that soon).

They also need to be able to have good “people skills” sensitive to Fragile Musician egos. As well, they need to lead the Musicians and help develop their sound.

- Skilled Musicians. Heck even semi-skilled Musicians.

- Either the willingness of the Musicians to commit to both weekly practice and Mass attendance or a decent \$\$ Budget to ....”Motivate” them.

- Some location (The “Worship Pit”) inside of the Church to fit both the Musicians and their Instruments (Editor’s note: The band’s proximity to the Congregants affects their worship experience. *The closer to the pews, the closer to an uncomfortable sound. The Band’s “Stage Volume” is often the most frequent complaint we hear.*

#### Part II: Organizing, Selecting, and “Arranging” Music and the Liturgy

There is an actual effective way to select and organize the Music according to the form of the Western Rite Mass Parts, proper for the Liturgy. Our Music Ministry Cross Culture, defines and organizes this “Music Order” for the Mass as follows:

##### Music Order:

- Processional Song
- Psalm
- Offertory Song
- Communion Song
- Recessional Song
- - Mass Parts (The Gloria, Gospel Acclamation, Sanctus, Mystery of Faith, Great Amen, and the Agnus Dei)

The Song choice for the Processional, Offertory, and Recessional have some flexibility, The Mass Parts, Psalm, and Communion Song really do not.

Martina DaSilva, Music Director at Ascension Catholic Church in Boca Raton, teaches that we should focus the music on the Readings. She uses the online database “Song Select” (<https://songselect.ccli.com/>) to find the music which best fits the lesson within the reading. She does her best to tie in the Processional, Offertory, and Recessional to the readings. The Communion Song is selected to reflect a “Musical theology” on the Eucharist, and sometimes she even finds a gem in that database that can tie both the Eucharist and the Readings together. Our parishioners (and the band for that matter) are always blown away in Wonder and Awe when that happens!

\*\*continued page 12 \*\*



The Brick n Mortar Church  
Developing Our Worship Team



**Musical Arrangement:** Musical Arrangements, aka Musical Styles are the best areas to Focus when it comes to the Mass Parts.

In developing the Mass Parts and their Musical Arrangement, this is where a clever Music Director will know what to do. **It is here the Music itself should be reflective of the “Congregants' Culture”.**

Music is embedded in all Countries and Cultures and the styles that are prevalent in each respective society are not only appropriate, but encouraged!

As an example, historically, the Roman Catholic Church has been great at this when they began to “Christianize” certain areas. A recent example is European and North American hymnal music has been Creolized in the Caribbean using reggae and calypso rhythms, while keeping the original lyrics and Holiness intact.

You know.. Honestly.. after writing this article, I feel refreshed. It’s nice knowing that God reaches out to us in ways that make Him accessible.. How blessed I feel that it could be in Music. Maybe you feel that way too? Indeed there may not be enough words in our vocabulary to describe the importance of the correct Music in the Liturgy.... And so... maybe we should conclude with a picture of a 1000 words...

Below is a Gift that my spouse Sandra received one year on Christmas, which now hangs over my Home Creative Production Workstation where I work.

Maybe today and throughout Lent, sing your Psalm during your Liturgy of the Hours instead of reciting it. For more fun on developing your Worship Team, please feel free to reach out.



*Yours in Christ, Deacon Mark*



**Deacon Mark is the Chaplain to the House of Bishops and production manager for the online COCC South American Sunday Church service with Bishop Fuentes.**

**Professionally Mark is an audio engineer in Boca Raton FL where he also leads congregational worship in a RC Church.**

**As a Christian Music Consultant Mark is passionate in helping congregations create unique Worship Cultures. Feel free to reach out to Him with any questions.**

Deacon Mark can be reached at [Catholicmrk@gmail.com](mailto:Catholicmrk@gmail.com) Cell/text: 954-501-4899. - In Christ,



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**[Contact editor to list your weekly celebration and to welcome our  
brothers and sisters to join your local Worship!](#)**

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ARCÁNGEL**

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