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January New Year Edition

2024 Synod Meeting

From the Desk of ARCHBISHOP MAURICE

2024 New Year Resolutions

1- Brief Mass and Holy Communion ever day.

2-Memorize a Scripture once a week, ie, The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want

3- Read the Bible daily for at least 15 minutes

4- Let all that I do be done in Love 1Corinthians 16-14

5- Help someone less fortunate than me.

6- Continue to love myself even if I fail one of the above
Leviticus 19:17-18,
Mark 12:31

Create a Holy and productive 2024. Happy New Year

In even numbered years our synods and gatherings are generally at the ArchDiocesan level. We will be posting the dates for the various events as they are scheduled.



Agape of Jesus Catholic Church serves as the COCC Cathedral of the East. When in town please visit us at:

10609 Watterson Trail,
Jeffersontown, KY. 402995

Agape of Jesus has Sunday Mass at 8:00 AM and 10:30AM. Eastern Standard Time.

The Great Commission of God!



ARCHBISHOP ROBERT ORTEGA is a Founding member of the COCC,. Bishop Robert is the Pastor of a thriving COCC brick and mortar church, "Holy Spirit of Hope" in El Paso Texas.

Good afternoon, clergy and friends of the Charismatic Old Catholic Church.

As we close 2023, we look forward to greater communication in 2024. Here at Holy Spirit of Hope (El Paso), we have significant increase in clergy staff that allows for such improvement.

Please make every effort to meet with me in Louisville for this synod. To celebrate

My 2023 near death experiences gave me extreme joy to continue the Great Commission. Let's do it together. My number is always open to talking to you.

Year 2024 AD blessings to you,

Rev Robert Ortega

Pastor of Holy Spirit of Hope church El Paso, TX

Archbishop of Charismatic Old Catholic Church Diocese of the West

915-241-3334

We look forward to greater communication in the coming year

Charismatic Old Catholic Church Synod and Meeting

Friday April 19 & Saturday April 20, 2024

ARCHBISHOP MAURICE MCCORMICK is a founding member of the Independent Old Catholic Movement in America and the Charismatic Old Catholic Church.

ArchBishop Maurice is Pastor of Agape of Jesus Catholic Church and Chancellor of Seminaries for the COCC.



Archbishop Dr. Maurice McCormick, Ed.D, LPCC, LMHC

We look forward to greater things happening in the coming year

Charismatic Old Catholic Church Synod and Meeting Friday April 19, Saturday April 20, 2024

Agape of Jesus Church - COCC
10609 Watterson Trail, Louisville, KY 40299

Archbishop Maurice McCormick
cell phone (502) 419-5605

Auxiliary Bishop Mike Gentry
cell phone. (502) 802-0668

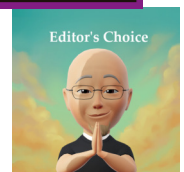
For those arriving Thursday Evening,
7:00 PM Dinner at Bud's Tavern,
9119 Galene Dr, Louisville, KY 40299



Or Next Door at the Yellow Cactus 7:00 PM
9111 Galene Dr.
Jeffersontown Village Shopping Center



It's about 3 blocks from my home, and 4 miles from Agape of Jesus Church. I will have my cell phone on
(502)419-5605 +Maurice McCormick



Synod starts Friday at 9 am at the church.

Goes to 5 pm.

Saturday from 8 am to 3 pm.

Sunday, For those still in Louisville, 8 am Mass and 10:30 am Mass

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Charismatic Old Catholic Church Synod and Meeting

Friday April 19 & Saturday April 20, 2024



We look forward to greater things happening in the coming year

For those wanting to Present a Topic of 50 minutes, please submit to Bishop McCormick by April 3 via email or slow mail.

Topics so far....

Pastoral Care and Guidelines for ministering to those with same sex attraction

Review of Procedures

Ordination of Clergy

Request of Written Submission of candidates

Statement of Beliefs

Revisions/Updates to the Canon

Ecumenical status with Rome, CEEC and a review of the Bonn Agreement

An agenda will be ready to hand out at the synod.

Motels/Hotels close by

Red Carpet , 1640 Hurstbourne Pky 40220, (502)491-7320.

Apprx \$60 per night

Hampton Inn, 1451 Alliant Ave, 40299 (502) 809-9901

Approx \$110 per night

Louisville Marriott EAST, 1903 Embassy Square Blvd.

40299 Approx \$131 per night

The above are off Hurstbourne PKY. And there are other choices in that area 3 miles from church.

More hotels on Blankenbaker, approximately 5 miles from the church

A Christmas Message

BISHOP RAFAEL FUENTES

is a Founding member of the COCC.
Bishop Rafael is the Pastor of a growing online espanole' service and Bishop of Columbia



**EVERY
CHRIST-
MAS I RE-
MEMBER
THE
WORDS OF
A
FRIEND...**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

Every Christmas I remember the words of a friend I met many years ago at a charismatic conference in Pompano Beach.

Father Emiliano Tardiff was a Canadian missionary, with residence in the Dominican Republic, whose evangelization reached all Hispanic America, preaching in multiple conferences.

His humble words were:

"I'm only a donkey who brings people to meet Jesus at the manger in Bethlehem, that's who I am and that is my mission".

Those words were edged in my heart and brought light to my mission from then on.

May you all have a peaceful and happy journey to Bethlehem together with those you bring to meet the Light of The World .

Your brother,

Bishop Rafael

Where is Noah's Ark?



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

CAN THE
BOOK OF
GENESIS
BE
TRUSTED

For COCC newsletter- by Rev.
Ken Lambert, D. Min. Dec.
2023

Where is/was Noah's ark, and can the Genesis story be trusted?

The account of the Great Flood, and Noah's ark, is one of the most famous stories throughout the world. We all know it, and we are taught the basics of this "wrath & new beginnings" tale when we are young schoolchildren.

But today, especially in the broader “Catholic Church”, many Christians outright discount the validity or possibility of The Flood and of a small family surviving on a large wooden boat along with many animals.

The trouble with this understanding is that it is up to us to determine which parts of the Old Testament are true and which parts are not? Are there fables written in the Bible which are there just to illustrate a point? Yes, there are those- but in those cases the Bible always first notates that such is a story or a parable or the like. The Bible does not pass off untruths as truths.

Thus, as a default, we should believe in the basic tenets of the Biblical account of Noah. Scientifically and historically it is difficult to prove 100% that it happened, or it did not happen.


I conducted some work on this several years ago with a colleague and friend of mine, Dr. Ronald Stewart. I wrote a recap article of some of that back in 2017- for Catholic News World. That can be found here:

[https://
www.catholicnewsworld.com/2017/10/
ark-quest-archeologists-and-
researchers.html](https://www.catholicnewsworld.com/2017/10/ark-quest-archeologists-and-researchers.html)

When one spends some time researching the “proofs” or evidence of the validity of Noah’s ark (and the Flood), it actually is quite compelling. Many such “proofs” are not truly undeniable- but rather they steer the argument to a point where most of the evidence is on the side of Noah and of his ark resting at Mount Ararat, etc. Following the Biblical story.

Mount Ararat is located in what is currently eastern Turkey, near the Armenian border. For much of history, this mountain was (and is) considered to be within Armenia- and the Armenian people have a deep respect for that connection.

Case in point, in 2011 the country of Armenia began making and offering silver and gold coins- legal tender- which very clearly depict and state the image and words of Noah's ark- and also Mount Ararat. The country is still making these national coins.



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Where is Noah's Ark?

But it is much more revealing when you look back at the various maps of the region throughout the ages.

Here is an early map- called the “Map of Asia”, from 420 CE. About 400 years after Christ. This map includes the nation of Armenia and also an area called Armenia Inferior. In this ancient map, the semi-circles are mountain, and the double lines are rivers. You can see the Tigris River. Below the 2 rivers, and at the end of a mountain range- you see a drawing and also the wording for **Noah's ark**. The ark is shown as sitting atop a mountain.



Back in those days of hand-written cartography they would only include the most important things and names and features. How does one know where they are and where they are going? Where do the rivers go? Where are the mountains and their direction? How do I get to a large city? *And- where is Noah's ark?* It seems that was important enough to include on a “Map of Asia”.

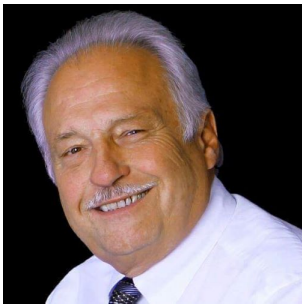
This short article is not meant to convince anyone of the truthfulness of the exact Biblical depiction of Noah and his story. However, it is an interesting topic and one that should not be merely laughed off as many Christians have done over the past 100+ years.

Agape Fr Ken

The Difficult Path *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.



**I BELIEVE IT IS SAFE
TO SAY THAT HUMANS
TEND TO TAKE THE
PATH OF LEAST
RESISTANCE**

Water. Electricity. Human beings.

What trait do these have in common? A basic knowledge of science and nature will tell you that, the answer evident in two of these things, is that water and electricity will always take the path of least resistance, I think we can safely say that human nature, (which is sinful nature), shows that humans tend to do the same. Of course, in the case of water and electricity it is simply the way it is. Unlike us, they they don't encounter an obstacle in their path and decide to go right, left, over or under. The natural order simply causes them to change directions and follow the easiest path. Sometimes, human intervention will intentionally change the direction by creating (or moving) the path of least resistance. We can use things of nature for our benefit by deliberately diverting them from the natural flow.

We humans, however, will tend to resist any attempts to divert us from our "natural flow". We can think and will plot ways to avoid obstacles that may lie ahead. We will change our directions and create an easier path even though the "natural" (God's) path will be better. You see, God's path for us may not (and often is not) the path of least resistance. Water and electricity don't think about what resistance might lie ahead. They follow

natures path wherever it goes. A pilot will tell you that, while the shortest distance between two points is indeed a straight line, it may not be the safest way to get between those two points. In fact, taking the straight line (least resistance) may lead to disaster. A pilot (at least any pilot I would be willing to fly with) will check the path ahead. Are there mountains, other air traffic, bad weather, etc. in that path? The passengers on the plane might wonder why this flight is taking longer than usual. They might wonder why the plane is turning away from the direction their destination is in. Many folks will become angry and frustrated if there is a delay that prevents them from being where they want to be on time. However, they don't see what the pilot sees. They don't know what the pilot knows. Perhaps, if the pilot allowed them to take the controls and fly that straight line path, they would never have reached their destination at all.

Our sinful nature makes us want to follow the path of least resistance in this life. God wants to be our pilot and guide us through life to our final destination. The problem comes when the path becomes bumpy. When the resistance occurs and we can't seem to break free of it. Or, the path suddenly changes direction in a way that makes no sense.

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The Difficult Path *Fr. Hal West +++*

Sometimes, taking us to the resistance instead of away from it. Then, Satan appeals to our sinful nature to tell us God does not know what he is doing. Worse yet, that we should take over the controls. This is nothing new for Satan. He tells us that God does not want us to have His knowledge and wisdom. That was Satan's declaration to Eve in the Garden of Eden.

“But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil'.”: Genesis 3:4-5 (ESV)

The Monk and the Abbot

I am reminded of the story of the young man who believed he was called to be a monk. Off he went to the monastery where the Abbot accepted him and gave him the rules of the order. The big one was their strict vow of silence. He was told speaking was prohibited. But, once a year, on the anniversary of his arrival, he would be granted permission to speak two words only. The young man wasn't happy with this rule but was determined to struggle through. At the end of his first year, the Abbot summoned him and granted him his two words. The young man simply said, “Bed hard.” The Abbot said, “O.K. I will see that you are given a new mattress.” Another year passed and he was summoned again before the Abbot and granted his two words. “Room cold.” said the young monk. The Abbot told him he would give him an additional blanket. The third year passed and the young man stood before the Abbot to say his two words. “The young man looked the Abbot in the eye and said, “I quit!” “Well, the Abbot replied, I can't say I'm surprised. You've done nothing but complain since you got here!”

My brothers and sisters in Christ. If we truly put God in control of our lives, the path may not be always as we expect or hope it to be, We may complain and grumble when that path is bumpier and taking us in a direction we don't like. Praise be to God, he does not restrict us to two words a year when expressing our needs, concerns and complaints!

Pray for the strength and commitment to allow God to remain in the pilot's seat. Pray for the discernment to know He sees what we can't see, knows what we can't know, and has planned the best route to our destination at the end of life's journey. Most of all, my friends, stay the course and, unlike our young Monk friend in the story, never quit.

Amen.

Fr. Hal West +++
For The Shofar

The Jezebel Demon *Fr. Tim Schoonard*



Fr. Tim Schoonard, MTh, is a prolific author, artisan, and military veteran who for 30 years ministered to the Roman Church in his liturgical art apostolate. Today, with his wife Dcn. Karla, he serves across the northeastern U.S. as a heal-ing minister and exorcist.

**THE JEZEBEL
DEMON IS THE
MOST OFTEN
DEMON
ENCOUNTERED
TODAY**

THE JEZEBEL DEMON

By Fr. Tim Schoonard 12/27/2023

The Jezebel is a powerful and prolific demonic tormentor of pastors, church leaders, and families; a fosterer of sexual perversion and a driving spirit behind rampant narcissism affecting our society today. Of course, the fact of whether or not a professed Christian can even have a demon is often a contentious one, practical experience has proven it to be so. Based on the forensic data collected during 2022 by the Deliverance Teams we work with, out of 1,100 exorcisms conducted, the Jezebel demon is reported by far to be the most encountered demon of our day. Our own personal experience concurs with this, as well as what is reported by the rest of our teams internationally.

The Jezebel Profile

Most of us are familiar with the Old Testament story of Ahab and Jezebel and the Prophet Elijah's dealings with them, as well as Jezebel's ignominious end in Jezreel. The Jezebel demon is so named because it mirrors in many ways the devices of the Old Testament Queen Jezebel, and much like its namesake is a devious and despicable fomenter of evil.

The Jezebel is not a to be confused as being a reincarnate spirit of the evil queen of the Bible but is instead a class of demon, like a Succubus, Murder, Death, Lucifer, or Molloch, bearing names that reflect the essence of their particular demonic assignment. These, in addition to their specific evil to bring torment to souls, all have standing orders to kill, steal, and destroy - without mercy.

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The Jezebel Demon *Fr. Tim Schoonard*

JEZEBEL
DEMON ARE
PATIENT
HUNTERS

Jezebel's Job

In the spiritual hierarchy of evil, the Jezebels demonic mission, coupled with a generous portion of arrogance and obstinance, is broad-spectrum in nature, and aggressively seeks to destroy families, churches and church leadership, as well as foster all manner of sexual excess and perversions. How many churches or dioceses have been bankrupted by corruption, pedophilia, and other sexual misconduct? How many well-known ministries have fallen publicly to shame? How many souls have been driven away from Christ because of these types of things? How many families have been shattered by sexual sin, financial corruption, and physical and mental abuse? Jezebel's narcissistic spirit of control infects church leadership and organizations, while raining hell down upon families at the same time. This is not an all-inclusive list of traits but gives a general representation of the behavior pattern evident of the Jezebel demon.

Jezebel demons are patient hunters and have had thousands of years to perfect what they do, sometimes sowing through several generations in order to accomplish their mission. They know just where our weaknesses lie and how to take advantage of opportunities to weasel their way into our lives. We as clergy must be vigilant in prayer and actively aware of the wiles of this enemy.

Jezebel in Our Midst

If you wear a clerical collar or conduct any kind of ministry that seeks to bring people closer to Christ, it is good to be aware and to operate with the assumption that Jezebel would love to destroy us or those we serve. It certainly is characteristic considering the biblical queen bringing Baal worship to Ahab's kingdom. I want to be clear about the fact that we cannot assume that every negative thing is because of a demon. We cannot forget our own human frailty and natural ability to mess things up all by ourselves! However, let's be on guard not to fall, or allow others to fall, to the seductive whispers of Jezebel.

In our care of souls, it is good to remember that almost everyone who has been the victim or perpetrator of sexual abuse, rape, incest, homosexuality and the like can be demonized in some way with a Jezebel, or a Jezebel aligned demon. The one who perpetrates the sin certainly opens the door to them, and as unfair as it may seem, the victim can also be demonized by the same sinful act, through the trauma of the events. The sin opens the door to both parties in different ways.

Jezebel seeks to infiltrate churches or other ministries sowing confusion and dissent between pastors and congregants, and congregants be

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The Jezebel Demon *Fr. Tim Schoonard*

tween each other, to hinder the ministry of Christ. Jezebel privately tempts church leaders to sexual sin, greed, or other corrupt activity hoping to bring them crashing down. When church leaders fall, that fall almost always results in collateral damage to souls, unwittingly helping the devil to accomplish his own insidious mission.

Of course, there isn't room here to address all the potential and wide-ranging demonic activities associated with the Jezebel, or demonization in general for that matter, but these are a few examples. Again, we must be ever vigilant as clergy, not to be taken by surprise.

Dealing with Jezebel

It is certainly not an easy task combating an invisible enemy with so much at stake, particularly when we as clergy have been given - and accepted - the responsibility of caring for the flock of Christ. God has given us the grace to be up for the task, however in caring for the flock we cannot be asleep in the barn.

Remarkably, one of the greatest hindrances of our modern day to protecting God's people from a Jezebel or any other demonic torment has proven to be Christian pastors who naively believe and teach that Christians cannot have demons for some reason. The devil loves this idea! This is a commonly held deception that makes his job far easier and allows his minions to hide without fear of consequence. Sadly, demons often find themselves safest in the churches right under our noses! I pray none of us falls prey to this deception. Our Lord clearly gave all Christians the authority to cast out demons in His name. The formal work can be a little more complex, as no two cases are alike, but scripture is clear that this authority has been given to us.

Christians in general, but Catholics in particular, have a vast arsenal of Sacraments and Sacramentals at our disposal to engage in spiritual combat. Most are familiar to us: The Word, the Eucharist, holy water, blessed or exercised salt or oil, powerful prayers, a cross or crucifix; the list goes on. God has armed His servants well. Properly wielded, these weapons will lead us to victory!

Don't Be Lunch

We are well aware of the fact that the devil is like a roaring lion roaming about looking for someone to devour. The gist of this article is to make us wary, or watchful, not to be lunch! May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ protect His clergy, His church, and His people from the snares of the devil, clothe us in His armor, and bless us all in our ministries!

Love and Blessings

Father Tim

ITS IS
CERTAINLY NOT
AN EASY TASK
TO COMBAT
AND INVISIBLE
ENEMY



**AFFILIATED
CHURCH DIRECTORY**

**IF YOU'RE IN TOWN ON A SUNDAY
PLAN TO COME JOIN US!**

CATHOLIC

**AGAPE OF JESUS CATHOLIC
CHURCH, Jeffersontown KY**

**HOLY SPIRIT OF HOPE
CHARISMATIC OLD CATHOLIC
CHURCH, El Paso TX**
(Ground and Zoom Services)

**ST MICHAEL'S INDEPENDENT OLD
CATHOLIC CHURCH, Loganville GA**

**AFFILIATED
CHURCH DIRECTORY**

**IF YOU'RE IN TOWN ON A SUNDAY
PLAN TO COME JOIN US!**

INDEPENDENT

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,
Warren OH**

ONLINE SEMINARY

AGAPE SEMINARY LOUISVILLE

**ST THOMAS OLD CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**Contact editor to list your weekly celebration and to welcome our
brothers and sisters to join your local Worship!**

UPCOMING EDITION

- Testimonies/News
- Training
- Articles
- Columns



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