



September Synod Edition

Louisville 2022 Synod October 6 and 7

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We are proud to announce that our Synod is on the calendar!

Where has the time gone? It's almost here!

The Synod will be held at the Eastern Cathedral Church

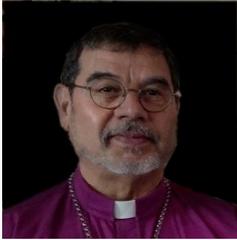
AGAPE of JESUS Cathedral Church near Louisville Kentucky.



**Street address for
Agape of Jesus Cathedral
10609 Watterson Trail
Jeffersontown, Kentucky
40299**

Getting to Know You!

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.



Archbishop Dr. Robert Ortega, BSCE., MSCE, DDiv.

Celebrating our common callings to minister in Jesus Christ

The 2022 post coronavirus Synod and Clergy retreat will be held at Agape of Jesus, 10609 Watterson Trail, Louisville, KY on Oct 6 and 7 with a theme of "Getting to know you."
The Charismatic Old Catholic Church was formed at a meeting in El Paso, TX in February of 2019. Both Archbishops +Robert & +Maurice were recovering from recent deaths of very close loved ones. But the power of the Holy Spirit ignited them plus all in attendance to form the COCC. Immediate business activities started that culminated in founding a seminary, establishment of canons, and developing a website. This was reminiscent of the first Pentecost success of 3000 added to the church after the Holy Spirit's unleashing of the 120 believers in Jesus.

In 2019 and 2020 a worldwide pandemic stopped many church services and prevented our meeting.

An abbreviated meeting was held in 2021, but this year +Archbishop Maurice was moved by the Holy Spirit to strongly encourage all 80+ members to attend a synod in his church in Louisville. We pray that everyone accepts the invitation because, as +Maurice laments, "there are bishops that don't know each other, priest and deacons that have never met."

His agenda includes:
- Getting to know you- Personal unfoldment
-Sharing best practices in

our ministries
- How to start a church
- Questions and answer session about the COCC
- Individual concerns
- Presentations of the clergy (a call for presentations will be made a head of the synod.

Let's stand in solidarity to strengthen the Holy Spirit inspired COCC to its Vision of "Jesus came to reinstitute the Kingdom of God on earth, lost by Adam's error." And our Mission, "To proclaim the Gospel of the kingdom throughout the world."

Abp Robert
Come Holy Spirit, come!

Getting to Know all about You!



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

Note from Abp Maurice

I am excited and looking forward to the Oct 6&7 Synod and Clergy retreat Being with old friends and meeting new friends. The agenda of Presentations by clergy is coming along. If you are passionate about some teaching or biblical instruction or ministry, please consider presenting at the synod.

++Maurice

IF YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT SOME TEACHING OR BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION OR MINISTRY, PLEASE CONSIDER PRESENTING AT THE SYNOD.



Western Monasticism Rev. Elizabeth S. Ornelas, OSB



Who was Saint Benedict and what contribution did he provide to the modern world?

St. Benedict was a religious reformer who lived in Italy in the late 400s and early 500s. He is known as the “Father of Western monasticism,” he established a Rule that would become the norm for innumerable Christian monks and nuns. He is the patron saint of Europe. Please join me on this journey as we study Western Monasticism, and how this Rule can help you and me live

our lives to reach Sainthood. That is why we were born, to live our lives committed to reaching Sainthood. I assure you it will change your life.

The Christian monk embraces the monastic life as a vocation from God. His objective is to imitate the life of Christ as far as possible in preparation for attaining eternal life after death.

Therefore, monasticism is an institutionalized religious practice or movement whose members attempt to live by a rule that requires works that go beyond those of either the laity or the ordinary spiritual leaders of their religions.

I am often asked how long does it take to become a

St. Benedict Monk?

The answer is "Simple vows" are a period of temporary commitment and usually last three years.

The period of temporary commitment is, however, a serious commitment and is a time for continuing growth. During these years, the monk receives a broad theological foundation, as well as some practical experience in apostolic activities.

In conclusion, I will be on a journey with YOU and explain the Rule. Stay tuned and enjoy the ride.

Our Lady of Grace
St. Benedictine
Religious Order

Rev. Elizabeth S. Ornelas,
OSB lives in El Paso,
Texas.

ST. BENEDICT WAS A RELIGIOUS REFORMER WHO LIVED IN ITALY IN THE LATE 400S AND EARLY 500S. HE IS KNOWN AS THE “FATHER OF WESTERN MONASTICISM,”

STAND FAST IN A CHANGING WORLD

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.



THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN EVIL AND EVIL PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD, (SINCE THE FALL) BUT EACH PASSING YEAR SEEMS TO FIND MORE AND MORE BEHAVIOR ONCE DEEMED UNACCEPTABLE, THAT IS NOW EMBRACED AND ACCEPTED BY SOCIETY.

Often, as I sit back and ponder the hatred, violence, and division that seems to run rampant in modern society, I am both concerned for my children and grand-children's future, and grateful for parents who raised me with Christian values.

Yes, there has always been evil and evil people in this world, (since the fall) but each passing year seems to find more and more behavior once deemed unacceptable, that is now embraced and accepted by society. The clear lines that once divided good and evil and heroes and villains are fading away or been erased altogether.

Even in the faith community, there are those who attempt to grow so called "mega" churches by making the House of God an entertainment venue. I don't doubt that many of them are sincere in what they are doing. However, at some point, the service becomes a production worthy of a show on Broadway. The worship of God becomes secondary. After all, bringing people to Christ is all about the 'numbers'.

Growing the Kingdom of God is measured more in how many we can reach than how we help to grow the Kingdom within them after we get them to church. Finding the joy of being blessed by the Holy Spirit in worship is different than the joy one receives by watching a light show, flashy music, or hearing a celebrity give their testimony.

Then, there are those who would preach the so called prosperity Gospel. God wants us all to be rich, healthy, and to prosper. If you have not reached that point, you are not doing something right. Usually,

not "planting enough seed" (giving them your money).

God is like a giant vending machine full of sweet treats. You put your money in and push the button and wait. If it says, "Please make another Selection" or "Please try again". It must be something you have done wrong. The prosperity Gospel works for them, they get your money in their mail box daily. How many have turned away from the Kingdom after too many times waiting for the vending machine to give them the treats they want, the healing they need, or they ran out of money? They never were able to "do it right", whatever "right" is.



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STAND FAST IN A CHANGING WORLD *(cont)*



Fr. Hal West

**WE
MUST
STAND
FAST**

Now that it seems statistics show the numbers are dropping as to attendance at the “Mega” churches and equally, many of the prosperity Gospel folks are finding their cash flow dropping. Much of what they are doing is not working. Yes mainstream churches have also been in decline but it has been a steady decline based on the changing of society. The others have been a “flash in the pan” where people have quickly discovered it does not offer the answers they seek. The entertainment value wears off and they have no more coins to feed the machine. This is why we must stand fast.

Being open to the movement of the Holy Spirit while clinging tightly to the foundation of the ancient church. When people learn the shiny objects they are reaching for are not the answer. When they discover the “me first” mentality does not really satisfy, they will again seek out that which is firmly anchored and unchanging with the winds of time.

History has shown us that after every major traumatic event in our nation's history, church attendance

went up. The Kennedy assassination, 9/11, and other such occurrences led to a spike in the numbers.

Keeping them grounded, showing them the love of Christ, giving them a sense of mission and purpose, and supporting them as they grow in a faith they can trust, is our job. It is that which will keep them anchored in the faith.



Come Lord Jesus and help us to draw those souls floundering in a sea of selfishness, foolishness, and emptiness. Help us reach out and pull them to the shelter of the steadfast faith and hold them with love until they are firmly planted and growing in your Kingdom.

-Blessings-
Fr Hal



WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY

with Deacon Mark



The Brick n Mortar Church

Sound Systems

The Hard (ware) Truth Part I



Hello again everyone,

In last month's blog in our newsletter we invited you to enter into the world of ONLINE WORSHIP. In this month's Topic, we leave the world of Virtual Worship and address technology challenges in the Brick-n-Mortar Churches which can adversely affect those in our Faith Communities who..literally.. "come to the Altar".

In Part I of this area of the blog series, I will identify the components of a sound system, also known as a PA System (or Public Address System). I will also give a basic description of each function (in layman's terms). And at times, I will also give some technical terms (just in case anyone is gifted from a "moved by The Spirit" generous Parishioner and you now have to deal with a Sound System Integrator or local Music Store)

Ok, let's have some fun and delve into identifying the components of a sound system,

Part I: Components of a Sound System and Basic Function

Here is an outline of the basic components and basic functions of a standard House of Worship PA System:

Microphone- A Microphone is a device which converts the sound waves generated from voices or instruments and converts them into Electro-magnetic waves. This is a phenomenon known as "Transductance", which is defined as converting one type of energy into another". Former Roman Clergy who read this might be reminded of a deeper Sacramental Theology in the RC Church. Microphones come in three flavors: Dynamic, Condenser, and Ribbon. Each has its own advantages and disadvantages, which we expound upon later. Dynamic Mics and Condenser Mics can be fitted on a Wireless Microphone System. *There is an important difference on Condensers Mics which i will alert you to in Part II*

DI Box- A DI Box or "Direct Inject" Box is a signal boosting device used for Electronic Instruments whose **Instrument Cables** cannot reach the Mixer within 25 Feet. Typically, it is used for Bass, Acoustic Guitar, and Keyboards (Keyboards usually require two DIs since the outputs of keyboards have a Left and Right (stereo) Connection). I will describe the connections between the Instrument, DI, Instrument Amp (if used) and Mixer in Part II.

Mixer- The Mixer is the "Nerve Center" of a PA System. This Electronic device connects Microphones, Electronic Instruments, and maybe even a CD player, .mp3 player, Laptop, or Cellphone/Tablet to the Mixer. We call it a mixer because we Sound Engineers "Mix" (or better "Balance") the volumes of the Singers, Musicians, and Celebrants for what is heard by the Pew Parishioners (The House), by the Musicians (Monitor Mix), and possible, even a Stream for Online Parishioners (see last two blogs). A Good Mixer will provide a "Bus" for these audio destinations

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WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY

with Deacon Mark



Sound Systems —continued—



Power Amplifier- A Power Amplifier is an electronic device that receives “lower level audio signal from the Mixer and amplifies that sound when connected to a speaker. Power amplifiers can be a stand-alone device or they can be “attached to a speaker”, forming what is known as a “Powered Speaker” (See “Powered Speaker” below).

Speaker- A speaker is the component of a Sound System that when positioned properly, delivers that amplified sound to the ears of our Faithful. It can also be used as a Floor Monitor or “Wedge” (again, see below) for the Singers, Choir, and Musicians to hear themselves and each other.

Powered Speaker- This type of speaker that has a power amp “piggy-backed” onto the shell of the speaker cabinet. Having a Powered Speaker means that you do not need a “Stand-alone” Power amplifier between the Mixer and the speaker. For us, that means one less thing to worry about.

“Floor Monitor” (aka Wedge or Fold-back)- A Specialty Speaker used typically on the floor of the Sanctuary or Musician/Choir Pit which allows the Singers, Choir, and Musicians to hear themselves and each other. *This is incredibly Important!!! If musicians and singers cannot hear themselves, they “guess” at their performance and often play and sing poorly and out of tune. It is not their fault if the before-mentioned occurs!*

“IE Monitor” (aka In-Ear Monitor)- A newer way of “personalizing” what the Musicians hear. These devices are often wireless and have an “earbud” which goes into the Musicians’/singers’ ear. Lead Singers & some Cantors usually prefer this as it helps them hear themselves with more clarity.

Mic Cable- A Cable with 3 Pins in the connector. It is most commonly used to connect a Microphone to a Mixer, but has other functions such as connecting the “balanced output” of a Direct Box to a Mixer or even the Outputs of a Mixer to a “Powered Speaker” .

Speaker Cable- An “unshielded”, “unbalanced” Audio cable used to connect an Amplifier to a non-powered speaker. This is very important for two reasons, which will be addressed in Part II.

Instrument Cable- A “shielded”, “unbalanced” Audio cable used to connect an Instrument such as Electric Guitar, Bass, or Keyboard to an Instrument Amplifier (*not a PA Amplifier!!*) or even a Direct Box.

Balanced Cables- Cables used to connect PA System Components over long distances or where some RF Shielding is required. They can look like Microphone Cables and some can even look like Instrument or Speaker Cables. *But they are neither a Speaker nor an Instrument Cable. That’s Important!* The Addendum at the end of the blog will hopefully help discern how to tell them apart.

Unbalanced Cables- Cables used to connect Instruments to Instrument Amplifiers and Mixers to some Effects units such as Reverbs

Outboard Equalizers (EQs)- Typically, the most common used is a “Graphic EQualizer”. Most of us remember those types of EQs from the 70s Home Stereo “Component Systems”. They have Sliders to raise or lower certain frequencies that can cause Microphone Feedback (painful, high-pitched sound emanating from the speakers) or room Ugliness (we will discuss this in another blog)

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WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY

with Deacon Mark



Sound Systems -final-



Compressor/Limiter- Most Compressor/limiters are used to “Limit” the sound before it hits the Amplifier. It typically is patched between the Mixer and Power Amplifier. Its purpose is to prevent sharp volume spikes (that come from instruments such as the drums) from “blowing the speakers”

Reverb/Echo Unit- An electronic device used to create a sense of ambiance for Singers, Choir, and even some instruments such as Piano and Violin. Most mixers manufacturers build this feature into their mixers, a cool, convenient feature.

“The House” (aka FOH or “Front of House”)- An Industry term used for what the Pew Parishioners hear. Typically, this is the most focused area of a Sound System in our Houses of Worship.

I do realize that I have created a list with many moving parts. In a future edition I intend to create an addendum with pictures of each component. This information will be posted to the COCCNA website for future reference under a new section entitled “Clergy Resource” on the website.

I truly hope that you are still as excited about this as many of us are.

If you are, but still have questions or concerns, please always feel free to reach out to me:

“to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry,^[5] for building up the body of Christ,

Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ,^[6] 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body’s growth and builds itself up in love.- Ephesians 4: 12, 16 (NABRE)”

Email- Catholicmrk@gmail.com

Cell: 954-501-4899.

- 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



COCC Synod 2022 Specifics and Schedule Oct 6 & 7

The dates of the synod are Oct 6 and Oct 7

On Jul 20, 2022, at 2:00 PM,
Maurice McCormick
<mauricejoann@att.net>

2022 Synod and Clergy Retreat
OCT 6 and OCT 7

Open to all clergy, spouses and friends

Agape of Jesus Church (COCC)
10609 Watterson Trail (off Taylorsville Rd)
Jeffersontown, KY 40299 (Louisville)

Host Archbishop MAURICE McCORMICK
(502) 419-5605 MauriceJoAnn@att.net

There lots of other hotels in the area. The Following were chosen to help car pool with other clergy staying in these hotels.

Hotels/Motels 2-3 miles from Church.

Cheap Motels- \$65 range
Red Carpet Inn,
1640 South Hurstbourne Pky
(502) 491-7320
Red Roof Inn, 9330 Blairwood Rd
(502) 426-7621

Nicer Hotels especially if spouse is attending - \$120 range
Hampton Inn, 1451 Alliant Ave.
(502) 809-9901
Courtyard Marriott Louisville East,
9608 Blairwood (502) 429-0006

Pet Friendly \$120ish
The Staybridge 11711 Gateworth Way
(502)244-9511



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY OCT 6

8:30 - 9 am. Coffee-Juice-
9:10-9:50 - Mass,Prayer (Music)
10:00 - 11:00 +McCORMICK - Getting to Know you
11:10 - 12:20 - How to Love One Another

12:30 - 1:50 - Lunch

2:00 -2:50 Tasty Church Unity ++Ortega
3:00-3:50 - Prayer Experiment BpE Kerr
4:00-4:50 - African Hopes Fr Brown
5-6:30 Dinner

7:00 - Mass of consecration, Ordination (Music)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY OCT 7

8:30 -9:00 Coffee, Juice
9:10 -9:50 Morning Mass (music)
10:00- 10:50 Fr Mike Smith presentation
11:00 - 1:00 Bishops Meeting
11:00- 11:50 Counseling to the Hurting Fr. Earl Butcher

12:00- 1:20 lunch
1:30 - 2:20 pm OSB Rev Eliz Ornelas
2:30 - 3:20 Bp Ted Kerr Presentation
3:30 - 4:30 Graduation Honors
4:40-5:00 Closing session-“Tying up loose ends, loosing up tight ends”

Question & Answers, closing prayer





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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**

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PLAN TO COME JOIN US!**

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Warren OH**

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ONLINE SEMINARY

AGAPE SEMINARY LOUISVILLE

**ST THOMAS OLD CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**House Church

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

**COMING NEXT EDITION IN
SEPTEMBER:**

- Testimonies/News
- Training
- Articles
- Columns



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