**ST. GRACE CHURCH**

**GRACE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE**

THOMAS CRAEMER

ANAMARIE MEDINA

LaTICIA CHANEL THOMPSON

MICHELLE TURNER

**ORDINATION TO THE PASTORATE**

GYMNETTA FLUDD

**ORDINATION TO THE ORDER OF**

**THE SACRED PRIESTHOOD**

FRANCIS VINCENT JARVIS ARDOVINO

ROBERT MITCHELL

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

24 June 2023

**The Nativity of St. John the Baptist**

1:00 p.m.

**The Riverside Church – Christ Chapel**

New York City, New York



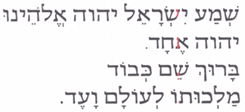
*[Master of the Ceremony Thomas E. Rudakas and Father Kuemmerle enter]*

**M.C. Thomas E. Rudakas:** Welcome to the celebration of the Nativity of John the Baptist, and the ordinations to the orders of the Deaconate for Thomas Craemer, AnaMarie Medina, LaTicia Thompson and Michelle Turner, the Pastorate for Gymnetta Fludd, and the Sacred Priesthood for Francis Vincent Jarvis Ardovino, and Robert Mitchell. Please silence or turn off your cellphones.

**Father Clyde Kuemmerle:** *[Asperges]*

**M.C.:** Please stand for the Jewish prayer offered by Professor Oded Tshesly from Rome, Italy.

**Professor Oded Tshesly:** The Shema



|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | **Translation:**HEAR, O ISRAEL: The LORD our G-d, the LORD is one. May His name be blessed, forever and ever. | | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | |  |  | |

**People:** Amen

**Father Clyde Kuemmerle:** Blessed be God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People:** And, Blessed be God’s kingdom now and forever.

*[The procession enters and proceeds towards the altar.]*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN:* ***HERE I AM LORD*** *– All Sing:*

*[Deacons-Elect in alphabetical order, followed Gymetta Fludd, Francis Vincent Ardovino, Archdeacon Mitchell, followed by Faculty, followed by Rev. Dr. Bennett, followed by Bishops.]*

**Reverend Okumura Thomas:** Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

**People:** Amen

*[The Bishops, the ordinands, and the people sit.]*

**THE PRESENTATION**

*[One at a time, the ordinand, his/her sponsoring ordained faculty member, and a supporting presenter are called to stand by the MC in alphabetical order. Ardovino, Craemer, Fludd, Medina, Mitchell, Thompson, Turner*

**Dr. Clinton Bennett:** Linda Blakeney Jarvis, Bishop in the Church of God, on behalf of the people of St. Grace Church-Grace Theological Seminary we present to you (N) to be ordained a (Deacon, Pastor, Priest) in Christ’s one, holy catholic Church.

**Bishop DeBry:** Has s/he been selected in accordance with the customs of the Church? And do you believe his/her manner of life to be suitable to the exercise of this ministry?

**Ordained Faculty Member:** After inquiry among the people of Christ we certify to you that s/he has satisfied the requirements and we believe him/her to be qualified for this order.

**Dr. Clinton Bennett:** Angela DeBry, Bishop in the Church of God, on behalf of the people of the Ekklesia Epignostika Church-Ekklesia Epignostika Seminary we present to you Archdeacon Robert Mitchell to be ordained to the sacred order of the priesthood in Christ’s holy catholic Church. Archdeacon Mitchell was ordained to the Deaconate in November 2019 and has now completed Holy Orders in the Ekklesia Epignostika seminary under the jurisdiction of The Right Reverend Katia Sophia Romanoff of the Ekklesia Epignostika Church.

**Bishop DeBry:** Has s/he been selected in accordance with the customs of the Church? And do you believe his/her manner of life to be suitable to the exercise of this ministry?

**Ordained Faculty Member:** After inquiry among the people of Christ we certify to you that s/he has satisfied the requirements and we believe him/her to be qualified for this order.

**THE EXAMINATION**

**Bishop Jarvis:** My brothers and sisters, the Church is the family of God, the body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit. All baptized people are called to make Christ known as Savior and Lord, and to share in the renewing of his world. Now you are called to work as deacon pastor, priest, and teacher, together with your bishop and fellow presbyters, and to take your share in the councils of the Church.

**Bishop DeBry:** It will be your task to proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to fashion your life in accordance with its precepts. You are to love and serve the people among whom you work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor.

**Bishop Jarvis:** You are to preach, to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God's blessing, to share in the administration of Holy Baptism and in the celebration of the mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood, and to perform the other ministrations entrusted to you.

**Bishop DeBry:** In all that you do, you are to nourish Christ's people from the riches of his grace, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come. You are to work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. You are to preach, to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God's blessing, to share in the administration of Holy Baptism and in the celebration of the mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood, and to perform the other ministrations entrusted to you.

**Bishop Jarvis:** My sister and brothers, do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church to this ordination?

**Ordinands Response:** I believe I am so called.

**Bishop DeBry:** Do you now in the presence of the Church commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

**Ordinands Response:** I do.

**Bishop DeBry:** Will you respect and be guided by the pastoral direction of your superiors?

**Ordinands Response:** I will.

**Bishop Jarvis:** Will you be diligent in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures, and in seeking the knowledge of such things as may make you a stronger and more able minister of Christ?

**Ordinands Response:** I will.

**Bishop DeBry:**  Will you endeavor so to minister the Word of God and the sacraments of the New Covenant, that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received?

**Ordinands Response:** I will.

**Bishop Jarvis:** Will you undertake to be a faithful pastor to all whom you are called to serve, laboring together with them and with your fellow ministers to build up the family of God?

**Ordinands Response:** I will.

**Bishop DeBry:** Will you do your best to pattern your life and that of your family and community in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to your people?

**Ordinands Response:** I will.

**Bishop Jarvis:** Will you persevere in prayer, both in public and in private, asking God's grace, both for yourself and for others, offering all your labors to God, through the mediation of Jesus Christ, and in the sanctification of the Holy Spirit?

**Ordinands Response:** I will.

**Bishop DeBry:** May the Lord who has given you the will to do these things give you the grace and power to perform them.

**Ordinands Response:** Amen.

*[All ordinands turn and face the congregation.]*

**Bishop Jarvis:** Dear friends, you know the importance of this ministry and the weight of your responsibilities in presenting these ordinands for Ordination. Therefore, if any of you know of any impediment or crime because which we should not proceed, come forward now, and make it known, or forever hold your peace.

*[If an objection is made, it is to be handled Pastorally right there] [If no objection is made, cont.]*

**Bishop Jarvis:** Is it your will that [Names] be ordained to service in Christ’s church?

**People:** It is.

**Bishop DeBry:** Will you uphold them in their ministries?

**People:** We will.

*[Faculty assist the Deacons into their stoles and Deacon’s collars and then sit.]*

**Reverend Gene Townsel:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*[All ordinands lay on floor facing the altar.]*

*[Music:* ***The Litany of the Saints****-Call by musicians and response by congregation.*

*[When the music ends, the Deacons stand and face the Bishops.]*

**Bishop Jarvis and Bishop DeBry:** Reverend Deacon, receive this Bible as a sign of the authority given you to preach the Word of God. Do not forget the trust committed to you in service of the Church of God.

**Reverend Deacons’ Response:** Amen.

*[Deacons receive their Bibles]*

**Reverend Gene Townsel:** Please welcome these newly ordained servants into service in God’s vineyard.

**All:** Amen *[Applause]*

*[Anthony Martini, Dean of Vocations stand*s *while indicating that the congregation remain seated] [Fludd, Jarvis, and Mitchell sit down]*

**Dean Martini:** In their first service as newly ordained Deacons, Reverend Deacon Thomas Craemer, Reverend Deacon AnaMarie Medina, Reverend Deacon LaTicia Chanel Thompson, and Reverend Deacon Michelle Turner will now lead us in prayer.

**Dean Martini:** God, our Father and Mother,

**People:** Have mercy on us.

**Dean Martini:** God the Son,

**People:** Have mercy on us.

**Dean Martini:** God the Holy Spirit,

**People:** Have mercy on us.

**Dean Martini:** Holy Trinity one God,

**People:** Have mercy on us.

**Dean Martini:** We pray to you, Lord Christ,

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Thompson:** For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the Day of your Coming, we pray to you O Lord.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Thompson:** For all members of your Church in their vocation and ministry, that they may serve you in a true and godly life, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Medina:** For Linda our Bishop, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons, that they may be filled with your love, may hunger for truth, and may thirst after righteousness, we pray to you O Lord.

**People**: Lord, hear our prayer.

**Medina:** For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Turner:** For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you O Lord.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Turner:** For those in positions of public trust, especially Joseph our President and Eric our mayor, that they may serve justice and promote the dignity of freedom of every person, we pray to you O Lord.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Craemer:** For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from greed, poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you O Lord.

**People:** Lord hear our prayer.

**Craemer:** For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, the undocumented, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Thompson:** For Gymnetta, Francis, and Robert, chosen clergy in your church.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Turner:** That they may faithfully fulfill the duties of their ministries, build up your Church, and glorify your name, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Medina:** That by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit they may be sustained and encouraged to persevere to the end, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Craemer:** Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Baptist, St. Grace of Saragossa, and all the other saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, to the service of God.

**Dean Martini:** To you O Lord our God.

**All:** Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

*[The Deacons return to their seats. All sit.]*

**Bishop Jarvis:** *[Stands]* The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Bishop Jarvis:** On this day, June 24th we celebrate the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, the man of whom Jesus said, *“Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist.”* John’s birth is celebrated near the pinnacle of light in the northern hemisphere, the summer solstice. John the Baptist recognized Jesus, the Incarnate Son of God as *“the Light that shines in the darkness”,* and instructed his own disciples Andrew and John to follow Jesus, calling him *“the Lamb of God.”* May the words of John the Baptist kindle the fire of love within you that you may see Heaven in the midst of everyday life, live with integrity, and behold the Lamb of God.

**Professor Sheryl Phillips:** Let us pray. O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were being cast down are being raised up and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen

**THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD:**

**The Reverend Odell Cooper:** A reading from the book of Judges…

*‘Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead. So the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim. Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the Lord for help.*

*Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading[a] Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: ‘Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.’”*

*Barak said to her, “If you go with me, I will go; but if you don’t go with me, I won’t go.”*

*“Certainly I will go with you,” said Deborah. “But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman.” So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh.’***The Word of the Lord.**

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**The Reverend Brenda Lammie:** A reading from Romans 16. *‘I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well. Greet Prisca and Aquila, who work with me in Christ Jesus, and who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert in Asia for Christ. Greet Mary, who has worked very hard among you. Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives who were in prison with me; they are prominent among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was. Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys. Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus. Greet my relative Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus. Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord. 13Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; and greet his mother—a mother to me also. Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers and sisters who are with them. Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.’* Amen. **The Word of the Lord.**

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Rev. Okumura Thomas:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia *[Joyously rings bells]*

**People:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia *[Joyously]*

*[Professor Sheryl Phillips carrying the Gospel aloft, and Bishop DeBry walk to the Aisle.]*

**The Most Reverend Angela DeBry:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*‘Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.”**At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!”.* *Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.’* **The Word of the Lord.**

**People:** Praise to you Lord Christ.

**M.C.:** Please be seated.

**SERMON: The Most Reverend Angela Sophia DeBry, Presiding Bishop of the Sophia Sanctuary**

**The Gospel of Mary.** *'The Savior said, "Every nature, every form, every creature exists in and with each other, but they'll dissolve again into their own roots, because the nature of matter dissolves into its nature alone. Anyone who has ears to hear should hear! "Peter said to him, "Since you've explained everything to us, tell us one more thing. What's the sin of the world?"*

*The Savior said, "Sin doesn't exist, but you're the ones who make sin when you act in accordance with the nature of adultery, which is called 'sin.' That's why the Good came among you, up to the things of every nature in order to restore it within its root." Then he continued and said, "That's why you get sick and die, because [you love what tricks you. Anyone who] can understand should understand! "Matter [gave birth to] a passion that has no image because it comes from what's contrary to nature. Then confusion arises in the whole body. That's why I told you to be content at heart. If you're discontented, find contentment in the presence of the various images of nature. Anyone who has ears to hear should hear!" When the Blessed One said these things, he greeted them all and said, "Peace be with you! Acquire my peace. Be careful not to let anyone mislead you by saying, 'Look over here!' or 'Look over there!' Because the Son of Humanity exists within you. Follow him! Those who seek him will find him. "Go then and preach the gospel about the kingdom. Don't lay down any rules beyond what I've given you, nor make a law like the lawgiver, lest you be bound by it." When he said these things, he left.'* *[Sermon on the reading – 3 to 5 minutes]*

**SERMON: The Reverend Wendy Van Allen, One Spirit Interspiritual Minister and Counselor.** *[Sermon: 5 to 7 minutes]*

**M.C.** Please stand as Professor Carmen Lopez-Castillo recites the Nicene Creed in Spanish.

**Professor Carmen Lopez - Castillo:** *[Stands and recites the Nicene Creed in Spanish.]*

Creo en un solo Dios, Padre todopoderoso, Creador del cielo y de la tierra, de todo lo visible y lo invisible. Creo en un solo Señor, Jesucristo, Hijo único de Dios, nacido del Padre antes de todos los siglos: Dios de Dios, Luz de Luz, Dios verdadero de Dios verdadero, engendrado, no creado, de la misma naturaleza del Padre, por quien todo fue hecho; que por nosotros lo hombres, y por nuestra salvación bajó del cielo, y por obra del Espíritu Santo se encarnó de María, la Virgen, y se hizo hombre; y por nuestra causa fue crucificado en tiempos de Poncio Pilato; padeció y fue sepultado, y resucitó al tercer día, según las Escrituras, y subió al cielo, y está sentado a la derecha del Padre; y de nuevo vendrá con gloria para juzgar a vivos y muertos, y su reino no tendrá fin. Creo en el Espíritu Santo, Señor y dador de vida, que procede del Padre y del Hijo, que con el Padre y el Hijo recibe una misma adoración y gloria, y que habló por los profetas. Creo en la Iglesia, que es una, santa, católica y apostólica. Confieso que hay un solo bautismo para el perdón de los pecados. Espero la resurrección de los muertos y la vida del mundo futuro.  Amén.

**Rev. Annie Suggs:** Please say the Apostles Creed with me.

**People:** I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
      who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
      born of the Virgin Mary,  
      suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
      was crucified, died, and was buried;  
      he descended to the dead.  
      On the third day he rose again;  
      he ascended into heaven,  
      he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
      and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
      the holy catholic Church,  
      the communion of saints,  
      the forgiveness of sins,  
      the resurrection of the body,  
      and the life everlasting. Amen.

**M.C.** You may be seated.

**THE ORDINATION TO THE PASTORATE**

**M.C.:**  Reverend Deacon Gymnetta Fludd, come forth.

*[Deacon Fludd walks to Bishop Jarvis holding her hands together as if in prayer.]*

**Bishop Jarvis:***“Again you have heard that it was said to the people of old, ‘Do not swear falsely, but fulfill your oaths to the Lord.’But I say to you, do not swear at all, either by heaven, because it is the throne of God,or by the earth, because it is the footstool of his feet, or by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great king.And do not swear by your head, because you are not able to make one hair white or black.But let your statement be ‘Yes, yes; no, no,’ and anything beyond these is from the evil one.”* Deacon Gymnetta Fludd, will you be a faithful pastor answering your calling to serve all those who God places before you?

**Gymnetta Fludd: Yes, yes.** *[or No, no - if “no” Deacon Fludd walks back to her seat quietly]*

**Bishop Jarvis:** Gymnetta Fludd, in your baptism you died to sin and arose to everlasting life in Christ. Now I anoint your hands with Holy oil in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. For these are the hands which will reach out and touch the sick, sorrowful and the lonely. These are the hands which will hold the Bible, the Word of God. These hands which, when held together in prayer will become the Hand of God in your ministry, leading and guiding you as you minister to Christ's people are also hands that are feminine in the biblical Hebrew language. It is another proof that next to God, who is a masculine noun, are the spirit, the soul, the love, and the hands - all feminine nouns - that life cannot be without. *[Bishop Jarvis anoints Deacon Fludd’s hands with oil.]*

*[Bishop Jarvis lays her hands on Fludd’s head]* saying: Receive the power of the Holy Spirit that God sends upon you. Reverend Pastor Fludd, from this day forward you are to pastor God’s flock, minister to God’s people, and serve our Lord.

**Rev. Dr. Clinton Bennett:** Reverend Pastor Gymnetta Fludd, receive this Bible as a sign of the authority given you to teach and preach the Word of God, evangelize to believer’s and non-believers, and provide protection and oversight for all who seek the shelter, comfort, and wisdom of our loving Creator. Do not forget the trust committed to you as an ordained Pastor in the Church of God.

**Gymnetta Fludd:** Yes, yes.Amen.  *[Rev. Fludd faces the congregation.]* *[Deacons Thomas Craemer and AnaMarie Medina assist Rev. Fludd into her Pastor’s robe and return to their seats.] [Faculty silently come forth and lay their hands upon Rev. Fludd and return to their seats.]*

**M.C.:** Please welcome Reverend Pastor Gymnetta Fludd to God’s service in the ordained ministry.

**All:** Amen. *[Applause] [Rev. Pastor Fludd walks back to her seat and sits.]*

**THE CONSECRATION OF THE PRIESTS**

**M.C.:** Those who are to be consecrated to the order of the sacred priesthood come forth.

*[The ordinands walk towards the Bishops with hands folded as in prayer. Deacon Francis stands before Bishop Linda Jarvis, and Archdeacon Mitch stands before Bishop Angela. They stand quietly while the* ***Veni Creator*** *is sung by Harkness & Onyenucheya]. This is followed by a brief period of silent prayer.]*

**Prayer of Consecration**

**Bishop Jarvis:** God, Mother and Father of all, we praise you for your infinite love in calling us to be a holy people in the kingdom of your Son Jesus our Lord, who is the image of your eternal and invisible glory, the firstborn among many brothers and sisters, and the head of the Church. We thank you that by his death he has overcome death, and, having ascended into heaven, has poured his gifts abundantly upon your people, making some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry and the building up of his body.

*[Bishops lay both hands upon the heads of the respective ordinands.]*

**Bishops:**  Therefore, Mother-Father God, through Jesus Christ your Son, give your Holy Spirit to [Name] fill him with grace and power, and make him a priest in your Church. [Name], receive the Holy Spirit.

**Bishop Jarvis to Francis:** May Francis Vincent Jarvis Ardovino, exalt you, O Lord, in the midst of your people; offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you; boldly proclaim the gospel of salvation; and rightly administer the sacraments of the New Covenant. Make him a faithful pastor, a patient teacher, and a wise councilor. Grant that in all things he may serve without reproach, so that your people may be strengthened and your Name glorified in all the world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

**Bishop Angela to Mitch:**O God, the Source of All, of whom are true consecration and the fullness of spiritual benediction, we pray thee, O Lord, to + open to thy spiritual grace the heart and mind of this thy servant, who has been raised to the Priesthood, that thru him thy power may abundantly flow for the service of thy people. May his heart be so filled with compassion for the multitude, that he may forget himself in the love of others.

**People:** Amen.

*[The new priests are now assisted in vesting according to the order of priests by the ordained Deacons. Medina and Turner – Father Mitch and Craemer and Thompson – Father Francis*

**Bishop Angela to Mitch:** Father Robert Mitchell,take thou this stole, for a symbol of the power of the priestly office and as a channel of the everflowing yet often hidden stream of Christ’s love**.**

*Deacons: turns Priest to face congregation thus symbolically presenting new priest to the world for a moment. Deacons: then turn him back and vests him with the Chasuble.]*

**People:** Amen

**Bishop Angela:** (touching **Chasuble**) Father Robert Mitchell, take thou the priestly vestment, that in it thou may offer with our Lord Christ, the High Priest in the Order of Melchizedek, bread and wine for the transmutation of spiritual into physical and physical into spiritual.

**People:** Amen.

**Bishop Angela:** Father Robert Mitchell, receive this **Bible** as a sign of the authority given you to preach the Word of God and to administer his holy Sacraments. Do not forget the trust committed to you as a priest of the Church of God.

**People:** Amen.

**Bishop Angela:** Father Robert Mitchell, your hands are anointed with **oil** so that whatever they may bless is blessed, whatever they may consecrate may be consecrated, and whatever they absolve in the name of Jesus Christ is made clean.

**People:** Amen.

**Bishop Angela:** Father Robert Mitchell, receive these **vessels** and the power to celebrate the Eucharist for the living and the dead, in the name of the Lord our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Bishop Angela:** Father Robert Mitchell, you are a priest forever in the Order of Melchizedek – and in the ancient way of saying it from Psalm 110: Thou Art a Priest Forever after the order of Melchizedek.

**People:** Amen.

**Bishop Jarvis to Francis:** O God the source of all Holiness, of who is the true consecration and the fullness of spiritual benediction; we pray O Lord that you will + open the heart and mind of this servant to your heavenly grace, he who has been raised to the priesthood, that through him your power may abundantly flow for the service of your people. May he be earnest and zealous as a fellow-worker in our order and so prove himself worthy of the sacred charge committed to him. And, as by a spotless blessing he now shall change for your people the bread and wine into the most Holy Body and Blood of your Son, may he be ever watchful that he keeps the vessel of his ministry pure and undefiled. May every kind of righteousness spring forth within him and may his heart be so filled with compassion for the multitude that he may forget himself in the love of others. May the radiance of your love and your great glory shine brightly in his heart until, steadfast in your service, he rises into mature spiritual priesthood and the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, when his life shall be hidden alongside Christ in God.

**People:** Amen.

**Bishop Linda:** Take this stole as a symbol of the power of the priestly office, and as a channel of the overflowing stream of Christ’s love. *[The Deacons place right side first.]*

**People:** Amen

*[Bishop Linda touches Fr. Francis with a chasuble, saying:]*

**Bishop Linda:** Take the priestly vestment, that in it you may offer with our Lord Christ the most holy sacrifice of his sacred Body and Blood. *[Deacons assist Fr. Francis into the chasuble.*]

**People:** Amen.

*[Bishop Linda anoints Father Francis’s hands saying:]*

**Bishop Linda:** Be pleased, O Lord, to consecrate and hallow these hands by this anointing and our + blessing; that whatsoever they + bless may be blessed and whatsoever they consecrate may be consecrated and hallowed, in the name of our Lord Christ.

**People:** Amen.

*[Bishop Linda closes Father Francis’s hands together, palm to palm, binds them together with a white linen strip and then delivers a chalice containing (drop of) wine and water, with a paten and host upon it, saying:]*

**Bishop Linda:** Take authority to offer sacrifice to God and to celebrate the Holy Eucharist both for the living and the dead; in the name of the Lord.

**People:** Amen.

**Bishop Linda: Father Francis Vincent Jarvis Ardovino,** receive this Bible as a sign of the authority given you to preach the Word of God and to administer the holy Sacraments. Do not forget the trust committed to you as a priest of the Church of God.

*[Bishop Linda gives the Bible to Father Francis.]*

**People:** Amen. *[New priests turn to face the congregation.]*

**Bishop Jarvis:** I present to you Father Francis Vincent Jarvis Ardovino, servant of the people of God.

**Bishop DeBry:** I present to you Father Robert Mitchell, servant of the people of God.

**People:** Amen. *[Applause]*

**THE PEACE**

**Reverend Gene Townsel:** *[Stands]* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** And also with you.

*[All greet one another throughout the Chapel.] [Bishops and priests discretely wipe their hands before sharing the Peace]*

**THE EUCHARIST**

**M.C.:** The newly ordained clergy will serve as the principal celebrants for the Eucharist.

**Rev. Fludd: “**But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” The offering for today will serve Ecclesia Ministries of New York. Please refer to the last page of the bulletin for more information about supporting this vital ministry.

***[Music – You’ll Never Walk Alone –*** ***Harkness & Onyenucheya]***

*[****Ralph Lammie and Aiden Martini*** *will distribute the offering baskets among the congregation.]*

*[When the collection is complete, Jared, Jacqueline, and Jules Santi, and Ralph Lammie and Aiden Martini bring the people’s offerings of bread and wine and money or other gifts to the Deacons. The Deacons receive the offerings and hand them to Ardovino, Fludd, and Mitchell. The offerings are presented and then placed on the Altar.]*

**Father Mitch:** This mass is offered to the greater glory of God and with the special intention that all God’s people may come to know their true worth in the love of God for all God’s people and in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

**Father Francis:** Pray, brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Creator.

**People:** May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands, to the praise and glory of his Name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**Father Mitch:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Father Mitch:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

**Father Mitch:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**Father Mitch:** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty Creator of heaven and earth. Through the great shepherd of your flock, Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his resurrection sent forth his apostles to preach the Gospel and to teach all nations; and promised to be with them always, even to the end of the ages. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

**All:** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

**Father Mitch:** Most generous self-giving God, we celebrate your gift of creation, and we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. Your breath gives us life, you call us into new life. You did not reject us when we rejected you, but you delivered us from separate and death to a joyful life in communion with you and all your creatures.

**Father Francis:** Out of your desire to draw us into your infinite love, Jesus was born into the human family and remained with people who were outcast. He walks among us today. He touches us with your love. He gave himself freely to life, and triumphed over evil. He restores us to life by refusing to abandon us and by remaining faithful to You and us. Celebrating your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ, we offer you these gifts. Send you Holy Spirit and bless them, that they may be for us the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ.

On the night before he died Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread and when he had given thanks to You, he broke it, gave it to them and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body which is broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” After supper Jesus took the cup saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all. As often as you drink this, remember me.”

**All:** Remembering Christ’s life and death, proclaiming Christ’s resurrection, awaiting Christ’s coming in glory, we offer you ourselves in praise and thanksgiving.

**Father Clyde:** Pour your Spirit + on us, that we may know Christ in the breaking of bread, and that in work and deed we may be bearers of your love, peace, and justice in the world. At the end of this life, unite us with all your saints, past, preset, and yet to come, in life everlasting, that we may praise your Name forever. All praise to you eternal God, in Jesus Christ, who lives among us, and the Holy Spirit who binds us together in love.

**All:** Amen

**Reverend Fludd:** And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**All:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses and we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

**Father Clyde:** *[fractures the consecrated Bread.]*

**People:** Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore, let us keep the Feast. Alleluia.

**Father Clyde:** The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION**

**Father Clyde:** It is the ecumenical custom to practice open Communion. In the Eucharist we find the real presence of Jesus here among us. Please accept this as a sacred act of sharing in God’s unending love for all Creation. [The ministers receive the Sacrament, and then administer the same to the people beginning with the M.C.]

**M.C.:**  If you wish to share in a blessing only, please approach Bishop DeBry and/or Bishop Linda. If you wish a non-alcohol communion, please approach Rev. Fludd. If you wish a communion with both wine and host, please approach Father Francis. If you wish communion with wine and a gluten-free host, please approach Father Mitch.

***[Music – Taste and See playe****d b****y Harkness & Onyenucheya] Supply Circulator - Deacon Thomas Craemer***

***Rev. Fludd and Rev. Lammie with Rev. Deacon Medina: Father Mitch and Father Clyde with Rev. Deacon Thompson***

***Father Francis and Rev. Dr. Bennett with Rev. Deacon Turner: Ecumenical Blessings - Bishop Angela and Bishop Linda***

**Bishop Jarvis:** Let us pray.

**All:** Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for raising up among us faithful servants for the ministry of your Word and Sacraments. We pray that all your newly ordained here may be to us an effective example in work and action, in love and patience and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with them, may serve you now, and always rejoice in your glory, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord and Savior who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Bishop DeBry:** The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

**All:** Amen

**Rev. Gene Townsel:** Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia,

**All:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia. *[Reverend Okumura Thomas joyously rings bells.]*

***Music All Sing: [Recessional] Our God is an Awesome God****.* ***Rev. Deacons followed by Faculty, then Pastor, then Priests, Bishop, M.C., People***

# 

**The Celebration of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist - June 24, 2023**

***“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”***John the Baptist’s theology was formed by the Essene movement. The Essenes intimately connected the Holy Spirit with water. John the Baptist went even further, connecting the baptism of the Messiah not just with water and the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit and fire.

***“He must increase; I must decrease.”***John the Baptist’s birth is celebrated near the pinnacle of light in the northern hemisphere, the summer solstice. The liturgical calendar reveals something of the reality of John’s mission as a precursor to the Messiah, the Incarnate Son of God who is “the Light that shines in the darkness.” After the summer solstice each year, the amount of sunlight begins to decrease, just as John began to decrease in anticipation of the Messiah’s coming. It reaches its lowest ebb just before Christmas, when the Light of Lights descends from heaven and physical light itself begins to increase.

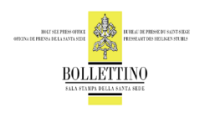
***“Behold, the Lamb of God!”***John the Baptist was among the first to recognize the divinity of Jesus. Not only did he leap within the womb of his mother Elizabeth as she greeted her cousin Mary, but years later he instructed his own disciples Andrew and John to follow Jesus, calling him “the Lamb of God”. Many clergy repeat this startling recognition of Jesus’ identity during worship services almost every week when they say the words, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.”

***The photo of John the Baptist is attributed to Laila from Pixabay and is copyright free.***

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The offering for June 24, 2023, is collected in the name of Ecclesia Ministries of New York. Ecclesia Ministries of New York is a pan-denominational religious corporation which forms worshiping congregations of predominantly homeless individuals. The congregations join in mutual praise and support on a regular basis in public space. The worship always includes the Eucharist with hymns, a sermon, and a second “earthly meal”, served from the altar following Communion. A pastoral presence is maintained in each space throughout the week led by volunteer lay-persons. In the context of worship, Ecclesia Ministries of New York guides the congregations to seek to better understand its love of God and each other while finding new sources of hope and spiritual sustenance.**

***.***

****

N. 160610c

Friday 10.06.2016

**Mary Magdalene, apostle of the apostles**

**Vatican City, 10 June 2016** – As expressly wished by the Holy Father, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has published a new decree, dated 3 June 2016, by which the celebration of St. Mary Magdalene, will be elevated in the general calendar to the level of a feast day.

"The decision is situated in the current ecclesial context, which calls upon us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of women, the new evangelization and the greatness of the mystery of divine mercy. It was St. John Paul II who dedicated great attention not only to the importance of women in the very mission of Christ and the Church, but also, and with special emphasis, to the peculiar function of St. Mary Magdalene as the first witness of the Risen Christ and the first messenger who announced to the apostles the resurrection of the Lord. It is certain that Mary Magdalene formed part of the group of Jesus' disciples, that she followed Him to the foot of the cross and in the garden in which she found the tomb, she was the first 'testis divinae misericordiae', as St. Gregory the Great affirmed. The Gospel of John says that Mary Magdalene wept, as she had not found the body of the Lord, and Jesus had mercy on her, allowing Himself to be recognized as the Master and transforming her tears into Paschal joy." "On the one hand, she has the honor of being the 'prima testis' to the resurrection of the Lord, the first to see the empty tomb and the first to hear the truth of His resurrection. Christ has a special consideration and mercy for this woman, who shows her love for Him, looking for Him in the garden with anguish and suffering, with 'lacrimas humilitatis'. Likewise, it is in the garden of resurrection that the Lord says to Mary Magdalene, 'Noli me tangere'. It is an invitation not only to Mary, but also to all the Church, to enter into an experience of faith that overcomes any materialistic appropriation or human understanding of the divine mystery. It has ecclesial importance! It is a good lesson for every disciple of Jesus: do not seek human securities and worldly honors, but faith in the Living and Risen Christ." “Precisely since she was an eyewitness to the Risen Christ, she was also the first to testify before the apostles. She fulfils the mandate the Risen Christ gives her: 'go to my brothers and say to them … Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her'. In this way she becomes, as is already known, an evangelist, or rather a messenger who announces the good news of the resurrection of the Lord; she announces to the apostles what they in turn will announce to all the world. She is the witness to the Risen Christ and announces the message of the resurrection of the Lord, like the other apostles. Therefore, it is right that the liturgical celebration of this woman should have the same level of festivity given to the apostles and that the special mission of this woman be highlighted, as an example and model to every woman in the Church".

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Celebration of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist**

**Ordination to the Orders of the Deaconate, the Pastorate, and the Sacred Priesthood**

**Participants**

Bishop Linda Sophia Jarvis: Presiding Bishop St. Grace Church – Grace Theological Seminary

Bishop Angela Sophia DeBry: Presiding Bishop of the Sophia Sanctuary. Con-celebrating under the jurisdiction of the Right Reverend Katia Sophia Romanoff; Presiding Bishop of the Ekklesia Epignostika Church

The Reverend Cynthia S. Jackson, M. Div.

Dr. Clinton Bennett: United States *ad tempus* for Patriarch Adrian Glover, Old Catholic Apostolic Church

Master of Ceremonies: Thomas E. Rudakas

The Reverend Odell Cooper, M.A.

Father Clyde Kuemmerle OCL, M.A., M.Div., Ph.D.

The Reverend Brenda Lammie, M.Div.

Professor Carmen Lopez-Castillo, M.S., P.E.

Dean Anthony Martini, Th.M.

Professor Sheryl Phillips, MPH., RD., CDN, CBC

The Reverend Dr. Asayo Okumura Thomas, D. Min.

The Reverend Eugene Townsel, B.S.

Professor Oded Tshesly, M.S.

The Reverend Annie Suggs, M.Div.

The Reverend Wendy Van Allen, M.S.

Seminarian Ralph Lammie Sr., Aiden Martini, Jacqueline Santi, Jared Santi

Musicians: Mr. Sean Harkness - Guitar Ms. Janet Onyenucheya – Vocalist

Videographer - Chris Fig Productions

****

****

**The ordinations of Francis Vincent Jarvis Ardovino, Gymetta Fludd, Thomas Craemer, AnaMarie Medina, LaTicia Chanel Thompson, and Michelle Turner** **are based upon the World Council of Churches Lima Text, and is celebrated according to the rites of St. Grace Church, the Oratory of Common Life, and the Old Catholic Apostolic Church, incorporating elements of the ordination both form and matter of the Roman Pontifical.**

**The ordination of Robert Mitchell is based upon the World Council of Churches Lima Text, and is celebrated according to the rite of the Ekklesia Epignostika Church, incorporating elements of the ordination both form and matter of the Roman Pontifical.**

**St. Grace Church, The Oratory of Common Life, The Ekklesia Epignostika Church, Ecclesia Ministries of New York, the Sophia Sanctuary, and The Old Catholic Apostolic Church-Worldwide, sends congratulations to Rev. Deacon Thomas Craemer, Rev. Deacon AnaMarie Medina, Rev. Deacon LaTicia Chanel Thompson, Rev. Deacon Michelle Turner, the Reverend Pastor Gymnetta Fludd, Father Francis Vincent Jarvis Ardovino, and Father Robert Mitchell on their ordinations as servants in the vineyard of God. Welcome brothers and sisters!**

***The Logo of Grace Theological Seminary and the Bishops heralds are Trademarked.***