

Insites

Newsletter of the Association of Consultants for Liturgical Space



Spring 2015

Letter from the President

Dear ACLS Members,

2015 began with quite a flurry of activity for ACLS members. First, of course, was our membership meeting held in January in conjunction with the national Cathedral Ministries Conference. There were many highlights to share. You will find reflections in this newsletter on our time together. Watch for a 'save the date' announcement for a gathering next year. The process is underway for establishing an ongoing partnership for ACLS with the South West Liturgical Conference. Details will be forthcoming in the June newsletter. A lot of our work over the past year has been spent working with the development of a new website. The bones of the new site are in place and we continue to refine its development. I would like to thank Bob Kropac for all the work he has done connecting our needs and ideas to the web designers. Please let us know if you have any comments or questions. We are considering a webinar tutorial on the new website.

Elections for new officers of ACLS will take place electronically in June. If you are interested in running for one of our three elected board positions, please contact a member of the nominating committee: Robert Habiger (roberth@dpsdesign.org) Marilyn Morgan (marilynmorgan@sbcglobal.net).

In this newsletter you will also find a preview of upcoming webinars. These continue to be enriching, thoughtful and well-presented topics that apply to the work we do. I am very thankful to all of the members who have agreed to share their expertise and wisdom with their colleagues. And I am especially thankful to Chad Abell and Marilyn Morgan for planning and coordinating the webinars.

Finally, you will notice that this year we have gone from a monthly to quarterly newsletter. It is our hope that we will be able to have more in depth topics covered with the expanded format and regular deadline schedule. We anticipate newsletters being sent to members in March, June, September and December with deadlines for articles the first of each month. In addition you will continue to receive announcements of items of interest to our membership on an ad hoc basis. It is our hope that this format will allow for timely reception of any needed information. You can send any notices or articles to me or to Pam Hardiman (pthardiman@earthlink.net).

As we continue our journey through lent 2015, may this be a fruitful and spiritually rewarding time for all of you.

Carol Frenning, ACLS President
cfrenning@aol.com

Inside

Feature:

Reflections from the Cathedral Ministries Conference

Artist in Residence:

Richard Bresnahan

Member Profile:

William E. Brocious AIA

Events

CATHOLIC RE-SEARCH RESOURCES ALLIANCE SYMPOSIUM & ANNUAL MEETING

What:

Bringing the Created Toward the Creator: Liturgical Art and Design After Vatican II

When:

June 1-2, 2015

Where:

Catholic Theological Union, Academic and Conference Center; 5416 S. Cornell Avenue; Chicago, Illinois

Reflections from the Cathedral Ministries Conference



Spring 2015

Highlights from Cathedral Ministries Conference, January 2015

The Cathedral Ministries Conference offered a wide variety of experiences for ACLS members. People from 78 Cathedrals, 38 states, Canada, Australia and New Zealand came together along with members of the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians and ACLS members. We met with both the larger conference group – for speakers, liturgies, banquet and receptions, and a portfolio night and on our own.

The three keynote speakers included Fr. Thomas J. Reese, S.J., Ph.D. who spoke on “Pope Francis and Church Reform”, Sr. Dianne Bergant, C.S.A., Ph.D. whose talk was titled “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news”, and Fr. Jan Michael Joncas who led us through “The Second Vatican Council and Liturgy: Learning from the Past and Hopes for the Future “



Fifteen ACLS members participated in the conference. Our business meeting included an update on our new website in addition to the usual reports. All were invited to display portfolios for the opening reception. On Tuesday Tim Ternes, director of the St. John's Bible led us through a Visio Divina based on images from the St. John's Bible. This was followed by dinner and an illustrated talk by Fr. William Woeger, F.S.C. on “The Renovation of Christ Cathedral, Orange CA”. Our day ended with Compline in the Basilica.

The next day ACLS members were taken to St. John's University in Collegeville MN. Here we toured Marcel Breuer's Abbey Church, were led into the vault to see the original pages of the St. John's Bible and toured his studio with Master Potter and Artist-in-Residence Richard Bresnahan. For many members this was the highlight of our time in Minnesota.

Having an ‘art’ track at the Cathedral Ministries conference was a new addition to conference topics. Three of our members participated in workshops for this new track. Johan van Parys presented on “Symbols that Surround Us” and was joined by Carol Frenning and Juanita Yoder in a panel for the workshop titled “Cathedral Décor: An Environment for Every Season”.



Reflections from the Cathedral Ministries Conference



Spring 2015

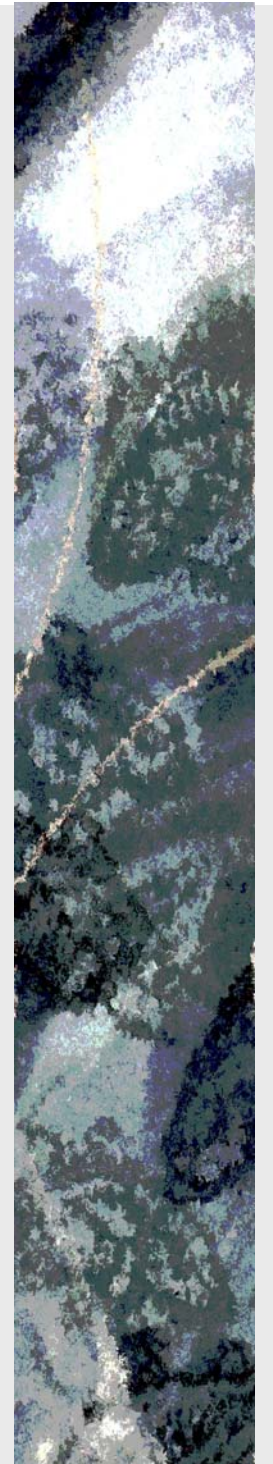
Highlights from Cathedral Ministries Conference, January 2015

Our experience of thought provoking speakers was punctuated with liturgies from daily prayer at Westminster Presbyterian chapel to cathedral liturgies at the Basilica of Saint Mary. While our time was packed with prayer and learning, it is the collegial company of ACLS members that stands out for those who attended the Cathedral Ministries Conference.

We arrived Monday to a basilica still dressed for the Christmas season, held over for one more day for us, although we wished we would have known so as to pay even closer attention to the details. It gave the impression of a forest, filled with live evergreens and white birches. The birches appear first, on the first Sunday of Advent; their lovely, spare branches holding the unseen the promise of new life. Christmas brings the evergreens, pointing to the heavens praising God. Simple, undecorated trees of all sizes filled the apse. Behind the altar, accessible from the opposite side, is the nativity scene, surrounded by the same evergreens. The evergreens stand in large Christmas tree stands, capable of holding multiple gallons of water. By the time we arrived back at the basilica the next afternoon, the trees had been cut down with a chain saw and removed. As it turns out, a chain saw is the easiest way to accomplish the task!

So what can we take home with us? 1) Use live trees and plants whenever possible (and go over your plans with the fire marshal first to find out what is allowed and how to be safe). 2) Choose sizes appropriate to your space. A big space calls for big trees, bigger than a tree in your house. 3) Use your space. Fill it with greenery. Use lots of trees. 4) Vary the sizes. Create interest through variation. 5) Vary textures. The contrast of the evergreens with the white birches was particularly effective. 6) Simplicity allows for imagination. By keeping the trees undecorated, we can imagine ourselves in a forest. Indoors and outdoors coexist. The tree itself is the symbol. Keeping it bare helps us see that more clearly.

Pam Hardiman



Artist in Residence: **Richard Bresnahan**/ Member Profile: **William E. Brocious, AIA**/ Webinar: **Marilyn Morgan, RSM**



Spring 2015

Artist in Residence: **Richard Bresnahan**

Richard Bresnahan is a master potter, trained in Japan in a 13th generation family pottery studio, who has imported the spirit of his training to his native Minnesota, where he makes a style of pottery that is both uniquely local but universal, using the time tested and efficient methods of mining local clay, cleaning and preparing it, and firing in a wood kiln, producing pieces with extraordinary coloration. He lives nearby, in a house he built himself, incorporating Japanese ideas, which is heated through a highly efficient wood fired furnace and radiant floor heating. The clay came from a nearby roadbed, where it was causing the roadbed to heave. The local authorities gave him permission to mine the clay in return for correcting the problem. He mixes the raw clay with water, forming a slurry, which is then strained, cleaned and mixed porcelain clay. The clay is wrapped and stored for 10 years, and then used on a Japanese style wheel. Glazes are made from natural, local materials, such as wild rice hulls, which are burned and mixed with water. About every 18 months, there are enough pieces to fill the enormous wood fired Johanna kiln, which takes 9 days to fire. Day and night, Bresnahan and his assistants drop wood into the kiln, into the same spaces where the pots are, the fire creating unpredictable patterns. Visitors are welcome at the pottery studio throughout the year. If you are ever at St John's or nearby, make the effort to visit this most hospitable artist.



Member Profile: **William E. Brocious AIA**

Liturgical Design Consultant & Architect; Member of ACLS for 15 years; Currently is At-Large Board Member of ACLS; Bachelor of Architecture, Kent State University; Institute for Liturgical Consultants at the Catholic Theological Union

How did you come to work for the church in your present line of work?

I had, as an architect, an interest in historic preservation that led to becoming involved in the renovation of a historic church in downtown Pittsburgh. The project created in me an interest in the liturgy and the design of worship spaces to accommodate the liturgy that resulted in my studies at The Institute for Liturgical Consultants at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Tell us about the best experience you've had with a church client.

The best experience I've had with a client was probably on one of the most difficult projects that I have had. The project involved the restoration and renovation of a cathedral that was a very contentious and difficult process. Through the pastoral guidance of the bishop and some rethinking of the design approach a consensus solution was achieved.

Why is ACLS important to you?

The solo nature of being a liturgical design consultant make the camaraderie and shared experience with other members of ACLS extremely important.

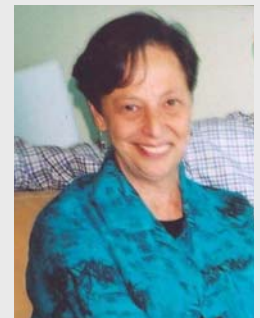


Webinar

RENOVATING A CHURCH: WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES WE FACE IN WORKING TOGETHER, OR NOT?

Who:

Marilyn Morgan, RSM



What:

This webinar will focus on one of Marilyn's projects and look at how people functioned in the project.

When:

March 17th at 2:00 pm EDT

UPCOMING WEBINARS:

April 14:
Paul Barribeau

May 12:
Chad Abell

Nov. 19:
John Bergstrom