

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

Serving 10 Counties, 28 Church Bodies, 2,000 Congregations and 1,000,000 Christian Members

The Call . . .



On the Web: www.casp.org

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5241, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Hicks Memorial Chapel - lower level

616 North Highland Avenue - Pittsburgh, PA 15206

to be one in Christ

October/November 2016, Number 5

A Unifying Voice in the Name of Jesus Christ for the Mission of the Gospel and the Wholeness of Communities

Christian Associates Welcomes the Bruderhof Communities

At the September meeting of the Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives, Christian Associates enthusiastically added its 28th member church body. With a unanimous vote, the Council welcomed the **Bruderhof Communities of Southwest Pennsylvania** to full membership in Christian Associates.

The Bruderhof has two communities, New Meadow Run and Spring Valley, in Farmington, Fayette County, as well as a house in Pittsburgh. The communities have a combined membership of approximately 500 people, and are led by Bishop Cristoval Wright.

The Bruderhof Communities, established in Germany in 1920, are inspired by the Anabaptist tradition of the Radical Reformation. Central to their faith is communal living where they experience "Christ's transforming love."

Through communal living and renunciation of private property, Bruderhof members are called "to a life of love where work, worship, mission, education, and family life are brought together into a single whole."



Rev. Liddy Barlow, Executive Minister of Christian Associates; Dr. Sheldon Sorge, President of the Council of Bishops & Judicatory Executives; Bishop Cristoval Wright, Kent Wright, and Marianne Wright of the Bruderhof Communities

Today, there are Bruderhof communities in the United States, England, Germany, Australia, and Paraguay. For more information about the Bruderhof's beliefs and practices, visit www.bruderhof.com.

In his remarks to the Christian Associates Council, Bishop Wright said, "I believe Jesus wants us to cooperate, to work together ... We don't want to be a closed society. We try to reach out as much as

we can. We long to be part of something bigger."

"By welcoming the Bruderhof communities to membership, we are even better able to reflect the diversity of Christians in Southwest Pennsylvania, and to make visible the unity of the church," said Christian Associates' Executive Minister Rev. Liddy Barlow. "We have so much to learn from one another. I can't wait to see where our friendship leads."

New Leaders Will Serve AME-Zion and Baptist Churches

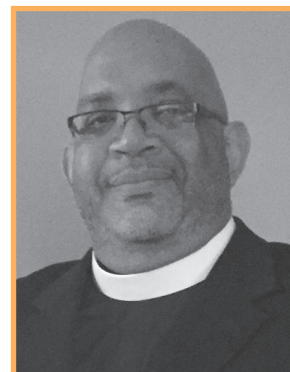


Bishop W. Darin Moore

We continue to welcome newly elected leaders to serve on our Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives. This month, we are pleased to introduce **Bishop W. Darin Moore** and the **Rev. Dr. Richard Wingfield**.

Bishop Moore was elected presiding bishop of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in late July. His district encompasses the diverse states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia, Ohio, and East Tennessee as well as the countries of Guyana, Barbados, and St. Vincent.

Bishop Moore's commitment to ecumenism has led him to national service: he represents the AME-Zion on the governing board of the National



Rev. Dr. Richard Wingfield

(continued on page three . . .)

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

In a classic “Peanuts” column, Snoopy sits on his doghouse, working on his typewriter. “I hear you’re writing a book on theology,” Charlie Brown says. “I hope you have a good title.”

“I have the perfect title,” Snoopy thinks, and then we see what he has been typing. His manuscript is called, “Has it ever occurred to you that you might be wrong?”

Snoopy’s question convicts us as we approach this uniquely fractious presidential election. At the conventions and on the debate stage, we have seen little of the kind of humility that dares to admit uncertainty. In our own conversations and social media, most of us have surrounded ourselves with others who think as we do, repeating shared opinions until they seem like ancient truths.

If I’m certain, and you’re certain in the opposite way, how can we even communicate, never mind love one another?

In matters of faith, as well, we are loath to admit that we might have it wrong. After all, theology asks ultimate questions: what life means, how we should live, how we can find hope. It’s comforting to feel as if we have found satisfying answers. When we feel as if we understand what God wants of us, we can breathe a sigh of relief: even when the world is hard, at least it makes sense. At least we have a solid place to stand. At least we’re right. It’s nice to feel certain.

But our certainty divides us. Christians sometimes feel absolutely certain about diametrically opposed points of view. It’s amazing how Jesus can be a Republican in one church, and a Democrat in the church across the street. There’s not a lot of room for discussion when we cling to certainty, since people on every side believe

they have discovered the will of God. If I’m certain, and you’re certain in the opposite way, how can we even communicate, never mind love one another?

Fortunately, not all theologies cultivate certainty. The apophatic tradition, for instance, which has been part of both Eastern and Western Christian theology since its earliest centuries, pays attention to what we do *not* know about God, rather than what we know for sure. Apophatic theologians acknowledge that as limited, created beings, we can never grasp the full truth of God. And so they embrace the mystery. They embrace mysticism. To use Snoopy’s phrase, they consider that they might be wrong. All they know for certain is that they can never know the whole answer.

What remains if we give up our certainty and open ourselves to mystery? We are left with one another. We are left with our fellow believers, with everyone who is struggling to understand the un-understandable, with everyone who is asking these ultimate, important questions. If we give up our certainty, we see one another not as sparring partners, but as neighbors. If we give up our certainty, we take off the armor that divides us from one another. We can dare to be tender and unsure together. We can dare to be friends. Ultimately, our solid place to stand is not composed of knowing all the answers, of having a perfectly systematic way of understanding the divine. In the end, what really matters is that we have one another, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

And so, as we prepare to vote on November 8, and as we work for Christian unity together, here is my prayer: May we be startled into silence together by a God who is greater than any of our shallow understandings. May our silence then turn into conversation, and our conversation turn into action for the common good. And then, in working together, may we come to understand that we are church together, all together, after all.

Your sister in Christ,



The Rev. Liddy Barlow
Executive Minister
Christian Associates of Southwest PA



Christian Associates relies on the commitment of Christians throughout our region to support our ministries through their prayers, participation, and financial giving. We welcome contributions from individuals, congregations, organizations, and foundations.

If you have not yet made your 2016 gift to Christian Associates, there’s still time! Send your check before November 15 to have your name included in our list of generous donors in the December edition of *The Call*. All gifts are fully tax-deductible.

Visit www.casp.org/donate to give online, or mail a check to PO Box 5241, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

... may we come to understand that we are church together; all together; after all.

New Christian Associates Website Informs and Engages Visitors

Visit www.casp.org and discover Christian Associates' updated web site. Our online home now boasts a brand new design that communicates the mission, history, and resources of Christian Associates in a much more accessible way, updating our online identity for a new era.

The home page now displays our current events and initiatives so that you will be able to stay up to date with regional Christian unity. Also included on the home page are links to "What We Do":

- **Collegiality:** Learn more about programs that aim to build relationships among Christian leaders.
- **Collaboration:** Read unanimous statements from the Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives.
- **Communication:** Download the most current issue of *The Call* as well as an archive of every issue dating back to 2008. Sign up to receive our e-newsletter, "Unity N'At," and visit our Facebook page.
- **Connectedness:** Learn about the relationships Christian Associates builds with other organizations working for the wholeness of communities.



Visit the "About Us" section of the Web site to learn about Christian Associates' structure, read a brief history of its mission in ecumenism, connect to media clippings about our recent projects, and find a directory of all our members.

The "Resources" section of the site includes links to the worship guides Christian Associates has developed with community partners, as well as a "Bookshelf" featuring titles from local Christian authors. In the coming months, we hope to add interactive maps that list local ministeriums, camps and conference centers, and other affiliated ministries of our member judicatories.

Additionally, the site features easy online donations via PayPal and details about membership in the John 17 Society on the "Donate" page.

We are glad to support Christian unity through our online presence. Visit us regularly!



New Leaders

(continued from page one . . .)

Council of Churches, where he serves as Vice-Chairman.

He has also been actively engaged in each community he has served, holding office as President of the Mt. Vernon (N.Y.) Board of Education and founding the Centennial Community Development Corporation, which provides home ownership opportunities to first time homebuyers.

Bishop Moore's office is in Largo, Maryland, in the suburbs of Washington, DC; he will appoint a proxy to represent the district on the Christian Associates Council of Bishops & Judicatory Executives.

Meanwhile, the Allegheny Union Baptist Association elected a new Moderator at their 64th annual session in July: Rev. Dr. Richard Wingfield, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Braddock. The AUBA

brings together over 100 Black Baptist churches in Southwest Pennsylvania.

After earlier pastorates in Texas and Donora, Rev. Wingfield has served as pastor of Unity Baptist since the church was established in 2003.

In addition to his duties as pastor and moderator, Rev. Wingfield is an active advocate for theological education. He serves on the Board of Directors and as a faculty member of the Center for Urban Biblical Ministry at Geneva College. Additionally, he is a member of the Board of Advisors for the Metro Urban Institute at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

"In the past two years, eleven of our member judicatories have welcomed new bishops or executives," said Rev. Liddy Barlow. "Our Council table can be a place where these new leaders can learn from one another, finding friends, mentors, inspiration, and support."



Mitzvah Day 2016 Seeks Volunteer Work Sites

The word "mitzvah" in Hebrew means "commandment," but it has also come to mean "good deed" – because doing acts of kindness and mercy are our responsibility as God's people.

Each year, while we celebrate Christmas, our Jewish neighbors celebrate "Mitzvah Day," a special day of volunteer service sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

Does your church or other organization need extra help on Friday, December 23 or Sunday, December 25? Could you use volunteers to prepare and serve meals, visit people who are lonely, paint or organize a space, or complete another project?

To learn more or register a volunteer site, visit <http://jfedvolunteer.org/mitzvah-day-2016-site-interest-form/> or contact Joyce Hinnebusch at 412-992-5214.

All sites must be registered by October 31.

CLEAR (Coalition for Leadership, Education, and Recovery)

412-281-8360
www.clearrecovery.org

An Evening With William Cope Moyers

Date & Time: Thurs., Oct. 20, 8 p.m.
Location: Carnegie Library Lecture Hall,
4400 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh 15213
Fee: \$25, \$100 for VIP reception

Moyers, author of best-selling memoir *Broken: My Story of Addiction and Redemption*, is committed to eliminating barriers that stand in the way of recovery from alcohol and drug addiction. He uses his own experiences to highlight the power of addiction and recovery. Tickets available at www.clearrecovery.org/moyers.



Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry

Parish Nurse Office: 412-232-5815
ParishNurse@mercy.pmhs.org
www.pmhs.org

24th Annual Mercy Parish Nurse & Health Ministry Symposium: Who Is My Neighbor? The Mission Field for Faith and Health

Date & Time: Sat., Oct. 22, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Location: Sister M. Ferdinand Clark Auditorium, UPMC Mercy, 1400 Locust Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Fee: \$40 (includes CEUs), \$30 (no CEUs), or \$20 (undergrads and seminarians), includes lunch and parking.

The symposium provides continuing education, resources, and networking opportunities to individuals who have or are interested in starting health ministries in their faith communities, as well as the general public. This year's symposium focuses on providing holistic care to marginalized individuals, particularly through the use of Mental Health First Aid.



Bethany College

1 South Loop Campus Drive
Bethany, WV 26032

Buffalo Seminary: Exploring the Christian Contemplative Tradition – Attitude Not Activity

Date: Mon., Oct. 24-Tues., Oct 25
Presenter: Rev. Dr. Bonnie Thurston
Fee: \$35, includes lunch on Tues.
Participants will explore the theology of Christian prayer and receive practical teaching on methods of contemplative

prayer. Room reservations available at the adjacent Gresham Inn. Register online at www.wvdisciples.net/bufsem-Thurston.html. For more information, contact Rev. David Chafin, dchafin@wvdisciples.org or 304-417-1248.



Trinity Cathedral

325 Sixth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-232-6404
www.trinitycathedralpgh.org

Becca Stevens and Thistle Farms

Date & Time: Sat., Oct. 29, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Fee: \$15, includes lunch

The Rev. Becca Stevens (Episcopal priest, author, and social entrepreneur) will share the story of Thistle Farms, a residential community for women healing from addiction, prostitution, and trafficking who together have built a million dollar business making bath and body care products. Tickets available online at www.episcopalpgh.org.



Christ Church at Grove Farm

249 Duff Rd.
Sewickley, PA 15143

Pittsburgh Youth Workers Conference

Date & Time: Fri., Oct. 28, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Fee: \$45 (includes lunch)

The third PYWC will feature nationally-known speakers, local youth pastors teaching breakout sessions, and a new urban youth ministry track. More details and registration available at www.pywc.org.



UPMC Presbyterian Hospital

200 Lothrop Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Pastoral Resilience: Avoiding the Burnout

Date & Time: Mon., Oct. 31, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Location: Scaife Conference Center, 11th flr

The fourth UPMC Chaplain and Friends Annual Pastoral Care Conference features a keynote by Dr. Martha Robbins. Register by October 24 by email to Chaplain Dianna S. Wentz at wentzds@upmc.edu.



St. John the Baptist Byzantine Cathedral Center

210 Greentree Rd., Munhall, PA 15120
412-461-0944
www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com

First Annual Eastern Catholic Bible Conference: A Holy Nation – The Church in God's Plan of Salvation
Date & Time: Fri., Nov. 4 (7-9 p.m.) and Sat., Nov. 5 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
Fee: \$30 (includes lunch)

Are Eastern Catholics Bible Christians? Bring your Bible and find out! Speakers include Fr. Hezekias Carnazzo, Fr. Alexander Wroblicky, Fr. Deacon Daniel Dozier, and Catherine Alexander. Register at www.eparchyofpassaic.com.



The Heritage Gospel Chorale

714 Rebecca Avenue #2
Wilkesburg, PA 15221
412-613-5825
www.thgcpgh.org

The Heritage Gospel Chorale of Pittsburgh performs a wide variety of high quality choral music to inspire a greater love and understanding of African-American sacred choral music and gospel music.

Concert/Service

Date & Time: Sat., Nov. 5, 5 p.m.
Location: Harrold Zion Lutheran Church, 671 Baltzer Meyer Pike, Greensburg, PA 15601
Fee: Free.

Fall Choral Concert

Date & Time: Sat., Nov. 19, 4 p.m.
Special Guest: Essence2 of Penn State University
Location: Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ, 6300 East Liberty Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Fee: \$5



Kearns Spirituality Center

Sisters of Divine Providence
9000 Babcock Blvd
Allison Park, PA 15101
412-931-5241
www.cdpsisters.org

Peace Forum Series

Dates: Sundays, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 4
Time: 3-5 p.m.

Program features speakers on current issues relating to peace and justice. Topics include climate change, the media, the U.S. political system, the Middle East, and gun control, from the perspective of creating a more peaceful world. Make your commitment to further the agenda of peace by joining us. For more information, contact maryhsheehan@gmail.com or 412-367-0383.

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer

510 W. Main St., Box 878
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-438-7149

Scripture Retreat: Wrapped in Silence

Dates & Time: Fri., Oct 28, 4 p.m.-Sat.,
Oct. 29, 4 p.m.
Presenter: Sr. Carol Petrasovich, OSBM
Offering: \$70

Experience God's loving presence through
prayer and scripture. Register by Oct. 24.

Morning Retreat: Unemployment and Stress

Date & Time: Sat., Nov. 5, 9:30 a.m.-noon
Presenter: Ed Horvat; Offering: \$20

Learn new strategies for dealing with this
life-changing event. Register by Nov. 1.

Busy Women's Mini-Retreat

Date & Time: Thurs., Nov. 10, 7-9 p.m.
Presenter: Sr. Carol Petrasovich, OSBM
Offering: \$20 (includes a pampering
surprise for all who attend!)



St. Joseph Spirituality Center

1020 State Street, Baden, PA 15005
Registrations: 724-869-6587
www.stjoseph-baden.org

Singing Alleluia with a Broken Heart: Trauma and Grace

Date & Time: Sat., Nov. 12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Presenter: Elisabeth Vasko, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor of Theology, Duquesne
University
Fee: \$25 (includes lunch and refreshments)

In this day of prayer, Dr. Vasko focuses
her presentations on the intersection of
Christian theologies and violence. To
register, contact Kathleen Lotzmann, 105
Wingate Dr., Pgh. Pa. 15205, or [kalgolf4@
hotmail.com](mailto:kalgolf4@hotmail.com).

Grieving the Loss of a Beloved Pet

Date: Mondays, Nov. 14 and Dec. 5
Time: 1:30 - 3:00 pm
Presenter: Sister Mary Ann Thimons, CSJ

Are you experiencing the loss of a beloved
pet? In collaboration with Pets with Heart,
a faith-based program of pet visitation and
services offered by Sisters of St. Joseph,
Sister Mary Ann Thimons will facilitate
an afternoon of input, sharing and mutual
support to help pet lovers cope with loss To
register, call Sister Mary Ann at 412-600-
3247 by November 7. Program is free.

Journey from Grief to Healing During the Holidays

Date: Thursdays, December 1 and 15
Time: 1:30 - 3:00 pm
Presenter: Sister Mary Ann Thimons, CSJ

Sessions consist of input, sharing, and
mutual support – helping to cope with loss
during the holidays. There is no fee for this
program. To register, call Sister Mary Ann
at 412-600 -3247 by November 21.



St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center

148 Monastery Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15203
412-381-7676
stpaulsretreatcenter-pittsburgh.org

When Dreams Become Real

Date & Time: Weds., Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-
3 p.m.
Presenter: Fr. Scott Seethaler, OFM, Cap.
Fee: \$30, includes lunch

Throughout the Advent season, the Church
shares with us the dreams of the Prophet
Isaiah. The day of reflection will encourage
the participants to incorporate these dreams

into their own lives as they prepare for the
feast of Christmas which makes dreams
come true.



Shadyside Presbyterian Church

5121 Westminster Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
412-682-4300

Music in a Great Space Concert Series: Duquesne University Choirs

Date & Time: Fri., Nov. 4, 7:30 pm
Fee: \$15 adults, \$10 seniors, free for
students

The Duquesne University Singers, Voices
of Spirit, and Pappert Chorales present
"Radiant Is the World Soul," a musical
celebration of the human spirit, triumphant
in the face of adversity. Under the direction
of conductor Ryan Keeling, Duquesne's
choral ensembles will sing music by
Mendelssohn, Ešenvalds, Betinis, Szymko,
and Glick.



Healing through God's Grace

a retreat for women who have
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601 Flaugherty Run Rd
Findlay Township, PA 15108
412-264-8400
www.gilmarycenter.org



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— Lori Bass-Riley, Cross Roads Presbyterian Church



SafeChurch training begins in January 2017. To sign up, call **412.741.7430**.

To learn more, visit samaritancounseling.net Click the Programs tab, select SafeChurch.



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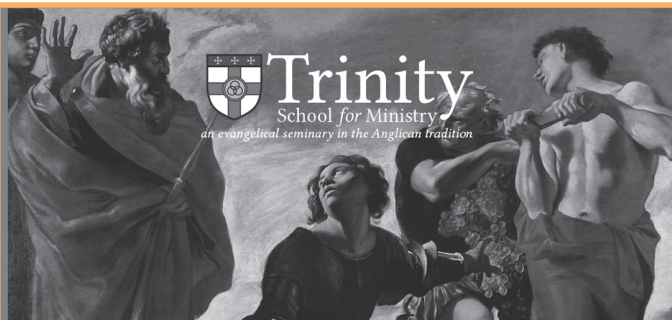
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Rt. 30 E. Greensburg, PA ~ 724-834-7350

www.BishopConnareCenter.org



Discovering the Old Testament

Dr. Erika Moore | January 19-20 | Cost: \$120



Dr. Erika Moore

Discovering the Old Testament, part of the *Foundations of Christian Ministry* series, is designed to delve into a history of salvation and life with God as expressed in the Old Testament and intended to help us in a lifetime of listening to God speak through his written Word and apply that Word to our lives.

Visit www.tsm.edu/intensives

For more information contact Dawn Bates,
Manager of Interterms, dbates@tsm.edu or 800-874-8754.



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JANUARY INTENSIVES 2017

The Book of Job

Dr. Don Collett | OT 638/938 | January 9-13

Discerning a Call to Ministry

The Rev. Mary Hays | Non-Credit | January 16-20

The Evangelistic Legacy of C.S. Lewis

Dr. John Bowen | PT 675/975 | January 9-13

Non-credit option: \$180

Full Course Listings at www.tsm.edu/intensives

*For more information contact Dawn Bates,
Manager of Interterms, dbates@tsm.edu or 800-874-8754.*



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UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

*Extending Hospitality:
Conversations and Community Series
* All evening sessions*

Hospitality at the Table

Oct. 19, 2016

Jenn Frayer-Griggs

Hospitality and Judaism

Nov. 16, 2016

Paul Tuchman

Hospitality and Islam

Dec. 7, 2016

'AbduSemi'hTadese

**The End of Adam and Eve: Theology and
the Science of Human Origins**

An Online Class

Oct. 24- Nov. 18, 2016

Ron Cole-Turner

**Planning and Organizing a Successful
Vacation Bible School**

Free Webinar

Jan. 19, 2017

Lisa Brown



Office of
Continuing Education
616 N. Highland Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-924-1345
ConEd@pts.edu
www.pts.edu/CE



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Evening of HOPE Will Support Ministry to Inmates and Ex-Offenders



Join honorary chair **Dan Bull** for a dinner celebration to support the **Foundation of HOPE**, one of Southwest Pennsylvania ecumenism's greatest success stories. This organization,

providing chaplaincy ministries, pre-release services, and aftercare support to inmates and ex-offenders, was nurtured by Christian Associates, and now flourishes as an independent non-profit organization.

This year's "**Evening of HOPE**" will take place on **Thursday, October 27 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.** in the **John Knox Room** at **Pittsburgh Theological Seminary**. The event will include a buffet dinner and remarks from Bull, founder of Zero Six Eight, a business incubator that promotes the innovative potential of ex-offenders. The Foundation of HOPE will also honor long-time volunteer Mary Harwick with the first Mary Harwick Volunteer of HOPE Award.

Tickets are available at www.foundationofhope.org for \$75 each or ten for \$700.

Go "Beyond the Filioque" at the Holy Spirit Lecture

Quarrels about the nature of the Trinity have caused some of the longest-lasting divisions in the church. Engage this conversation at the annual **Holy Spirit Lecture and Colloquium** at **Duquesne University** on **Friday, November 11**.

This year's lecturer is **Dr. Sarah Coakley**, the Norris-Hulse Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge. Dr. Coakley's lecture is entitled, "*Beyond the Filioque Disputes? Reassessing the Radical Equality of the Spirit through the Ascetic and Mystical Tradition.*" Through this lecture, Dr. Coakley will explore the history of the Latin Church's treatment of the Holy Spirit, arguing for a radical equality of the Spirit with the Father and the Son by discussing the monastic and ascetic traditions of the medieval and early modern periods in the West.

The lecture will take place at 7:00 p.m. at the Power Center Ballroom on the campus of Duquesne University. For more information, call 412-396-6526 or email holyspirit@duq.edu.