



# Ascension Alliance

## COMMUNITY OF ASCENSIONISTS

### Newsletter

Volume 4, Number 4 • Fall, 2013

## Focus on Community: Spiritus Christi

By Bishop Michael Adams, Pastor

Spiritus Christi Independent Catholic Church, Fairfield, IA, is a diverse community of spirit filled people who recognize that what unites us in God is greater than anything that can separate us. Our motto is "At God's table, all are welcome—all are fed." This is more than a slogan for it describes a relationship with God that is unique to each of us. God speaks in and through our lives in unique and individual ways. Not only are all fed at God's table, God give to each the Bread of Life uniquely suited to each.

We are loved unconditionally for who we are, not what we think. As a community we value and explore the transcendent aspects of God through prayer, meditation, music and liturgy while supporting one another in and through the challenges we encounter in life. We support our local community needs and reach out to support the needs of others in some of the poorest circumstances on Earth. We are inspired as a community by the words of Jeshua in Matthew 6:33—"Seek first the kingdom of heaven and all these things shall be given to you." By consciously seeking that kingdom we seek to embrace and enfold all of God's creation in ever expanding waves of light and love. We are more than our brother's keeper: we are are one.

We meet for Mass each Sunday morning in our church on the town square of Fairfield, and once each month we have a healing service. We are also blessed to have Joan Adams as our Music Director and organist/pianist, as music is to the soul what bread is to our lives! We are served by Mother Shane Orne, Father Ed Parkinson, and Bishop Michael Adams.

## Ascension Gets Chaplaincy Recognition

Serving as a chaplain can be one of the most challenging but rewarding callings one can undertake. At least three Ascensionist clergy serve as professional chaplains, Rev. Mother Cathy Chalmers, Father Thomas Hughes, and Bishop Thomas David Siebert.

Mother Cathy is employed full-time at Mercy Medical Center in Redding, CA (part of Dignity Health, a large healthcare system run by the Sisters of Mercy).

Recently, Mother Cathy began to pursue board certification with one of two major groups that represent chaplains in the United States—APC, The Association of Professional Chaplains. She needed an official "endorsement" from a recognized faith group so she asked us to submit the extensive documentation required by APC.

Effective August 28, 2013, APC and its credentialing affiliate, BCCI, granted Mother Cathy's request that the Ascension organization be recognized as an official endorsing faith group, helping clear the way for other Ascensionists who may wish to pursue board certification.

## Mailing List Corrections

You have received this newsletter because we thought you might like to receive news from us. If you do not wish to be on our mailing list please send an e-mail with your name to:

ceo@ascensionalliance.org

In the subject line simply say, "Remove from mailing list."

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# Convocation 2014

## Sparrow Hawk Village, OK

Convocation 2014 will take place in the beautiful retreat setting of Sparrow Hawk Village, Oklahoma—Friday evening, August 22nd, through Monday morning, August 25th. Situated about 90 minutes from the nearest major airport in Tulsa, OK, Sparrow Hawk Village was established in 1981 by Bishop Carol Parrish-Harra as an intentional spiritual community.

Village residents purchased their own land and built their own homes, but did so with the idea of community in their hearts and with visiting sojourners on their minds. So, when Ascensionists gather at Sparrow Hawk Village they will have the opportunity to stay in specially designed, and intended, guest quarters in village homes.

In addition to a rich retreat-oriented program, Ascensionists will be able to explore some of the rich natural wonders afforded at the 440 acre site: over a mile of riverfront, a waterfall, labarynth, peacocks (and peahens), as well as miles of Ozark hiking trails.

## About the Ascension Alliance

### One small branch of the Mystical Body

- A “Free Catholic” and “Emerging” Church. We are born of a free Catholic vision, in the tradition of the Independent Catholic movement, inspired by the intuitions of the Emerging Church, and following in the example of Jewish Renewal. We require rigorous preparation for ordained ministry but encourage maximum self-determination and a creative response to the needs of today’s world. Our bishops and priests trace their apostolic succession as far back as that of even the most ancient of Catholic and Orthodox communions.

- We are about fellowship, the spiritual path, and love. Honoring the legacy of Archbishop Herman Adrian Spruit, we strive to be a fellowship of spiritual pilgrims. Without imposing dogma, we give ourselves and others the freedom and encouragement we need to live the truth and become ever more renewed and transformed. For us, Christ’s ministry is the law of love and truth. Saint Augustine may have said it best, “Love and do as you will.”

## Ascension Alliance

### COMMUNITY OF ASCENSIONISTS

AN ECUMENICAL PART OF THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST  
ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC, AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH

PO BOX 167, VAUGHN, WA 98394

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# About Greater Tahlequah & Sparrow Hawk Village

Provided by Rev. Msgr. Jesse Garnee

- (Tahlequah) Home of the Cherokee Nation (includes Heritage Center, museums, restaurant, gift shop, art galleries and Casinos and all Cherokee government buildings) Labor Day weekend is the Cherokee holiday when people from all over the country.
- (Tahlequah) Northeastern State University (a beautiful old campus and originally a female seminary campus)
- Tahlequah local restaurants and shops (the old and the new) (good catfish and BBQ in town) (fine dining too)
- If there are those who are afraid of the country, we have a Walmart!
- The Illinois River runs thru Sparrow Hawk Village and is within walking distance of the Community Center where most of our activities will be held. Scenic Route 10 runs along the Illinois River and has camp grounds and canoe and tube rentals. Wear a life jacket...parts of the river are swift.
- Father Jesse's partner, Isaac Porter, and he live several miles down stream on the Illinois River on 38 acres, and have 22 goats and sheep and 30 chickens...everyone is welcome to come and hold a baby goat, etc. They live in a little 400 sq ft cabin.
- This part of Oklahoma is called Green Country. We are in the foothills of the Ozark mountains. We are about 35 miles from the Arkansas border...Fayetteville, Arkansas is approx. 1 hour away. Walmart main headquarters are not much further away in Bentonville, AK.
- We have the Strawberry festival in Stillwell, OK and the Peach festival in Porter, OK.
- Isaac and Father Jesse opened a bookstore and gift shop right on the town square in Tahlequah called, Chapel Books and Fine Collectibles...mostly Metaphysical and Esoteric books and religious art, glass, lamps and antiques. It has a lovely garden.
- The Sparrow Hawk Community Center is next door to the Community garden and should be in full swing during Convocation.
- Bishop Carol and Father Jesse have a lovely small Chapel, Chapel of Christ Sophia, located on top of Sparrow Hawk Mountain. It will comfortably seat 25 people and two-four at the altar (if we don't breathe). It's a three story building with Chapel, Healing room, kitchen, garden room, entrance room, media room upstairs and classroom downstairs. We will have a tour or something there (hopefully) depending on how many guests attend the Convocation.
- Bishop Carol has a beautiful art collection in her home from her travels.
- One of our members has a beautiful home on top of the mountain with a large pool overlooking the valley. Perhaps we can have a late night swimming gathering at her home.
- The village has lots of wildlife, deer, wild turkeys, racoons, skunks, possums, armadillo (they have migrated north), snakes (watch where you walk, we have several variety of poisonous snakes), ticks, rabbits, lizards, birds, (caged peacocks), bob cats, mountain lions, fish, etc. (oh...and mosquitoes, but they are not quite as large as the wild turkeys)
- The original villagers planted 10,000 pine trees which are now mature and beautiful, mixed with the oaks, red buds, dogwoods, etc. The spring time is the most magnificent display of dogwood trees touching redbud trees all blooming side by side before the other trees begin budding out.

# Sparrow Hawk Village

*community as a state of consciousness*

## Sojourners Information Guide

**Sparrow Hawk Village**, established in 1981 by Rev. Carol E. Parrish-Harra, her husband Charles, and several students and colleagues, consists of about 50 homes dotting the hilltop and valley among office buildings, classrooms, a metaphysical library, a wellness center, a bookstore, a gift shop, and (Ascensionist) Chapel of Christ Sophia.



**The Community Delights in Sharing its Gifts.** This intentional spiritual community is nestled among 440 acres of gently rolling Ozark forest filled with abundant wildlife and natural, serene beauty. A central water system supplied from deep wells, clean air, organic community gardens, orchards, horse pastures, hiking trails, springs, a waterfall, and over a mile of river frontage, bordered by 700 acres of primitive state forest, significantly add to the villagers' quality of life.

**Sparrow Hawk Village** welcomes members of all faiths. While many villagers are esoteric Christian, the community is blessed with members of various Western and Eastern practices, which creates a rich and diverse spiritual milieu. The residents are involved in the healing arts, music, counseling, dowsing, aura photography, teaching, meditating, spiritual dance, and esoteric studies. This is a place of growth. Villagers claim the energy vortexes here accelerate personal and interpersonal evolution.

**Many residents are creatively self-employed**, while others have jobs in the nearby town where there are ever-increasing employment opportunities. Some work as nurses, teachers, healers and artisans. Village life is enriched by a constant stream of international guests and students who participate in classes and workshops offered by Bishop Carol.



*The Village has become famous for its many Peacocks*

**The village campus includes the (Ascensionist) Chapel of Christ Sophia, and (temporarily closed) esoteric library, bookstore, gift shop, wellness center and offices.** Sunday mass and other spiritually oriented gatherings are celebrated at the (Ascensionist) Chapel of Christ Sophia. Villagers participate in a weekly community meditation for peace.

**The village invites visitors to sojourn, study, and spend time in Sparrow Hawk Village.** Guest rooms and a campground are available at a nominal fee. The community center serves as a hub for activities and programs for all ages created to enhance the values of unity, love, peace, and community building. **The Sparrow Hawk Village Home Owners Association functions as the village's government.**

**Affirmation of Diversity.** *There is strength in all of us, or we would not have been chosen. There is weakness in all of us which evokes our brother's strength. There is Love in all of us, which needs expression. There is Light in all of us, and with this light we serve. I blend my Light with yours, and thus increase our service. I blend my Love with yours, and thus evolve the Plan. We blend ourselves together, and thus we stand. Amen.*



# Ascension Alliance

## COMMUNITY OF ASCENSIONISTS

### About Retreat at Sparrow Hawk Village

Sparrow Hawk Village is a planned, intentional, spiritual community, founded in 1981 by Bishop Carol Parrish-Harra. It is nestled amidst 440 acres of gently rolling Ozark forest that abuts another 700 acres of primitive state land. It is about an hour and a half's drive from the nearest major airport in Tulsa, OK. The village has a central water system supplied from deep wells, clean air, organic community gardens, orchards, horse pastures, hiking trails, springs, a waterfall, and over a mile of river frontage.

The village can accommodate up to 100 visitors for a retreat experience. Most accommodations in the village are in specially designed visitors' quarters in private residences. Village hospitality is said to be memorable.

Morning mass, meals, and gatherings will be held at the village's large community center. Meals will be carefully prepared by the resident chef—an experienced and talented gastronomical wonder-worker (the cost of meals is included with the registration fee).

## Convocation 2014

### Sparrow Hawk Village, OK



**August 22nd through the 25th**  
**“One Tree ... Many Branches”**

### ACCOMMODATIONS AND FEES

Single Occupancy Room (plus meals and program): \$255

Double Occupancy Room (plus meals and program): \$225

Commuter (meals and program only): \$125

To reserve your spot, please submit your registration form and deposit of \$75 per person. You will receive a confirmation within 30 days of receipt of deposit. Balances will be due 30 days prior to convocation. Final confirmation letters will go out approximately two weeks before the event.

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### REGISTRATION FORM (Deposit Required: \$75 per person)

**Mail to: Ascension Alliance, PO Box 167, Vaughn, WA 98394**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Clergy, order: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Seminarian ☐ Member ☐ Spouse/Partner/Friend

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Clergy, order: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Seminarian ☐ Friend ☐ Spouse/Partner/Friend

- ☐ **Single occupancy room** - \$255 per person (room/meals/program)
- ☐ **Double occupancy room** - \$225 per person (room/meals/program) - Please indicate any preference you may have for room mates (but be sure to check with them first): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Commuter** - \$125 per person (meals/program only) (commuters and those booking motel accommodations)

**Opening Ceremonies Commence Friday, 7PM; Program Concludes Monday, Noon**

