

# THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS

Audio Conferences  
November 3 and 10, 2011

## *“Chaplaincy as a Ministry of the Church”* *Zeni Fox, Ph.D.*

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### SESSION ONE: November 3, 2011

#### **I. The Ministry of Jesus**

- A. The proclamation of the reign of God:
  - 1. that all people come to live in peace and justice, love and freedom, wholeness and fullness of life and that creation be brought to final completion
  - 2. proclaimed in word and deed
  - 3. proclaimed by teaching, healing, welcoming the least, showing compassion, sacrificing self
  
- B. An invitation to others to share in his mission and ministry -- some vignettes:
  - 1. Peter
  - 2. the Samaritan woman
  - 3. the Twelve
  - 4. the 72

#### **II. The Early Church**

- A. Deacons
  - 1. Acts 6
  - 2. I Timothy 38-13
  
- B. Prophets
  - 1. Fragmentary references
  - 2. Most ancient sources
  - 3. A succession of prophets?

#### **III. Two Principles**

- A. Order
- B. Charism

#### **IV. Characteristics**

##### **A. Of Charismatic Moments**

1. arising from an experience of grace
2. creative
3. “developing tradition”
4. always seeking communion with the larger church

##### **B. Of Times of Ordering**

1. custodial
2. safekeeping
3. authority stressed
4. also graced

#### **QUESTIONS**

In your ministry as a chaplain today, which story of early ministry most echoes your own experience?

Is the ministry of chaplaincy today in a time that is primarily charismatic or primarily ordered?

## SESSION TWO: November 10, 2011

### **I. An Ordering of Ministries**

- A. An explosion of ministries
  - 1. From Scarcity?
  - 2. From the vision of Vatican II?
  - 3. From the work of the Spirit?
  
- B. Early developments in ordering
  - 1. USCC Commission on Certification and Accreditation 1984, National Association of Catholic Chaplains, program standards and certification standards
  - 2. Early theological exploration
  - 3. Other official developments – USCCB, dioceses
  
- C. Ongoing developments
  - 1. NACC, reaccreditation, 1999
  - 2. Other official developments
  - 3. Ongoing theological exploration

### **II. The Process of Theological Reflection**

- A. Arising from experience
- B. Seen in the light of our tradition
- C. Explored relative to cultural realities

### **III. The Collegeville Symposiums**

### **IV. Consensus Statements**

- A. Lay ecclesial ministry is the work of the Spirit
- B. Baptism is the foundational sacramental source that empowers the lay ecclesial minister to carry out the mission of Christ.
- C. Lay ecclesial ministry is a genuine vocation to ministry discerned within the ecclesial community.
- D. Lay ecclesial ministers enter into a distinctive set of relationships within the life of the Church.
- E. Lay ecclesial ministers serve in the name of the Church.
- F. The bishop or his delegate authorizes the lay ecclesial minister for ministry in the name of the Church.
- G. Public rituals provide an opportunity for the ecclesial community to receive, affirm and celebrate the ministry of the lay ecclesial minister.
- H. The presence of lay ecclesial ministry calls the Church to provide systems of support and to adjust parish, diocesan and national structures and policies to more fully integrate this new reality into the ministerial life of the Church in the United States.

## QUESTIONS

Do the consensus statements clarify the theological meaning of your ministry as a chaplain?

Do the consensus statements augment your understanding of the relationship of your ministry to the Church?