

# Sanctuary Water Project Progress: A Report

Since March 2011, the water project at the Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary has made significant progress.

The importance of this five-year project cannot be overlooked. Once it is completed, development of our Sanctuary can begin in earnest and with much greater potential—putting 17 million gallons of water annually to beneficial use. Our Community has invested close to \$200,000 in this project thus far and nearly 10,000 volunteer man-hours.

## Phase 1



The existing well head. PHOTO: Ted Staver

Phase 1 of the water project entailed building a structure around the existing well head at the Argonaut site.



Main structure of Argonaut pump house under construction.  
PHOTO: Ted Staver



Argonaut pump house being finished with stucco.  
PHOTO: Ted Staver

With that completed, Church work crews were able to install the necessary electrical switches and conduit along with a high-voltage transformer for power distribution throughout the sanctuary. The Argonaut pump site was finalized with the installation of all remaining conduit, electrical wiring, service boxes, and signal wire for the control sensors. A high-voltage transformer for power distribution to a lift pump station and power distribution for future expansion was also installed.



View of some of the inside electrical fittings in the Argonaut pump house. PHOTO: Ted Staver

The photos below show the trench leading to the first “pull box.” This is where wire connections are made for electrical distribution. Power cables from the Argonaut pump site to the Chapter House (a distance of almost one mile) were laid.



Pump house and trench to first pull box. PHOTO: Ted Staver

The pull boxes are rather large, and there is a total of 17 of these boxes stretching up to the Chapter House.



Last pull box. PHOTO: Ted Staver

The concrete pad for the lift station was poured and the housing unit put into place. Finally, the final 300 feet of trench were excavated and water pipes installed, completing the connection from the lower portion of the Sanctuary to the upper part. Two small transformers were installed in separate locations for use with smaller irrigation pumps for future expansion.

## **Phase 2**

The second phase of the project involved the connection of the high-voltage power lines from the main pump house up to the lift pump station, and the planning and placement of the water lines from the tank site to the lift pump site. This work was performed primarily by the Reverends Ted Staver and Herman Aggenbach.

Once that was completed, a concrete pad for the lift pump housing was poured and the housing placed on it. From that point on, it was simply a matter of configuring the placement of all the electronic controls for controlling the lift pump and monitoring water levels in the tanks. The photos show that the crew managed to load a lot of things into the small housing.

The final step in this phase of the project was to acquire and install a second transformer for the lift pump station and a variable motor speed controller. A booster pump capable of producing 40 gallons per minute was also needed, as well as a

4,000-gallon water tank. (The holding capacity for the tank was raised from 2,500 gallons, as reported last year, to 4,000.) The cost of these items was between \$12,000 and \$15,000. Work continued once funds were raised.

Phase 2 was nearly complete at the time this article was posted. It is just a matter of weeks before the final connection of wire is made and the components are tested. The next step will be to acquire the water tank that will supply water for the lift pump and to make the final water pipe connections. The crew expects to be pumping water to the upper level of the Sanctuary by the end of August 2012.

This project has taken several years to reach this point. It represents not only the attainment of water rights for the church but also future growth for new residences because of the availability of water and power. In planning the system, the crew included means to connect wind and solar to the pumping system so as to make it an off-grid system in the hope that the Sanctuary can be totally self-reliant in the future.

It is hoped also that we will be fully utilizing the new water distribution system by mid-summer, putting to use our water resources and saving precious dollars as a result of energy savings. It also means that the indoor and outdoor vegetable gardens, which were expanded last year, can be more fully utilized.

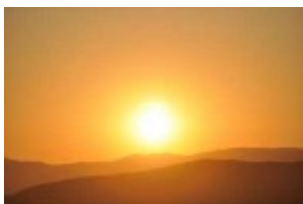
Remodeling of another portion of the Chapter House has begun so that a fourth staff-minister can reside at the Chapter House and assist with additional landscaping and greenhouse gardening.



Completed pump house on Argonaut Way. PHOTO: Ted Staver

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## Consociates Register for the 2012 Convocation



It is time once again to extend to all our members a special invitation to join in Community for our annual Convocation. We will meet this year in September, from Monday the 24th, through Sunday the 30th.

Each year we gather in the sunny high desert of the Sierra Nevada for the purpose of assembly, which is essential if we are to maintain and heighten the *metanoia* of The Community and benefit, each and as a whole, from the special blessings and the grace that are bestowed upon us at our consecrated open-air Sanctuary and other sacred places dedicated to God.

This year, 2012, is the much-anticipated Jubilee Year of our

Church. Fifty years have passed since the Birth of the Sun of Righteousness in 1962, and we are now entering a new cycle of Christ-Consciousness and spiritual awakening, which will be ever more evident as we approach the fifty-two-year cycle in 2014.

We ask that registration forms be returned by July 23 with a contribution deposit. A lodging information sheet for details about hotel accommodations and reservation deadlines is available for nonresidents.

The format for this year's Convocation will be along the same lines as last year's (please see the attached mini-agenda). We are once again including in the agenda a two-day "Conference on the Spiritual State of the World," which will be open to the public. Presenters from various disciplines will speak. The presence of practicing Cosolargists is important to the success of this event. Full details of the conference program will be sent in the near future. Consociates are invited to sit in during the Presenters' Round Table Panel Discussion on Sunday September 30, and to meet the presenters at a private reception in their honor later that same day. Those who are interested in participating in these two private events should indicate such on the registration form. A small additional contribution is requested for those who wish to attend. Space is limited, so don't delay.

In addition to the two-day public Conference (which includes the "Spirit of Exploration" dinner with the Andean Explorers Foundation), we will hold the Clergy Counsels lectures for ministers and ministers-in-training, Communion of Fellowship, and a specially planned service at sunrise at the open-air Cathedral Church of the Americas.

We are also scheduling the Residence Training Seminar on *The ORAL GOSPEL AS A LIFE SYSTEM*, which will begin Monday

September 24, for eligible Consociates.

On behalf of the Head Overseer and all of us at the Center, we are eager for all members of our Community to be together again and to share the messages that are so important for us at this auspicious time in our evolution as a Community.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Francine Petrovich at the Chancellery at (775) 786-7827. You may also e-mail her at [fpetrovich@communityofchrist.org](mailto:fpetrovich@communityofchrist.org).

See a provisional copy of the agenda (as of July 2012) [HERE](#) .

Submitted by Francine Petrovich, Convocation & Conference Coordinator

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## **Sunrise Service: All Are Welcome**



Dr. Ariyaratne. PHOTO:  
DrAri2012.com

Sunrise Divine Service on Sunday, July 15, 2012, at the Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary in Reno, Nevada, will honor Dr.

A.T. Ariyaratne, who is visiting northern Nevada from Sri Lanka for several days. Dr. Ari, as he is affectionately called, has been likened to the Mahatma Gandhi, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the Dalai Lama for his work around the world.

Visit the website [DrAri2012.com](http://DrAri2012.com) for more biographical information, as well as to see a scheduled list of events taking place from Wednesday July 11 through Wednesday July 18 throughout the Reno area.

Read the invitation [HERE](#).

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## Water Project Readies Sanctuary for Future Growth



Ted Staver moving earth at the Sanctuary for water lines. Photo: Stephan Fuelling

Developments in the water project at Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary made over the past two years are finally coming to culmination in the summer of 2011. Financial contributions of

Community members toward the improvements for water distribution at the Sanctuary have enabled The Community in Reno to do something quite unique for future growth. Not only has this project helped to secure valuable water rights for The Community, it has enabled The Community to lay the foundation for electrical distribution throughout the Sanctuary as well. These combined improvements have opened up avenues for expansion that are the basis of the next phases of development at the Sanctuary.

Due to the financial support of its resident and nonresident members, in the last few months the small project crew has been able to (1) complete the water and electrical distribution center at the Argonaut well, (2) install all wiring for power distribution, (3) connect and bury a network of water lines more than one mile in length, (4) build a lift station at the reservoir, and (5) install and connect a pump at the Chapter House capable of 2,600 gallons of water output per hour.

At this point, The Church is looking to purchase a specialized transformer to complete the electrical portion of the project and another pump and motor for the water portion that will be placed at the reservoir lift station. Although there are still some minor details to be addressed, the heart of the system is in place. In the spring of 2012, the final phase will be completed: the purchase and installation of a water storage tank at the lift station. At that time, our Sanctuary caretakers will be able to turn on the switch and millions of gallons of water will flow to the upper portion of the South Sanctuary. Our crews will then be able to create our much-anticipated landscapes of groves, fountains, grass, pools, streams and more. Most importantly, the electrical and water infrastructure will be in place for the long-awaited development of the Sanctuary to begin in earnest after thirty years of dedication.

Those Community members who made substantial financial

donations toward the water project were gifted by The Church with a vial of Sacred Water from the Sanctuary's Temple Mount well that can be worn as a pendant or carried in purse or pocket. Never before offered, some day this water will be a source of healing at the Temple Mount's Shrine of God's Living Waters. A bottle of the Sacred Water to be drunk, brought to the surface more than 1300 feet from a prehistoric underground lake, was offered as an additional gift.

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## **Christmas-Epiphany Vigil**



PHOTO Stephan Fuelling

### **Pannuches Meal Rite**

The 59th Pannuches Meal Rite was held Saturday, November 13, 2010 at 6:00 PM. Jubilee Sunrise Divine Service was held in Sanctuary Sunday, November 14, 2010.

The 60th Pannuches Meal Rite was held Saturday, January 1, 2011 at 6:00 PM. Jubilee Sunrise Divine Service was held in Sanctuary Sunday, January 2, 2011.

### **Christmas-Epiphany Vigil**

The Twelve days of Christmas are observed by tradition in the Second Advent Church. Beginning Saturday, December 25, and continuing through the morning of Epiphany Eve, January 5, Sunrise Divine Services were scheduled to be held in consecrated sanctuary each morning at the Church of New Epiphany during these days of special blessing. On the thirteenth day, January 6, which is Epiphany Day, a special morning service at sunrise was held at the Consecrated Sanctuary

The traditional Christmas Day Service of Communion, Candle Lighting and Remembrance was held on Saturday, December 25, at 11:00 AM in The Chapel of The Holy Child. Members of the congregation were asked to bring a bouquet of flowers to place beneath the communion table prior to the service and a loaf of bread to place on the communion table for special blessing.

### **Remembrance of The Child**

A special "Remembrance of The Child" Service was held on Saturday, January 29, 2011, at 6:00 PM in the Chapel of The Holy Child. Sunrise Divine Service was held the following morning, January 30, at the open-air Church of New Epiphany.

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## **The 12 Days of Christmas**



## A Christmas-Epiphany Vigil

**The Twelve Days of Christmas, beginning Christmas Day and culminating Epiphany Day on January 6, are observed by the International Community of Christ in Reno.**

On Christmas Day a traditional service is held at 11 am:  
Chapel of the Holy Child  
643 Ralston Street  
Reno, Nevada 89503.

You are welcome to join us with your friends and family.

During the twelve days a Sunrise Divine Service is held each morning:  
Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary  
5015 Matterhorn Blvd.  
Reno, Nevada 89506

RSVP. For more information, e-mail [info@communityofchrist.org](mailto:info@communityofchrist.org) or call (775) 786-7827

*Wear comfortable attire:*

*Because of the outdoor venue, we recommend hat, warm jacket, and depending on the weather, comfortable, warm shoes or boots.*

**DIRECTIONS TO THE RED ROCK CONSECRATED SANCTUARY:**

Take 395 North to Lemmon Drive, Exit 74.

Turn Right on Lemmon Drive.

Go approximately 4 miles to Waterash Street.

Turn Right on Waterash Street to Chesapeake Drive.

Turn Right on Chesapeake Drive.

Immediately turn Left on Matterhorn Blvd.

Continue 2 to 3 miles to 5015 Matterhorn Blvd.

The sanctuary gate is located on the right hand side just past and across from Sugarland Ranch Animal Sanctuary.



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## **Pentecost Observed June 2010**



**Pannuches Meal Rite**

54<sup>th</sup> Pannuches Meal Rite was held Saturday, March 13, 2010. Jubilee Sunrise Service was held the following morning in Sanctuary.

55<sup>th</sup> Pannuches Meal Rite was held Saturday, May 1, 2010. Jubilee Sunrise Service was held the following morning in Sanctuary.

56<sup>th</sup> Pannuches Meal Rite was held Saturday, June 19, 2010. Jubilee Sunrise Service was held the following morning in Sanctuary.

Second Advent Pentecost was observed according to the Sacred calendar on June 6, 2010, with a celebration of Communion and Sunrise Divine Service at the Cathedral Church of the Americas at Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary. A light breakfast was served at the outdoor Sanctuary Refectory.



Cathedral Church in  
summer Photo Roger  
Weld



Photo Roger Weld

# Father Reano Castell Passes into the Light



A funeral service to honor the life of the Reverend Father Reano Castell (March 26, 1931 – March 9, 2010) was held Saturday March 20, 2010, in the Chapel of the Holy Child, Reno, Nevada. In recognition of Father Castell's office in The Church, his casket was draped with The Church flag; in recognition of his citizenship and proud service in the Swiss army, the foot of his casket was draped with the flag of Switzerland.

The order of service included scriptural readings, eulogy, benediction of committal, and final blessing. A special addition to the service was the reading of the Swiss national anthem, "Landeshymne," in both German and English, the anthem often referred to as the "Swiss Psalm" because it reads like a sunrise prayer. Another special addition was the solo performance of the song "Edelweiss" from the movie *The Sound of Music* in recognition of Father Reano's love for this national flower of Switzerland. (For the full order of service, see: [Father\\_Reano.order\\_of\\_service](#))



A banquet reception to celebrate the life of our departed Brother in Light was held at the Rectory-Abbey on Carmel following the service. The remains of Father Castell were anointed by the Head Bishop, the Right Reverend Gene Savoy, Jr., before the funeral in a private ceremony on Saturday March 13 and cremated following the funeral service.

The eulogy for Father Castell was composed and read at the funeral service by the Right Reverend Sean Savoy. The transcript follows:

## **The Reverend Father Reano Castell**

**March 26, 1931 – March 9, 2010**

### **EULOGY**

**Delivered by Rt. Rev. Sean Savoy**

#### **Introduction**

It is a distinct honor for me to have been chosen to speak today for a few brief minutes on behalf of all of us who knew Reano, our dear departed Brother in Light. And I'd like to thank each of you in attendance and those who couldn't be here today who contributed information on Reano's life.

I first remember meeting Reano when he moved to Reno from British Columbia, Canada. I was 10 years old, and we were engaged in building the East Wing of the Rectory. Ironically, perhaps, all these years later I reside in that parsonage, so, believe me, Reano (and the rest of the building crew) aren't often far from my thoughts.

For twenty-seven years, Reano was part of life in The Community. And even though he was a fixture in the weekly lives of each of us for nearly three decades, I'm not sure many of us really understood the private Reano – the man beyond the old stories and jokes he was so prone to repeat – whether it be the story of being forced to eat his mother's onion pie, the time he put ink in the holy water at school, when he tied his classmate's pig tails together as a prank, or even when he had to kneel for hours on pebbles as punishment for his mischievous ways.

Those who did have the chance to know Reano on a more personal basis, I believe, found a good and loyal friend in him. I know that my father was one of them. In the early years – Reano began communicating with my father in the 1960s – correspondence between them was often by letter, but later on, Reano became more than an associate and student of Gene Savoy at a distance. By the time he moved to Reno in 1983, he had become an extension of our family and of the Rectory.

I remember it was Christmas 1983, and Reano was invited to a big Italian dinner. He walked into the Rectory kitchen and enthusiastically asked, "What can I do to help?" So my dad gave him a block of Parmesan cheese and a cheese grater. Reano had a great time grating the cheese while my mother and Ileana cooked the pasta and sauces. Needless to say, it became a tradition anytime Reano came for Italian, that he was in charge of the Parmesan.

There wasn't a birthday or holiday to which Reano wasn't invited, and I believe these joyous times together gave him a

sense of belonging—something that seemed of utmost importance to him.

In one of his early applications to join the Sacred College, he wrote:

“I would spend more time and energy to find the real purpose of life here. My primary goals are to gain a better understanding of this life and spiritual life, to help and lead man to ultimate reality of God. But how can I help? For some reason I’m setting on the fence, and I ask myself: Does God really want me? I don’t know if I qualify for Ministerial training. I leave that to the Community and God.”

Despite this vulnerability and any flaws he may have shown, indeed, Reano put his trust in The Community, in his service to a New World, and in his devotion to God. Many of us here were witness to this dedication.

### **Background & Church Life**

Reano was born March 26, 1931, to Enrico Castell and Martha Catharina Nagel in Olten, Switzerland. He was raised in a family of twelve children, five siblings and six orphaned cousins taken in by his parents. All the children were only a few years apart, but Reano was the oldest. His home and school were in the Swiss mountains. He skied to school in the winter months. When he was about 13, he was sent to live and study at a monastery in southern Switzerzland. There, he had to learn Italian because no one there spoke German, his native tongue.

As a young man he trained as a Swiss Grenadier, completing his mandatory military service. The following story relates one of the dangerous episodes he lived through as part of his military training:

When Reano was eighteen, he was assigned to work in a tunnel in the Swiss mountains. His supervisor detected a gas leak in the tunnel, and it was up to Reano and his superior to warn

all of the other soldiers and get them out of the tunnel safely. Everyone was out of the tunnel but Reano and his supervisor when the area exploded. They were thrown from the tunnel. Reano received severe injuries to his head and spine. He overheard the doctors telling his parents that he would likely never walk again, but he would not accept the prognosis. Six months after the accident, he walked for the first time, from his bedroom to the kitchen, where his mother was. Ironically, she told him to go back to bed because he was not well enough to be up yet. As a result of his injuries, he was prone to seizures for the rest of his life.

Reano also undertook religious studies. After one and a half years of ministerial training at St. Marie College, he continued his education in civil engineering, carpentry, and architectural drafting.

When he was twenty years old, he traveled by ship to Canada with only a quarter of American money in his pocket. Upon his arrival on Canadian shores, he bought two loaves of bread with his quarter. He kept one for himself and gave the other to a family with children. He walked and caught rides across the continent, working at various farms along the way. He sometimes worked for people who did not speak a language he knew. Eventually, he was taught English by the wife of one of his employers.

He saved his money and eventually married his wife, Betina. They settled in Victoria, British Columbia, where he owned and ran a contracting business, which employed several European master craftsmen specializing in the building of high-end custom homes. To complement his professional and spiritual interests, over the years he took courses in, and later taught, cosmobiology, astrology, and Kabbalistic philosophy.

He was in correspondence with the International Community of Christ Church since the mid-1960s after seeing an article in *Fate* magazine about Gene Savoy. He later joined The Academy in

1971. In his letters to the Center – whether in Lima, Mexico City, or Reno – he often praised The Community for the depth of information, for the quality of our publications, and, most important, for the education and knowledge he believed he was privileged to receive.

Reano was an early member of the Andean Explorers, such as it existed in the 1970s, and wrote with praise for the book *Antisuyo* and of his appreciation for our work in Peru and the Amazon, as well as his desire to maybe one day visit the jungle. Although he never made that trip, he did serve on the board of directors when the club was resurrected in the 1980s, and he was honored for his early design work on *Feathered Serpent III*.

Giving over his contractor's business to his sons, Brandon and Rob, in 1983, he left Canada and his family to become a permanent resident of the Reno Community in order to complete his ministerial training in The Church and dedicate his life to the Sacred Teachings of Light within the Jamilian Order.

Frustrated that his wife was adamantly opposed to religion in general and was not supportive of his spiritual endeavors in this Church (or any other, for that matter), Reano – I don't believe – ever really got over the loss of his family, who rejected him and his decision to be part of The Community. Yet, Reano was steadfast in his decision.

Following first-level ordination in 1983, he was immediately assigned to The Church's Building Department and became a resident of the Chapter House at the Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary attached to the Cathedral Abbey of Monte Viejo. Upon taking the vow of nonmaterialism, he assumed liturgical functions and administration of the sacraments as an assistant to the Pastor, and in 1986 received second-level ordination. He was assigned as part-time faculty of the Jamilian University and was given a Lector's chair at the Chapel of the Roses at the Steamboat Priory.

In 1993, under new pastorship papers, he was given several administrative appointments under the designation of Canon, including a seat on the Sacred Overseer, the leadership of the Building Department, the priorship of Steamboat Hot Springs Priory-Mission, and the role of secretary-director for the International Community Guilds and the Steamboat Springs Water Works.

In 1998, he was made Rector of the Church of the New Covenant, and in the year 2000, he was appointed co-Chair of the American Association of Concerned Clergymen of the Advocates for Religious Rights & Freedoms. Reano remained active in some or all of these capacities until his passing, although his administrative duties became fewer and fewer in the last few years.

In 1991, he was among the first to enter the Order of Patriarchs, and it is this role that he cherished toward the end of his life, holding to his daily devotions and the rituals of life at the Sanctuary. As a "Father" of The Community, in his later years – despite the frustrations of old age – Reano assumed a more serene attitude, even though he never lost the feistiness that endeared him to – and often frustrated – his fellow companions.

Some may not realize that before he took his vows of poverty/nonmaterialism, Reano was a constant supporter of The Community with his financial donations. He supported many projects, including the Publishing Department, exploration and research projects and, of course, the Sanctuary. Even after taking his vows, he was generous with the small amount of funds he had available to him. He would often give small contributions to help out other projects of The Community not related to his areas. And just a few years ago, after saving up several thousand dollars unbeknownst to anyone, he was able to purchase and install a small greenhouse for the perpetuation of the Sanctuary.

## Memories

Reano had many talents. He was a master builder, a contractor, a draftsman, a painter, and a craftsman. He was a competent astrologer and an avid reader. He might have been a meteorologist, as he could often predict the weather with a certain accuracy. He loved to garden. He loved to dance. Does anyone remember his now infamous "chicken dance," which he would perform from time to time at gatherings? He loved to make fondue on his birthdays. And he loved his wine. Yes, how he loved his wine – a Valpolicella or a nice Chianti, please.

Always the ladies' man, he enjoyed the company of all the devoted women of The Community, and did not hesitate to turn on the charm during one of our holiday parties or at a dinner of the Andean Explorers.

Reano enjoyed having the company of the men working on projects at the Sanctuary—especially recently, when he no longer had the weekly visits by my father or the Saturday lunches he used to enjoy at the Rectory to keep his spirits up.

In his last years, Reano continued to be active as best he could with work crews, if only to lend a helping hand and, more important, to offer moral support. And he never faltered from his duty to escort the Sunday groups on their trips to perform "second services" each week.

Certainly, each of us has our own memories of Reano. To summarize, I'd like to share a few memories of Reano as submitted by his friends and companions. These brief stories convey best the essence of the man, far better than I could attempt to do.

"I am very proud to have had Reano as a dear and loyal friend all of these years. I loved sitting at the table with Reano and Rev. Gene and listening to them discuss work projects and tell jokes. I also loved my many walks around the Sanctuary

with my friend. I will miss his beloved presence very much.”  
(Barbara Whitney)

“Over the last two years there has not been one week where he would not tell me at least twice about how every Wednesday the late bishop would come out to the Sanctuary and bring with him a bottle of wine, a loaf of bread, cheese and olives, and the two of them would sit and talk about ‘certain things’ (he would say), and then they would go hiking around the Sanctuary. He never really recovered from the loss of his friend, and I believe that he is with him now.” (Ted Staver)

“Reano was one of the first people to greet me when I joined the Church. His warm laugh and great sense of humor always lifted my spirits and put a smile on my face. I learned that my birthday fell on the same day as his daughter’s, who had a very short life. This seemed to create a bond that stayed with us for many years.” (LaCynda Gibson)

“Reano always remained loyal to his beloved teacher. When his parents passed away about 1994, he turned down his inheritance and the title of [burgermeister] of the region he had been raised in. His surviving family continued to reject him. He hung on to The Church for the sake of his faith and his loyalty. He proudly accepted and took very seriously the title Rev. Gene gave him, “his Swiss Guard.” (Barbara Whitney)

“He loved to sit with a glass of wine and talk for hours about his days in the Swiss army. He was a grenadier (equivalent to our Green Berets). ‘You had to be one tough son of a gun to make it through that,’ he would often say. And he would talk about the refugees that came into the country during the war and how the Swiss would extend their hands in welcome and that ‘in those days we helped one another, not like today.’” (Ted Staver)

“One of the most endearing contributions I will always remember Reano for was his great and long-lasting role as our

dear Santa Claus. We had more fun watching him and listening to him coming in with all of the reindeer. I think [they] had more fun than any of us.” (LaCynda Gibson)

“I remember the time the Bishop, Reano, and I were watching the men work on the Temple Mount. Some of this work involved dynamiting portions of the rocky terrain to make way for the fence. Reano had been pushing the ignite button to ignite the dynamite, and at one point he looked at me, smiled, and asked: ‘Here, you want to do it?’ Of course I did. (LaCynda Gibson)

“When I think of Reano, my mind races with episodes of adventures. I remember the time he was working out in the field at Red Rock and his thumb nail got caught on something and bent backward. (Ouch!) One of [the men] grabbed him, drove him to the Chapter House, and held his hand over the sink with running water, and flipped the thumbnail back into place. The yell from Reano echoed throughout the valley.” (LaCynda Gibson)

“I considered Reano a master storyteller. He had a way of telling a story over and over again and everyone would listen as if it were being told for the first time.” (Robert Roy)

“I was saddened to hear of the passing of Rev. Father Reano. He was a wonderful, precious man who was always very kind and helpful to me. I will miss his gentle presence.” (Bruce Bunch)

“Reano was a good man and a dear friend of your father’s who loved him very much. I am sorry to hear of his sudden passing.” (Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales)

“The passing of Rev. Father Reano was a great shock to me. He has shown many kindnesses to me. May his soul rest in peaceful Light.” (Shinobu Uwataki)

“The first memory I ever had in my life was of Reano. I was around one year old, and I remember him tucking me into my crib at night.” (Matthew Madonna)

“Just a thought about Reano. For Mother’s Day he gave the women of The Church hand-drawn cards of the Madonna and Child – which he did twice that I can recall – a very kind thing for him to do.” (Mary Foust)

“I was talking about this with Reano two weeks ago: I remembered walking up to the Church of New Ephesus with Reano. It was spring and it had been a wet winter. The wildflowers were everywhere. I spotted a small white flower which I did not recognize. Reano looked down, and with a gasp in his breath, he said it was edelweiss, the national flower of Switzerland. He just stood there gazing at that flower. I knew he was thinking of home. When he looked up, there were tears in his eyes. He said the flower told him he was home at Red Rock, just like Switzerland.” (Amanda Buchanan)

And this final thought from a fellow Canadian:

“Reano was a man for all seasons. From assistant hog farmer in central Manitoba, Canada, to independent building contractor in Victoria, B.C. From Swiss national guard trooper jumping out of low-flying light aircraft into Swiss mountain snow banks to sergeant in the PPCCL, a crack Canadian forces airborne regiment. From apprentice carpenter to master builder; and from school boy in monastic school to a Rt. Rev. Priest and venerated Patriarch in the International Community of Christ (not to mention a rather convincing Santa Claus). He played a very important role in the construction of the Community’s infrastructure, notably the Chapter House and Sanctuary buildings and the open-air churches; the East Wing of the Rectory; the Cathedral towers, platform, and communion table. These projects and many others that are well known to all of you. They stand better than any words of mine as tribute and memorial to his life and character. I enjoyed working with Reano. While working it was no nonsense, but when the work was done there was always time for a glass of wine and a story or two. He was a good friend, and I know that even as we celebrate his well-lived life and are glad he is in a

better place; we feel a sadness at his passing. Rest in The Light, my friend!" (Patrick Newman)

As a child, I came to know and respect Reano – with all of his eccentricities, his charm, his intelligence, his good will, and, of course, his accent. I have many memories of him, but I believe enough has been expressed this afternoon in tribute to him. I will say, however, that although he could be hard line – “no-nonsense,” as Pat put it – on the job site, during Young Explorers outings at the Sanctuary, or on the sports field – where he made sure the guys, or the kids, including myself, followed direction, he was a proud, kind, and good man who strove for the proper outcome no matter what the project.

Most of all he was a spiritual person, who will be greatly missed. As a final tribute, the pasture area in front of the Chapter House where he lived for twenty-seven years, will be designated Castell Park and Memorial Gardens in his honor.

It became a popular tradition in the 1970s to take the melody of *Edelweiss* – one of Reano’s favorite songs and flowers – and to make it into a Benediction. I thought it would be appropriate to read these words as a conclusion to our thoughts on Reano’s life.

*May the Lord, mighty God,*

*Bless and keep you forever.*

*Grant you peace, perfect peace,*

*Courage in every endeavor.*

*Lift your eyes and see His face,*

*And His grace forever.*

*May the Lord, mighty God,*

*Bless and keep you forever.*

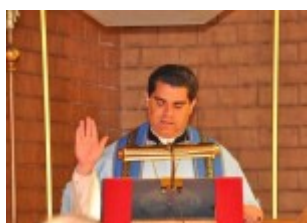
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# Christmas Message December 25, 2009



*On Friday December 25, 2009, Bishop Gene Savoy Jr. delivered a Christmas message during the traditional holiday Communion of Fellowship Service at the Chapel of the Holy Child. A slightly edited version of the message is*

*provided here:*

Good morning and Merry Christmas!

Those of us gathered together in this Chapel dedicated to the service of God are drawn together from many faiths, but we are all one in the family of God.

We celebrate today as the birthday of the man Jesus. For twelve days, we of the Second Advent Church celebrate the Christmas Season, which culminates on the thirteenth day—January 6—the Day of Epiphany.

*Epiphany* comes from the Greek, meaning “manifestation” or “appearance,” and in the early Church, January 6 was the day that commemorated Jesus’s baptism at the Jordan by Saint John. The day celebrates the “shining forth” [another meaning of *epiphany*] or revelation of God in human form in the person of Jesus Christ, his manifestation as the Son of God to the world—the Word of God incarnate. The date of Epiphany on

January 6 was very early fixed, and ancient liturgies speak of *Illuminatio*, *Manifestatio*, *Declaratio*: Illumination, Manifestation, and Declaration. The Gospel of Matthew [3:13-17] says:

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'*

And the Gospel of Luke [3:21-22] says,

*Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased.'*

But a very important line has been deleted from both Matthew and Luke—one which is substantiated by other ancient scriptures more authoritative than Matthew and Luke. The line reads:

*Today [or This day], I have begotten you.*

So, let us read this again:

*You are my son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased. **This day I have begotten you.*** [Emphasis added]

In the ancient Christian Church, just as in Buddhism, this divine event—this “appearance” or “epiphany”—was a manifestation of Jesus’s immortal nature. The day commemorated

the incarnation of Jesus as Christ, the moment when God appeared in Divine Light and ordained Jesus His son in Spirit. Thus, Jesus was given a new birth by God the Father. So we know that Jesus was not “born” the Son of God, but *became* the Son of God when the Word, the Divine Logos, incarnated within him, giving him new life of spirit. This was a fundamental concept in the Messianic or First Advent Church: that Jesus *became* Christ. And this is why Epiphany and the Christmas-Epiphany Season is so important to us, because it represents and symbolizes the birth of spirit—the epiphany of the Conscious Soul.

I made the reference to Buddhism because while Buddhists celebrate the birthday of Siddhartha Gautama on April 8, the day of his “enlightenment”—the day when he became the Awakened One, Bodhi Day—is honored on December 8 at sunrise. And, of course, we do this in the Second Advent Church. We honor the birth of the man Jesus on December 25, the old Roman festival of the Unconquered Sun, but more importantly, we celebrate Jesus’s spiritual birth—the day when the Word of God entered into him and he assumed the Holy Office of Christ. This we do on January 6 as a promise of the spiritual rebirth we are all heir to in the Second Advent of God’s Appearance.

Now, this morning, we learned of the passing of one of our Sisters in Light, Theresa Andronis. I was thinking of her first thing this morning, at about 6 a.m., and we learned that she passed shortly thereafter. This morning, we saw various forms and figures in the sun, and I felt her presence very strongly. So, while we may miss the human being Theresa, we know that she has ascended into the Light, and how fitting that she should transfigure as we begin our Epiphany Vigil, when we celebrate the birth of the Conscious Soul. We are also reminded that her pain and suffering has been conquered and that she is one with the Holy Beings of Light.

In hellenistic times, an epiphany of the divine in a person was a common theological concept. The celebration of Epiphany

originated in the ancient Church, where it later included a commemoration of Christ's physical birth in the Eastern Church. In Rome, however, by the middle of the fourth century, Christ's physical birth was being celebrated on December 25, according to the Philocalian calendar.

A winter festival was the most popular festival of the year in many cultures. Reasons included the fact that less agricultural work needed to be done, as well as the expectation of better weather as spring approached.

The twenty-fifth of December was the Roman festival marking the "birth of the Unconquered Sun," the *natalis solis invicti*, which celebrated the winter solstice and the lengthening of days. This celebration allowed several solar deities to be worshipped collectively, including the Syrian sun-god *Elah-Gabal*. It was also observed as the birth date of the god *Mithras*, the "sun of righteousness" and patron god of the emperors, who, five hundred years before the birth of Christ, was born of a virgin in a cave. We know that it was also connected in the Roman world to the *saturnalia*, a time of merrymaking and the exchanging of gifts. Charity was also emphasized as part of the Roman New Year.

The festival was placed on the date of the solstice because this was the day that the sun reversed its southward retreat and proved itself to be "unconquered." Several early Christian writers connected the rebirth of the sun to the birth of Jesus. John Chrysostom wrote, "They call it the 'Birthday of the Unconquered.' Who indeed is so unconquered as Our Lord?"

Northern Europe celebrated a winter festival called Yule, held in late December and early January, and its traditions had a major influence on *Christemasse* or Christ's Mass.

In the old Christian calendar, November 28 through January 6 was observed as the Festival of Lights, a vigil for the birth of the Cosmic Christ. Japanese Shintos honor the sun goddess

*Amaterasu* on December 22. In ancient Egypt, December 21 to December 25 was the festival commemorating the birth of the god Horus by the goddess Isis; and in the Hopi nation, December is celebrated as a time of purification and renewal. So we can see that this time of year is universally recognized as a time when we come out of the darkness into light.

The contradiction between the Greek and Roman Churches led to a great debate in the fourth and fifth centuries, which culminated in the Eastern Church accepting the twenty-fifth of December as Christ's birth and the Western Church celebrating Epiphany as the day the Magi visited the infant Jesus.

In the Second Advent Church, we honor both days and celebrate the Christmas-Epiphany Season from December twenty-fifth through January sixth. We commemorate Christ's birth in physical form, but, as we have said, more importantly, we solemnize his spiritual rebirth.

Therefore, the message of the season is life of spirit. That was the essence of Christ's teaching. And this is what the Christmas Season represents: Life, Birth and Rebirth – the cycle of renewal.

The lights and trees we display this time of year have always been symbols of everlasting life. In ancient Egypt, China, Israel, and the Celtic lands, evergreen trees, wreaths, and garlands were symbolic of eternal life. To us in the Second Advent Church, they also represent the True Light of God and the Tree of Life.

In the Middle Ages, Christmastide, or the period from the night of December 25 through the morning of January 6, was a period of continuous feasting and merrymaking. Twelfth night, or Epiphany Eve, as we call it, was forever solidified in popular culture when William Shakespeare used it as a setting for one of his most famous stage plays. In those times, Christmas was overshadowed by Epiphany.

American colonists brought their version of the Twelve Days over from England and adapted them to their new country, adding their own variations over the years. The modern-day Christmas wreath, for example, originated with these colonials. A homemade wreath would be fashioned from local greenery, and if fruits were available, they would be added. Making the wreaths was one of the traditions of Christmas Eve; then they would be hung on each home's front door on Christmas Day, the First Day of Christmas, through the morning of Epiphany, when a special Epiphany cake was baked and all the remainder of the edibles from the previous twelve days consumed.

As said, this was a time of feasting, merrymaking, and otherwise celebrating the season. Sometimes gifts were exchanged each of the twelve nights and a candle lit each morning of the Twelve Days. And the evening before Epiphany was celebrated as the biggest night for dancing and gift-giving.

However, after the Revolution, Christmas and the Twelve Days fell out of favor in America because it was considered an English custom. It was not until the 1820s, when anti-British sentiments were fading, that people began to worry that Christmas was dying out. Writers, including Washington Irving and Harriet Beecher Stowe, imagined Christmas in Tudor days as a time of heartfelt celebration, and efforts were made to revive the holiday. Charles Dickens's book *A Christmas Carol* played a major role in reinventing Christmas as a holiday emphasizing family, goodwill, and compassion, as opposed to communal celebration.

Latin nations also have various forms of celebrations for the Twelve Days of Christmas, the most popular being the cooking of traditional foods to celebrate Epiphany. In Hispanic America, a *rosca de los reyes* – a king cake – is baked. In France, a *galette des rois* is baked with a small china figure of the Christ-child inside. In some countries, children polish

and leave their shoes by the doorstep, bed, or tree, ready for presents, before going to sleep on the eve of January 6. And in Italy, the tradition of La Befana, whose name is taken from the word Epiphany, is the bringer of gifts who arrives on the eve of Epiphany.

With the onset of more Americanized and secular traditions throughout the past two centuries, the traditions of the Twelve Days of Christmas have been largely forgotten. Indeed, contemporary marketing and media tend to espouse the erroneous belief that the Twelve Days end on Christmas, rather than begin on it. However, we of the Second Advent Community have held to our own favorite ways to celebrate the Christmas-Epiphany Season.

This year, let us concentrate not on gifts and splurging but on what is important : family and friends. These are hard times, and it's not bad for children to understand the concept of hard times. With respect for what people are going through, we have forgone the traditional Christmas Eve dinner and New Year's festivities that we have commonly celebrated. We will, of course, have the children's tea and our Epiphany Eve banquet, but this year is a year to be frugal. I encourage you all to bear that in mind. Be sparing with your spending and hold to the family—the family of the community—that is truly important. That is the biggest gift we have been given, along with the gift of the Sun of Righteousness.

We are all both mortal and immortal beings. And as we feed our physical bodies we must also feed our spiritual bodies. Listen to the message conveyed by these words from the Odes of Solomon [Ode 38] that we recite at Christmastime.

*I rested in the spirit of the Lord: and the spirit raised me on high. And made me stand on my feet in the height of the Lord, before His perfection and His glory, while I was praising Him by the composition of His songs.*

*The spirit brought me forth before the face of the Lord: and although I was a son of man, I was named the illuminate, a son of God. For according to the greatness of the Most High, so He made me: and like His own newness He renewed me, and He anointed me from His own perfection.*

*And I became one of His neighbors; and my mouth was opened, like a cloud of dew. And my heart poured out as it were a gushing stream of righteousness.*

*And my access to Him was in peace; and I was established by the spirit of His kingdom. And I went up to the light of truth which preserved me. And it became to me a haven of salvation and set me on the arms of immortal life.*

Love begins in our family life, reaches out to our friends, and embraces our neighbors. Like a seed it must be planted before it can grow. **Also, like a seed, it must be watered if it is to grow. A seed unwatered for many years will still grow many years later if it is given that precious and vital resource.** If we can express love as we do at Christmastime throughout the whole year, we will begin to live the life exemplified by Jesus.

So let us each examine our hearts. The world and our flawed mortal natures take away our ability to love one another at times. This inability harms the spirit. Each one of us should strive to rise above the limitations of the physical world and embrace the spirit, which is expressed by love. By so doing, God comes to each of us, adopting us as His son or daughter; for we are all Children of God.

That is the message this Christmas Season. Let us make a commitment to each other today to love one another however unable we may have been able to previously express that love. We need to too. Let us make a commitment to forgive the transgressions of those we love and to apologize to those whom we may have transgressed upon. I certainly apologize to any of

you I may have hurt this year and ask for your forgiveness.

In lighting the candles today in remembrance of those who have gone on to another life, let us place our trust in God who is the author of our spirit and soul. When death claims our physical bodies, it is the spirit and soul that endure and go on to a higher world if we can but experience the rebirth of spirit the we celebrate on January 6 . But if we not love – even if that love is not accepted – our spirits fade like a flame, ultimately going out. Love kindles and brightens the spirit and the soul. By loving we are made eternal, for God is Love. Love binds us to those departed, to those about us while we live, and it binds us to God. For if we do not have love, compassion, and kindness in our hearts, how can we ever hope to know God? There is no enmity so hard that goodness cannot melt.

Therefore, on this day commemorating the birth of Jesus, let us make a renewal to exemplify what he taught. This, I believe is the message of the Christmas Season: to open our hearts, forgive the transgressions of our loved ones/brothers and sisters, and love one another. To quote a line from one of the late Bishop's previous Christmas sermons: "All men and women everywhere may shine forth as the Sun of Righteousness if they but live and exemplify the love of God in their daily lives."

We should be proud of our accomplishments in this Community. Christmas is a time for celebration. So let's celebrate! Let's celebrate our Teaching; let's celebrate our fellowship; and let's celebrate our love for one another. The world is a crazy place. It is hard to find the friendship and the fellowship and the love that we experience in this Community, in spite of our familial difficulties sometimes.

This Community is moving forward, and we are growing. We are no longer concerned with merely surviving—those days are over. Not to say that we won't have our ups and downs from time to time. But let's *celebrate* the fact that we are here, that we

are established in this world, and that we are a beacon of light to those who seek the Light.

Allow me to close this Christmas message with these words from the Gospel of John:

*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love.*

*If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

*I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.*

*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

*No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

*You are my friends if you do what I command you.*

*I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. [John 15:9-15]*

I wish you all a very merry Christmas, a happy Epiphany, and a joyous New Year, filled with God's many bountiful and beautiful blessings. Let us go forth from this place with renewed resolve to take the message of the Second Advent to all the world in greater power and glory, each of us shining like the Sun of Righteousness and striving to exemplify Christ in our daily lives.

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# Reno Community Hosts 2009 Annual Convocation



The Community's annual Convocation officially opened on Wednesday September 9. It was prefaced on Monday and Tuesday September 7–8 with Residence Training III seminars on Color and Sacred Imagery for those Consociates needing to complete

these requirements. These early attendees also enjoyed an evening at the Steamboat Hot Springs Spa on Monday evening. Another such spa evening was offered on Wednesday as well.



The first Convocation event was a Project "X" seminar on the ancient solar cultures of Greece and included lectures given by the Right Reverend Gene Savoy Jr. during the Project "X" tour of Greece in May–June 2009 as well as talks by guest lecturers the Reverend Dr. Bill Bartlett and Dr. Tom Lee, the



new Community Archiater (physician). Dr. Bartlett spoke on solar teachings in the Buddhist tradition, and Dr. Lee on health and healing modalities planned for Steamboat Healing Center. The lectures were offered in the Chapel of the Holy Child and the

Monastery Gardens in Sanctuary.

The usual annual Convocation events took place over the remainder of the week, including the Andean Explorers Foundation meeting and awards banquet and presentation held at the Tuscany Room of the Peppermill Resort and Casino in Reno on Thursday evening. The Right Reverend Sean Savoy presented slides and commentary on his recent trip to Peru to continue the society's work there.

The week's events included the thirtieth annual Clergy Counsels, lectures held at the Monastery Gardens in Sanctuary on Asclepian healing traditions and techniques. Again, these lectures were adapted from those given by Bishop Savoy in Greece



earlier in the year. This year's program included a celebration of The Community's Golden Jubilee, commemorating fifty years (1959–2009) of the Second Advent Church. A high point of the celebration was the interfaith prayer service for world peace held at sunset on Friday evening September 11 at the open-air Church of New Pentecost and Church of the Americas at Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary. Clergy from numerous sects and denominations around Reno participated and offered prayers for peace from their traditions. It was a special experience and a fitting tribute to the second anniversary of the passing into Light of The Church's First

Apostle, the Most Right Reverend Gene Savoy Sr.

As a side note, unbeknownst to The Community members at the time, the evening also introduced it to one Devashish (aka David Mitchell), who was a last-minute replacement for Rajan Zed, the intended representative of the Vedic tradition. Devashish was quite taken with the experience at the Sanctuary and later introduced Community leaders to his teacher, Swami Sri Atmananda of India, and the Satya-chetana Movement that the swami heads and with whom The Community has since formed a collaboration to reintroduce the Teachings of Light to the Vedic and Brahmanic traditions (see related articles).

On Saturday evening, topping off a day of final Clergy Counsels, Communion Service, and the Emancipation of Acolyte Marie Walters, was the Counsels banquet and program at Bishopstead. As a Golden Jubilee celebration, the dinner was deemed a Vigil Meal and began with a simple course of Essene bread and wine similar to a Community Pannuches meal. The evening's introduction also included the first-level ordination of Dr. Tom Lee and a rededication of the Chapel of the Innocents at Bishopstead. A buffet supper in several courses created by Community chef Francine Petrovich followed this ritual course. Between courses, the attendees were treated to musical performances by the Community schola, directed by the Right Reverend Gary Buchanan, as well as relevant readings from Second Advent scripture.

The final day of Convocation, Sunday September 13, began with a concelebrated Jubilee Sunrise Divine Service at the Cathedral Church of the Americas at Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary, followed by the second-degree ordination of the Reverend Dr. Bill Bartlett. Afterward, a fellowship breakfast at the open-air refectory was enjoyed by all. The final event at Red Rock was the rededication of the open-air Church of New Philadelphia in the northlands of the Sanctuary. The church's table had been restored after being damaged by vandals and the elements. Head bishop Gene Savoy Jr. presided.

The Convocation ended with an optional trip to Lake Tahoe on Sunday afternoon.

