

THE NORTH AMERICAN ACADEMY OF LITURGY



Summer Newsletter

The President's Letter:

July 2003

Dear Friends:

I hope you are planning to attend our meeting in New York City, January 3-6, 2004, at the Hyatt Grand Central. Your Academy Committee met in New York in mid June, and I also met with a local committee. We are excited about the plans that are developing for this meeting.

It is my pleasure to announce that the recipient of the **Berakah award** will be **Lawrence Hoffman**, Professor of Liturgy and Director of the Synagogue 2000 Initiative for synagogue spirituality at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, New York. Those who are familiar with his writing or remember his Vice Presidential address know that we can look forward to a lively and engaging *Berakah* response. This year we will present the award at the banquet on Monday evening, January 5, and hear Larry's response after breakfast Tuesday morning.

As I mentioned in my spring newsletter, we are designing a pre-meeting session at the site of the former World Trade Center. We will meet at St. Paul's Chapel at Broadway and Fulton Street, a primary site for ministry to those working at ground zero. (We'll gather on Friday afternoon, January 2, in order not to disrupt the usual schedule of denominational pre-meetings on January 3.) Members of the local committee are hard at work designing this gathering, which will provide an opportunity for us to reflect on ritual responses to the cataclysmic events of September 11, 2001. More details will be available in the fall newsletter.

Our **plenary session** during the meeting will build upon this pre-session. Our speaker will be **Leo Lefebure**, associate professor of theology at Fordham University and a Roman Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago. He will speak to us on the subject of "**Memory, Mimesis, and Healing: Ritual Responses to Violence.**" Dr. Lefebure's most recent book, *Revelation, the Religions, and Violence* (Orbis, 2000), won the Pax Christi U.S.A. 2001 Book Award. Check the NAAL website to learn more about Dr. Lefebure.

The Vice Presidential address will be given Monday morning. **Doris Donnelly**,

professor at John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio, and Director of The Cardinal Suenens Center, has entitled her address “**When We Say ‘Amen...**”

Worship at this year’s meeting will make use of several places of worship close to the hotel. Each of these spaces is of interest architecturally.

Our opening liturgy will be at **St. Peter’s Lutheran Church** located at Lexington Avenue and 54th Street, adjacent to the Citicorp Building. Longtime members of the Academy may remember worshipping there at a meeting during the 1980s.

On Sunday morning, Anglican members of the Academy invite you to worship at the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist at **St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church**, at Park Avenue and 50th Street. The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, **the Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold, III**, has accepted an invitation to preach at this liturgy. Bishop Griswold is currently co-chair of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) and a former chair of the Episcopal Church’s Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music.

Monday morning, we will journey to **Central Synagogue** at 55th Street and Lexington Avenue, where we will have a brief tour and introduction to the space, and then Jewish members of the Academy will lead us in prayer.

The location of the Grand Hyatt in midtown Manhattan, adjacent to Grand Central Station, gives us easy access to these and many other sites. Some seminars are planning to visit places of interest to

enhance their work at this meeting. Contact your seminar convener if you have ideas for ways in which your seminar can avail itself of some of the resources in New York City.

Hotel reservations this year may be made on line, at a site specifically designated for the Academy’s meeting in New York: <http://grandnewyork.hyatt.com/groupbooking/anam>

Conference rates are available for NAAL members before and after the scheduled meeting dates. Our contract with the Hyatt allows us to use meeting rooms without charge, provided that our members use an agreed-upon number of sleeping rooms in the hotel. The nights you book before and after the scheduled meeting dates will count as part of the overall number of rooms needed to meet our obligations.

Registration materials for the annual meeting will be in the **Fall Newsletter**, sent in September. The member pages of the NAAL website — <http://naal.liturgy.org/Members/> — will be updated periodically with information about the annual meeting. Click on “Newest News,” then “2004 Meeting,” and follow the links from there.

I look forward to welcoming you to New York City next January!

Grace and peace,

Ruth Meyers
NAAL President



News about the new Hotel Liaison

In recent years the presidents in the business meeting have all commented on the extreme burden they experienced dealing with hotel matters. Each president has mentioned that learning all about hotel matters for a one time shot seemed to be ineffectual. If you remember, it was at the meeting in Vancouver, BC, that the decision was taken not to have a meeting planner. Since that time, the work has fallen squarely on the shoulders of the president working with the academy committee.



Based upon the discussion of this matter at the business meeting in Indianapolis and attempting to follow the will of the academy not to have a meeting planner *per se*, the academy committee has decided to appoint a hotel liaison whose responsibility will be to deal with matters pertaining strictly to the hotel. The committee also decided to approach Alan Barthel to assume this position for the next few years which corresponds to the current contract that we have with Hyatt. We are very happy that Alan has consented since he has great experience in this area due to his work with the *Societas Liturgica* and the *Presbyterian Association of Musicians*. Alan was also responsible for NAAL's second contract with Hyatt and thus has a good working knowledge of our contract as well as the procedures of the Hyatt Corporation.

Our hope is that Alan's assistance will alleviate the burdens for the president so that he or she may focus more attention upon the meeting itself. —Michael Driscoll, Past President.