

# CUTHBERT'S CORACLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ANAMCHARA FELLOWSHIP

WINTER 2017



## The Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York

Remember that Anamchara Fellowship, Inc. is a Non-Profit organization, and that donations are tax deductible. Though the individual members of the Fellowship do not personally profit from the donations, your generosity helps us continue to bring the Word and Love of God to others through an ever expanding ministry.

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**Anamchara Fellowship**  
4142 Ogletown-Stanton Rd. #141  
Newark, DE 19713

[www.AnamcharaFellowship.org](http://www.AnamcharaFellowship.org)

*Shown Above:*

The Rev. Sr. Margaret Kentigern Sterchi at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York. While on retreat, she heard The Presiding Bishop Michael Curry preach at the Eucharist for the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul.

6-29-2017

The Killeedy Priory met for their first retreat in Helena, Montana on a cold snowy day. All were in attendance except Bishop Brookhart. The retreat was led by the Fellowship's Anamchara Father Paul Bresnahan. Our focus for this retreat was "communication". This has been a weakness for the Priory so we felt that would be a good choice. We had about six weeks to prepare for the retreat.

Father Paul had three very important points that he shared with us to help us work through and understand better how to communicate. Number one was Prayer and Technology, number two was presence and penmanship and number three was pilgrimage and sacrifice. We learned that these three points were paramount to good communication.

This opened some good communication regarding our pilgrimage and our isolation. Father Paul pointed out that several members in the Fellowship were in isolated situations. This helped us understand that the Killeedy Priory group was very privileged to have spent time together.

We were very fortunate to have Father Paul to help us through some thoughts and we will hopefully honor him with continuing to meet. We decided, however that spring and fall will be better times to meet so we have May 11th meeting to meet again in Bozeman. Companion David Hoag will invite a Priest he has worked with to guide this retreat.

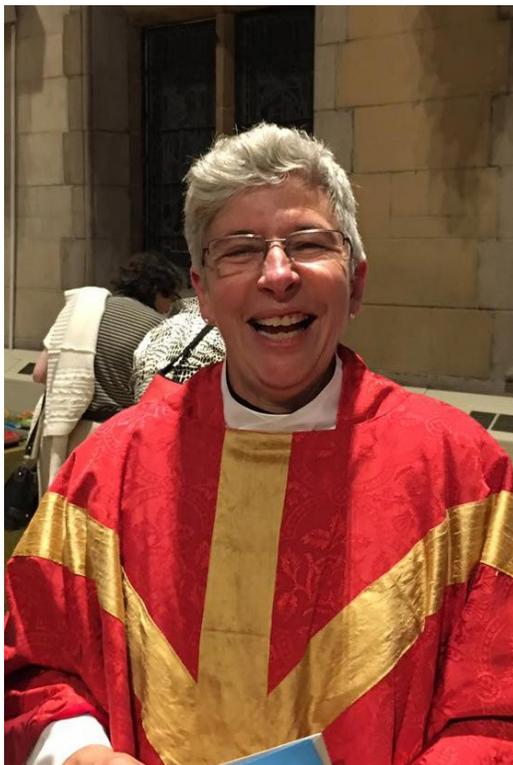


Sr. Amelie Jeanine Lee

**Below Photo: The ordination of Companion Maria Evans to the Sacred Order of Priests took place on June 29, 2017 at Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis, Missouri.**



*Above Photo* - Sister Amelie Jeanine Lee, in the white top, is positioned between (From L to R:) Companions: Ronda McManus, David Hoag, The Rev. Paul Bresnahan, The Rev. Jim Jones, and The Rev. Mary Alice Jones.



Sister BJ led a  
Clergy Retreat on  
Kauai, Hawaii in  
August 2017  
**ALOHA**



## Virginia Donkey Rescue

by Companion Kathleen Smith-Jones



When we moved to Virginia from our condo in Rehoboth Beach, DE, we ended up with a three-stall barn and 5 acres of fenced pasture. For almost a year we allowed our neighbors who rescue horses to keep some of their horses in our pasture. When the horses were gone, though, I wondered what we might keep in our pasture. Horses are beautiful, but expensive to keep and need more attention than my time allows. So I started researching donkeys, a much hardier equine. That's when I found out about the Virginia Donkey Rescue. Their mission is to help Virginia's donkeys (and many from other states) from ending up in neglectful, abusive, or abandonment situations, and to prevent them from ending up in the auction and slaughter pipeline. They address the issues that cause neglect, abuse, and abandonment in the first place, build awareness through outreach programs, offer donkey owners alternatives to auctions and when surrender is the only option, the donkeys receive the care and attention needed to rehabilitate and re-home them when possible. For donkeys that are not adoptable, they provide lifetime sanctuary.

Immediately after reading their web page I filled out an application and sent the necessary documentation of our property. My family was skeptical of my endeavor, wondering, "Why donkeys?" My daughter did not understand why anyone would want to take care of a donkey when it cannot come in the house and cannot be ridden. The next month a pair of standard female donkeys was delivered to our pasture. Their names are Suzie and Izzie. Suzie was 4 years old and weighs in at about 400 lbs., and Izzie 8 and 600 lbs., mother and daughter.

I have had Suzie and Izzie for almost a year now. I have learned a lot about donkeys in that year. Donkeys should be kept in pairs or more, since they don't sleep without another equine present, and a donkey that hasn't slept is a cranky donkey. Donkeys can only carry about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of their own body weight, so only a mammoth donkey can carry an adult on its back. They are desert animals, so feeding them anything that is high in sugar, like spring grasses, apples, or carrots, is not good for them. Their bodies do not know what to do with all that sugar and it creates large lumpy fat de-

posits on their bodies that do not go away. Izzie was fed corn by her previous owner, so she is quite lumpy. I now mow the pasture at least every other week to keep those sweet grasses down. Donkeys like warm water in the winter, so I carried buckets of hot water down to their trough twice a day throughout the winter.

Most importantly, though, I learned a lot about trust and love from these two girls. When they arrived I could barely get near them. Daily brushing and cleaning stalls, feeding, and treating injuries has gradually earned their trust, and their love. And yes, I sing to them every time I visit the barn. I initially did it so they would know I was coming and not scare them, but it became our ritual as I brushed them and scratched their ears. A happy donkey loves to roll in the dirt. My donkeys roll often! They have also become my best audience when I practice reading my sermons. I am so happy that I could provide the home and the time to give these two beautiful creatures of God's imagination a peaceful and loving place to live out their years. And now even the skeptics have joined in welcoming them.



## DESERT WISDOM

### The Sidewinder

by Sr. Patricia Angela



*So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

*Genesis 3:14-16 NIV*

Maybe that story explains the aversion so many of us feel toward snakes. There is another point of view—that of the snake.

*Sidewinder Sam says he gets mad  
At folk who call him bad;  
For snakes just bite in self defense,  
While humans fight for lack of sense.  
June Lemert Paxton*

“Remember, Patricia,” my grandmother would say, “that snake is more afraid of you than you are of it. If you see a rattler, just stand still. Don’t move. When he doesn’t feel threatened he won’t attack. He’ll go away”.

Isn’t that the way it is with people, too? Others will send out “rattles” of all kinds, warning us of their fear or anger or despair. It is time to listen, not act, when that happens. We need to be a calm, non-reactive presence in those situations. We do not need to go on the offensive and get “bitten”.

My grandmother would add, “And remember that snakes serve a useful purpose. We need them to keep the rodent population in check.”

Now there is a thought. Maybe the people I don’t like are important, too. God loves them and has given them a place in the universe, just as he has done with me. I don’t have to like snakes—two legged or no legged—but I do have to love them and respect them.

There was another message in my grandmother’s words about snakes. All of us on this planet are connected and depend on each other. We live in a beautiful symbiosis, and we need to protect and nurture it. Let us be good stewards of “this fragile earth, our island home”.