



THE SHOFAR

The Voice of the Charismatic Old Catholic Church

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And unto us a
Savior is born...

An El Paso Synod 2025



This Spring several members of the COCC traveled to Holy Spirit of Hope in El Paso, TX, the Cathedral of our Archbishop Robert Ortega for a meeting of church, friends, and fun.



An El Paso Synod 2025

Many matters were discussed at the synod relative to our COCC ministry. One of remarkable significance is that thanks to the tire dealer across the street from Holy Spirit of Hope church who purchased an unused side parking lot by the church — Holy Spirit of Hope church was able to pay off the rest of their mortgage. The property is now theirs!

Archbishop Robert was also able to share a few practices from ministry at Holy Spirit of Hope



that could be a beneficial suggestion for the ministry of other COCC churches. One was a prayer list that gave attention to the various prayer needs of the people, by color coding the particular need; for example: green for cancer, yellow for sick, red for the dying, and grey for those who have passed, suggesting the urgency and type of prayer being requested.

Another particular practice in Holy Spirit of Hope church is to pass the basket twice when taking up the collection. The first time is for anyone to make a donation in support of the church, and the second time, with the same collection in the baskets, is for those who have immediate need to take something from it.



And toward COCC matters specifically:

1. If we are going to be a church, then we really need to “take off the gloves” so to speak and do something. Be active in ministry and help others to find their way to Christ in the best way.

2. We have a unique place in the body of Christ as a church. One of which is reaching out to those that have left Roman and Anglican churches. Our difference should be to teach about salvation. The saving grace of Christ, something the Roman church often fails to do.



3. Pope Francis was many things, but one thing that he urged the clergy to do was to “wear jeans” and get out to where the people are. In this way we can be a

An El Paso Synod 2025



Photos courtesy of Rev. Dr. Teresa and Rev. Dr. Richard Davis

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different kind of clergy, unique and approachable.

4. Archbishop Maurice exhorted everyone to remember that Christ's finished work on the cross was for our sins, past, present, and future. If we are saved in Christ, then nothing can defeat us!



Photos courtesy of Rev. Dr. Teresa and Rev. Dr. Richard Davis



Romans 12:15 says “ Rejoice with those who rejoice”.

Many years ago Father Tim, my husband, set out to accomplish one of his life long dreams he had set aside in order to put his seven children through college ... that of finishing his own college education, at the time, his goal was only an Associates degree in Military Science.

Instead, almost two decades later, he went on to graduate in 2022 from Agape Seminary with his Bachelor of Theology degree. Immediately after that he enrolled in St Thomas Old Catholic Theological Seminary where Bishop John Geinzer would guide him with the appropriate courses and a plan to get his Master's degree in Theology in 2023, and ordained a Priest of the COCC.

After 2 more years of intense study with Bishop John, and tons of reading and writing, Father Tim was finally awarded his Doctor of Theology degree in 2025!

We rejoiced and celebrated this fall with many of our friends and loved ones here in Michigan, and I hope you will rejoice with us as well.



Tim gives all glory and honor to the Lord in thanksgiving for helping him to achieve this. An accomplishment far beyond anything he ever could have imagined. Nothing is impossible for God!

May the Holy Spirit be manifested in the lives of all our brothers and sisters in the COCC,

Deacon Karla



Meet Father Hal West, Longtime Shofar Contributor



R. H. E. "HAL" WEST O.S.S.T, OSL

Fr. Hal was born and raised in Muncie, Indiana and attended Indiana University before moving to Fort Wayne. He spent 22 ½ years serving on the Allen County Police Department in the Criminal Investigations Division. Fr. Hal specialized in gangs, white collar, organized crime and security threat groups. He was a certified law enforcement instructor and guest lectured at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, Indiana State Police Recruit Academy, University of Saint Francis, Trine University, and Indiana Institute of Technology. During his career he received local, state, and national awards including both the Hoover and the Heck awards for outstanding service to criminal justice, the Samuel L. Hanna Community Service Award, and a commendation from the American Police Hall of Fame.

Fr. Hal also served 9 years representing the Second District on the New Haven, Indiana City council where he was also elected Council President/Mayor Pro-Tempore. He was instrumental in the battle that saved New Haven's historic and popular Jury Park Community Pool. He also was an outspoken advocate for Allen County's Amish community when attempts at forming a "unified" government raised concerns they would be cut off from government access and protections they received from the county. He was also a key figure in the drafting and passage of the 2005 amendment to Indiana's Home Improvement Fraud Act to protect seniors and other vulnerable citizens.

After retirement, Fr. Hal followed his calling and obtained his Bachelor of Theology degree from Ave Maria College and a Master of Divinity Degree from Agnus Dei Seminary. He was ordained a Priest in the Old Catholic Order of the Most Holy Mary Theotokos. He served as Co-Pastor at St. Mary's Catholic Community in Greenwood, Indiana, as Chaplain for Serve and Protect, Chaplain for the Indianapolis Chapter of the International Order of St. Luke, Chaplain for the Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services, and currently Chaplain for the Greater Fort Wayne YMCA. Fr. Hal has authored two books, *"Long Days and Short Pays"* (Crowbar Press), and *"Beautiful Life – Beautiful Death"* (T.R. Hicks Publishing). He is currently involved with Risen Savior Anglican church in Huntington, Indiana and their Supply Closet ministry providing hygiene and cleaning supply products to needy families along with prayer support. Fr. Hal has also appeared in 9 faith based motion pictures including the international award winning short film, *"Dis-Graced"* (Spiderflix Films).



Be Careful for Whom You Speak

Fr. H. E. "Hal" West

Some years ago, my wife and I had spent an evening with some friends. On the way home, we decided to stop and pick up a few things we needed for the next day and save ourselves a trip out in the morning. A "dollar store" down the road from our house was still open so we headed in to gather up a few things and get home in time to relax and unwind from the day. We grabbed what we needed and headed to the front of the store to check out. I began pulling our items from the cart and setting them on the counter, checking to assure that, in our rush, we had not forgotten anything. I heard my wife say to the clerk, "Are you O.K.?" I looked up and noticed the cashier, a young girl who appeared to be in or just out of high school, had a look of confusion and distress on her face. "Yes. Well, I guess. I'm not sure," was the response.

I was concerned that there might be someone in the store who was trying to rob the place, and he was lurking about waiting for us to leave. As I was scanning the store to see who else might be in there, my wife asked her what was wrong. She told us she was concerned as she had been in the store all day and people had been coming in and buying up all of the batteries, bottled water, canned goods and snacks. She said when she asked someone about all the unusual purchases, they said that, according to the bible Jesus was coming back tonight, and the world was going to end. I immediately recalled all the stories about a well-known preacher with a national radio ministry who had announced over the last year that he had predicted the end of the world on this date. That God had revealed to him a complicated mathematical formula hidden in certain passages in the Bible and he was able to calculate down to the day when Christ would return. I tried to assure this poor child that many such predictions have been made over the years, and we are still here. I asked her if she really thought, if the world is ending tonight, what would buying batteries, water, and snacks do for us? The Bible didn't tell us to be well supplied and packed when the Lord came back, I don't think Heaven is a place where we will worry about going hungry, being thirsty, or not having batteries for our flashlights and radios.

We offered to stay with her until the store closed and give her a ride home. She seemed to calm down and assured us she was O.K. and lived just a block or two down the street and would be fine going home. She said she was a Christian but just was shocked to learn that so many thought today was the day of the Lord's return. I assured her if she is "good with God", His return is not a reason to fear but to rejoice. She finally broke out with a smile and thanked us for our concern.

Of course, the Lord did not return that night and the preacher "adjusted" his calculations to come up with a new date which also passed uneventfully. He passed away in the midst of all of this so, at least he did get to see Jesus. I pray that went well for him.

*"Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come." –
Matthew 24:42*

*"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son,
but the Father only." - **Matthew 24:36***

I am reminded of the story of a man on a long cross country flight. In the middle of the flight, the plane flew into a severe storm with great turbulence. The lightning cracked around the plane, the

cabin lights flickered on and off, and the plane shook violently as it bounced along in the sky like a boat caught in a hurricane. The man became quite frightened. The Sweat poured from his forehead as he kept a death grip on the armrests of his seat. He glanced over at the passenger next to him. An older priest who sat quietly reading a book and gazing occasionally out the window at the brutal storm. The man blurted out, "You are a Priest! Why don't you do something?" The Priest turned toward the frightened man and calmly said, "I am sorry sir. I am in sales – not management."

Then there is that saying, "Christians want to serve God. But, mostly as advisors."

Sometimes, in our desire to evangelize and please God, we present God in the light of our personal experience. However, we cannot assume that others experience is the same as ours and, that God's response to other circumstances will be the same. The Bible does not say that Jesus healed every sick person he encountered. It does not say everyone hearing His message was saved. Not everyone who was saved became healthy, wealthy, and wise. The rich young man was all in to serve Jesus until, the Lord required he give up his wealth. A bridge he was not willing to cross. Christ's own disciples had expectations of Him that never came about. They believed he was the Savior who would overturn the Roman Empire and set them free. And, certainly, their own lives were far from trouble free with many being martyred for the faith.

We should share Christ with others and tell them of the difference He has made in our lives. Yes, tell them He will make a difference in their lives, too. However, we must be careful not to make promises for God. God has made a difference in my life. He has given me much of what I asked for but not always instantly. Looking back, I see that He brought me to many of those things and used the experience of the journey to that place to teach me to appreciate the gift and be better prepared to use it wisely for the spread of His kingdom. He has also sometimes denied me things I wanted (even for his service) and gave me something I never asked for, and it always worked out for the best. I



*"Oh Lord, make
haste to help me!"*



Affiliated Churches of the COCC:

AGAPE OF JESUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Jeffersontown, KY

HOLY SPIRIT OF HOPE

CHARISMATIC OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH

El Paso, TX

(Both Ground and Zoom Services)

ST MICHAEL'S INDEPENDENT OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Loganville, GA

LIGHT OF CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Bedford, KY

ONLINE SEMINARIES:

AGAPE SEMINARY of LOUISVILLE

Jeffersontown, KY

ST. THOMAS OLD CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Titusville, FL

Note to all Clergy:

If you have a church proper or similar ministry in progress (anywhere in the world) that people could attend if they have the notion, please notify the Shofar so we can include it! This includes online stuff too. Thanks!

The Shofar is always seeking new submissions and contributors for future issues.

Please contact Fr. Brendan Rogers at: coccssofar@gmail.com.