

THE PEQUEÑOS PEPPER

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June 29

Feast of St. Peter

Dominican Retreat House Hosts Sr. Jose Hobday, OSF

Call to Action Speaker Leads "Women's Spring Retreat"

The April 2001 monthly publication of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, *People of God*, carried a small advertisement for the Spiritual Renewal Center's (Dominican Retreat House) late April and May "Weekend Retreats."

Its May 4-6 Women's Spring Retreat features Sr. Jose Hobday, who is no stranger to the Archdiocese. She spoke at the Retreat House last year when she conducted the "Millennium Retreat for Women" (April 30-May 2, 2000). The February 2000 *People of God* carried an article, "Proclaim Jubilee," that featured Sister as part of the Jewish-Catholic Dialogue of New Mexico. In 1997, she conducted the Center for Action and Contemplation's annual Year End-New Year Retreat, "Simple Living –

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Call to Action Speakers at Center for Action and Contemplation

Edwina Gately and Megan McKenna Lead Women's Conference

According to the Nov/Dec 2000 issue of *Radical Grace*, the monthly publication of the Center for Action and Contemplation, the Center's 2001 schedule includes a



EDWINA GATELY

July 3-5 conference titled "Woman's Journey into Justice," led by Edwina Gately, billed as an "advocate and activist for marginalized women," and Megan McKenna, "well-known author and speaker on issues of justice," along with a "team of women working for justice locally and nationally." The advertisement for the

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"Hobday," continued from p. 5

Matthew Fox, a Catholic priest who was silenced by the Vatican for his heretical positions and in 1993 was expelled from the Dominicans.

Among the concerns cited by the Vatican were Fox's belief and promotion of pantheism, his endorsement of homosexual unions, and the presence of the witch, Starhawk, on his University staff. [See *The Pepper*, March 2001, for Starhawk's views and her welcome onto Catholic property in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.]

Hobday, a member of the Seneca Iroquois tribe, is from the Diocese of Gallup and a frequent speaker at Call to Action Conferences.

Hobday's views of spirituality have much in common with Fox's. In a telling little essay, Hobday describes the Sacrifice Flower prayer that she learned as a child from her Native American mother. If one is feeling "burdened," or, has a special request to make of God, one goes outside and selects a special flower to sacrifice, one that was going to die for the petitioner. Hobday writes: "The idea was that as life went out of the flower, it would carry my prayer to God. That meant, of

course, the flower was not to be placed in water....Every time I saw the flower, I could see it giving its life for me and I could imagine my prayer being carried to the Lord. That was true even when I was elsewhere and was just thinking about the flower. Either way, I had a strong sense my prayer was being heard. My flower and I were in union.

"Sometimes it took a few days, sometimes a couple of weeks. When the flower finally died, I would take it outside, say goodbye to it, and thank it for giving its life for me and for delivering my prayer. Then I would bury it so it would have a chance at a new life, and I always hoped it would come back as an even nicer flower."

Hobday's essay makes it clear that in her adult spirituality, she understands that "we are to become Sacrifice Flowers for each other," but the passing reference to reincarnation and the endowment to a flower of sacrificial attributes that can only occur in a conscious being, disturb the Christian reader. ✧

CTA-NM to Hold 2nd Conference

The Call to Action New Mexico website announced June 17, 2001 as the date for its Second Annual State Conference.
Stay tuned....

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Conference says, "We will listen to unique perspectives, explore current issues and hopefully leave inspired to continue, contribute and support each other in our collective journey for justice."

Gately is a Call to Action speaker who has worked for women's ordination, has challenged the deity of Jesus and Church teaching about homosexuality. She aggressively promotes worship of the "Mother Goddess" and the practice of witchcraft, which she considers the spirituality of feminine wisdom. One can see how Gately's might be a "unique perspective."

Dr. Megan McKenna offers another. During a mandatory series of workshops for San Antonio religion teachers March 27-30, 2000, McKenna addressed the topic of "Women of the Scriptures as Models for Today." Participants reported that during the four-part series, McKenna told them, among other things, that one isn't Catholic if he or she venerated the bones of saints like St. Teresa of Jesus, disparaged the Philippine people as "stupid" for devotion to the "bones in that box," and claimed devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary or the saints is "heresy." She referred to St. John the Evangelist as a "c__k sucker" and said that the rosary and the creed were started in the Middle Ages for illiterate people and that only people who are illiterate and heretical still believe in them.

The Center for Action and Contemplation operates on the property of Holy Family Parish in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Albuquerque.

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