



FAIR OAKS/ SACRAMENTO CENTER

Dear Members and Friends,

February 26, 2016

Apologies for the lateness of this program and letter. This is due, not entirely, but largely to computer problems, which may be an fitting issue for a letter that arrives at the beginning of Passiontide, when we turn to the reality of our “fallen” humanness, our weaknesses and strengths, and the shadows and light of our creations of which technology is a prime example. Technology is an externalizing of a human capacity or function, usually with more power and efficiency and has brought unquestioned advantages and enormous good to our earthly existence. But it is also seductive and can bind us in a way that works against the deepest, truest nature of our humanity.

Certainly, **Passiontide** is a preparation for Easter, but If we would try to characterize the nature or the intention in this preparation, it would be something like achieving self-awareness, or knowledge of self. This is simply stated, but not always so easy to achieve. And this, though, is exactly what we are striving for in our **Annual Meeting of the Congregation**, Sunday, March 6, at 11:45 A.M.: **community self-awareness**. One of the things we do is look at the previous year’s finances and consider the current year’s budget, which will be voted on by the Membership. Additionally, the Board of Trustees , as a primary agenda item, want to explore with you our place on the St. Francis campus. Thus, this will be an important meeting and we want as many people’s thoughts and opinions as possible. There will be a **Potluck Lunch** following the meeting.

When I am visiting our congregation in Eugene, OR, March 10-13, Hartmut Junge will be here and will do an **Ukrainian Easter Egg Workshop** on Saturday, March 12. We did this last year and it was great fun, producing some beautifully colored and geometrically complex Easter eggs. During Holy Week we will have the Act of Consecration daily at 9:00 A.M. and **The Silent Supper** on Maundy Thursday and a **Good Friday celebration at 3:00 P.M.** On Easter Sunday we will hold **two** Easter Sunday Acts of Consecration of Man, at 7:30 A.M. and at the usual time, 10:30 A.M., to handle the number of people who wish to come to the Act of Consecration on Easter. So if you can come to the early service, please consider doing so.

In the coming months we will begin a long deferred project: **renewing our server’s vestments**. Many of them are stained, and many are made of synthetic fabric. We are looking for anyone who can help both financially and with the sewing. Please let me know if you could help.

With warm greetings,

Sanford Miller