

COME AND SEE

It was steamy; and it was holy. It was chaotic; and it was seamless. It was full of uncertainty; and it was full of faith. It was the coming of Pentecost on the heels of that Ascension moment when we'd all gazed into the fiery passion of the Sun, awaiting the coming of the Breath of God that would inflame our hearts anew. *Come and see the Spirit at work.*

When the bishop of Lil's diocese of Kalamazoo issued a statement of her excommunication and the "grave danger" in which those who came to see would place their very souls, a bit of public panic was aroused in the little town of Three Oaks. Lil and her husband Steve withdrew the planned ordination from the small church it was to have taken place in. Within the space of 48 hours, family & friends, musicians & women priests worked together to relocate the ordination into Lil's own backyard. *Come and see this new thing that God is doing.*

U.S. male bishops are finding ways to publicize our inclusive model of church that have not been seen since our own (mine and Ree Hudson's) "world news" ordination in a St. Louis synagogue in 2007. On the last day of May in this year of 2014, Lillian Lewis invited her friends to "come and see" her sacramental priestly call be ritually validated. And they came, sporting sun hats and umbrellas, and gathering together closely under pitched tents, around buckets filled with melting ice and precious water. In the serendipitous way of our wily and willful Spirit of God, it was *that* gospel which Lil had chosen for the celebration: "*Where do you stay?*" they asked Jesus, and he responded, "*Come and see.*"

The month of May brought a flurry of ordinations into the Great Waters Region of Roman Catholic Womenpriests (RCWP), and each ordination brought its own unique graces into our ever-growing movement within this Roman Catholic Church. We are indeed blessed, and filled with joy as we welcome into this holy season of Pentecost~ the season of our discipleship~ these Easter ordinands: *Mary Keldermans*, priest of Springfield, IL; *Paula Hoeffler*, priest of Cincinnati, OH; and *Lillian Lewis*, priest of Three Oaks, MI; and *Kathleen Bean*, deacon of Ketterling, OH. Each of them and all of us, worldwide, continue to invite our sisters and brothers to "come and see" a renewed church that has been called forth and is being realized by the people of God who *are* the church, the *sensus fidelium*.

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