

COVENANT RENEWAL

“Beloved in Christ,

In Holy Baptism, we have been united to Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection and made children of God. By His saving grace, we are sisters and brothers in Faith — we are one in Christ.

Thirty-four years ago on the Day of Pentecost, the people of our two Cathedrals entered into a Covenant to work and pray for unity.

Tonight, we renew that Covenant, and pledge in specific ways to grow into this commitment. We also pledge to not take for granted the work of building unity, trust, and holy friendship, and we give thanks to Almighty God for what we have accomplished and for all that is still before us. How awesome is this night!

I now ask that you give assent to this Renewal by responding in a bold voice to the following question:

Will you, the members of these two cathedral communities, do all in you power to uphold and support this Covenant? If so, say, *We will.*”

Following unanimous assent by all present, applause rang out loud and long as the Covenant between the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral was renewed at Vespers/Evening on May 13, the Tuesday following the Day of Pentecost. A portion of the liturgy and the signing of the Covenant by both Bishops, the Rector and the Dean, and the President of the Parish Council and the Senior Warden of the Vestry took place in both cathedrals, followed by the signers exchanging The Peace. It was a historic night!

The liturgy included fine and beautiful music provided by choir members of both cathedrals. The procession at the mid-point of Vespers from CIC to GHTC moved safely along the west side of Broadway with the assistance of the Kansas City Police Department. The celebration culminated with a festive reception in Founders’ Hall with food provided by Culinary Cornerstones and beverages by Mary Ann and Olivia Mansfield.

Thirty-four years following the creation of the original cov-

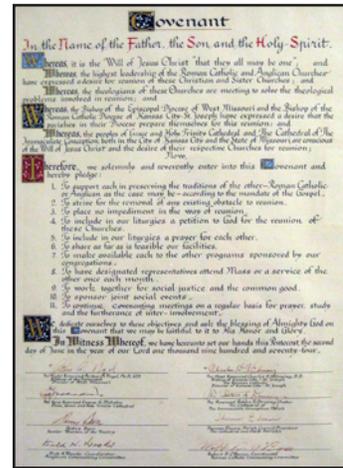
enant, this renewal calls the cathedral congregations to focus on prayer and spirituality; common social action; cultural sharing; and exchange of belief and practice. These four legs provide for multiple opportunities to grow in holy friendship and understanding, and also mean that should an obstacle arise needing further dialogue, commitment to the covenant can continue to be shown in other areas.

Since the Second Vatican Council, great strides have been made in ecumenical dialogue, especially between Roman Catholics and Anglicans. This dialogue has in turn led to greater cooperation in serving the poor and reaching out to communities served by Roman Catholic and Episcopal parishes. However, over the last several years, energy has waned somewhat, and the cause of Christian unity has not been as strongly supported as in the past.

Unity was very much in the prayers of our Lord on the night before he died. Indeed, the Church’s proclamation of the Gospel is diminished when the various traditions within the Body of Christ emphasize differences rather than the faith we hold in common.

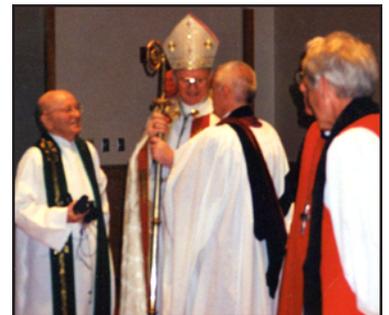
The work before us at GHTC and CIC is the mission mandated by Our Lord: we are to be one in faith so that the world might believe in Him. May each of us personally commit to supporting one focus of the covenant so that, together with our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers, we might more effectively witness to the mercy, grace, and love of God as seen in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Faithfully yours,
Terry+



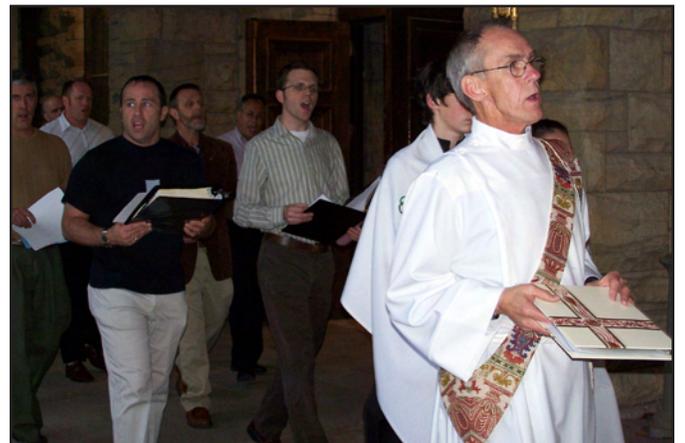
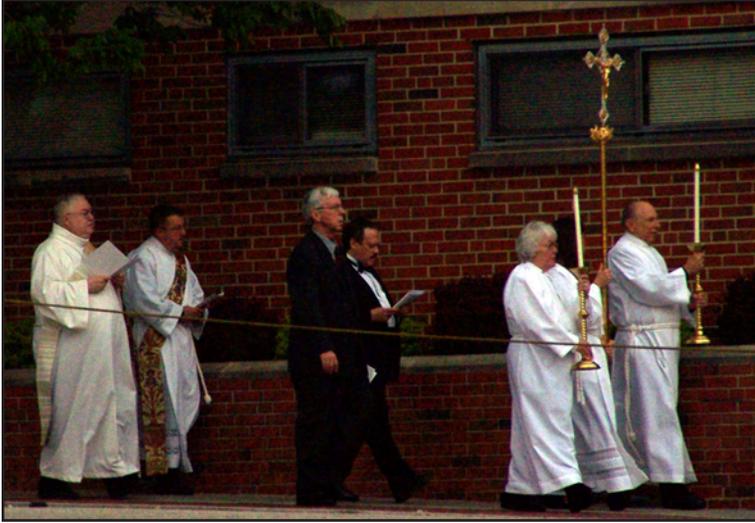
Left: Archive photo from the 1974 creation of Covenant.

Right: The original covenant signed in 1974 on the Day of Pentecost (June 2). Our copy of the covenant hangs in the Cathedral office.



The Rededication Covenant, signed twenty-five years after the original covenant was signed, renewed the commitment of both cathedrals to pray for understanding and unity, to promote efforts to renew downtown and to work together in social action.

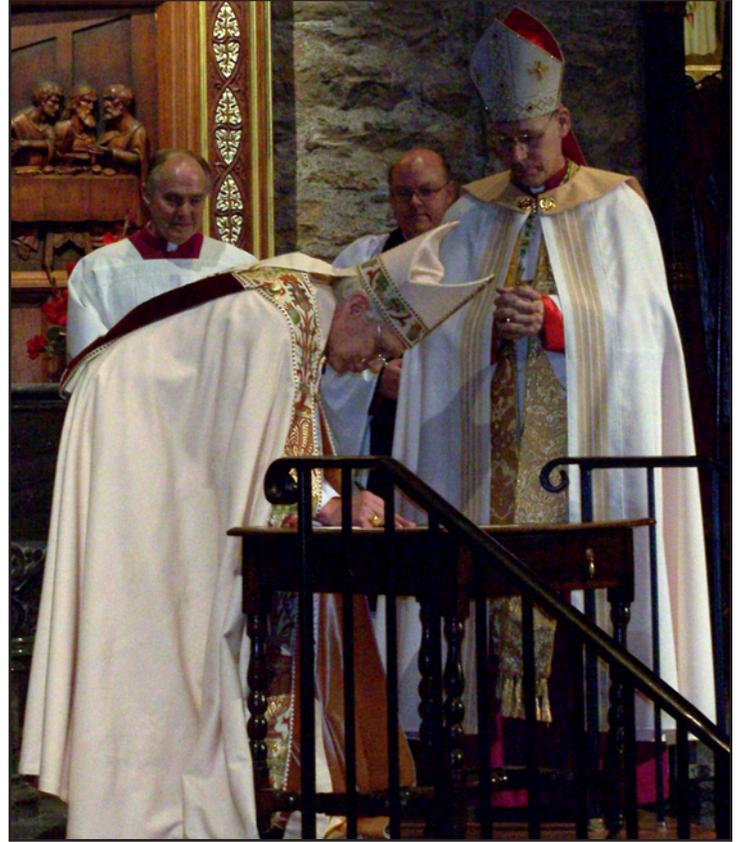
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photos by Julie Toma

At the mid-point of Vespers, parishioners from both cathedrals processed from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to GHTC safely along the west side of Broadway with the assistance of the Kansas City Police Department.

COVENANT RENEWAL



**Covenant Renewal between
Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral
and
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception**

In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

WHEREAS, it is the will of our Savior Jesus Christ "That all may be one,"
WE Recolve, in the year of St. Paul, the great missionary evangelist of
 the apostolic church, as the bishops, pastors, and parishioners of Grace and Holy
 Trinity Cathedral and Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception,

Let Us Share:

- Our prayer and spirituality,
- Our commitment to social action,
- Our cultural events,

and the exchange of belief and practice between our communities.

May God further this plan with His Blessing and Divine Inspiration.
In Witness Whereof, we set our hands this thirtieth day of May in the Year of
 our Lord Two Thousand and eight.

Signed by the following Representatives:



photos by Julie Toma

These photos show each representative signing the Covenant Renewal certificate at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral.

The signers were: (left column) Dean Terry White, Bishop Robert Finn, Monsignor Robert Gregory, (right column) Bishop Barry Howe, Edward Blasco and David Rice.

The certificate wording explains that the two cathedral congregations will share together prayer and spirituality; common social action; cultural sharing and exchange of belief and practice.

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photo by Julie Toma

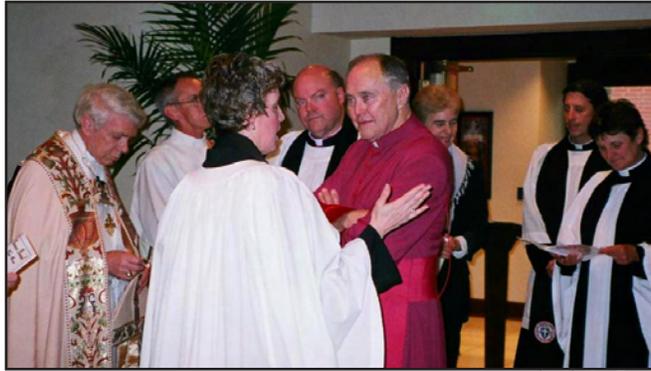
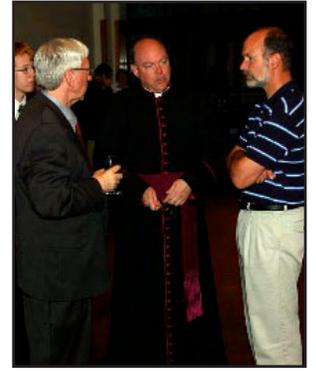


photo by Jan Frizzle



above photos by Grady Sanford

Covenant committee

The Very Rev. Terry White, Co-Chair
Dean, Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Rev. Msgr. Robert Gregory, Co-Chair
Rector, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Rt. Rev. Gregory Polan, OSB, Abbot, Conception Abbey
Kansas City–St. Joseph Ecumenical Officer and Chairman

Rev. Dennis McManus, SJ, Georgetown University
Bishop Finn's Representative to the Committee

Frances Lillig, Jim Kroman, Richard Stucinski
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Ruth MaGill, Geoff Logan
Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

The Rev. Louise Baker
Rector, Redeemer Episcopal Church



photo by Julie Toma



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