

allegory, instead of the familiar and flawed anthropomorphization of so many other Western attempts. The LCC allows freedom for its members to work out their own symbolism, as one would hope of a non-dogmatic spiritual group.

As KH explained, “Call it by whatever name, only let these unfortunate, deluded Christians know that the real Christ of every Christian is the Vāch, the ‘mystical Voice,’ while the man Jeshu was but a mortal like any of us, an adept more by his inherent purity and ignorance of real Evil than by what he had learned with his initiated Rabbis ...” - KH *ML* 111(59)

The Liberal Catholic Church is the first Christian church with so-called “Apostolic Succession” whose members are free to hold that True belief. It is only fitting that it would have been founded by Theosophists.

Interview

The following interview took place on September 24, 2013 between James LeFevour and Right Reverend William Downey, the Regional bishop of the United States for the Liberal Catholic Church.

LeFevour: How would you describe the Liberal Catholic Church as a non-dogmatic church, as it defines itself?

Downey: Firstly, everything I say is just my interpretation. I’m prefacing this interview by saying that these are my opinions and my expression of my understanding of the church, and in no way implying an official doctrine of the church. And that in itself is a requirement, a prerequisite, for all of our clergy. Even when speaking from the pulpit we really try to communicate to our listeners that interpretation of doctrine, scriptures, church practices and so forth are left entirely up to the individual. We don’t try to legislate or dictate or put any kind of restraints on the thinking and discovery of any of our members.

So I think that’s the biggest thing, that we’re not dogmatic in the sense that we would try to impose any particular spin on the Christian faith or the Catholic faith, and as a result we have people in the church who run the gamut of very traditional orthodox thinking to very metaphysical interpretations and some, especially in the beginning of the church, who are immersed in the Theosophical concepts because our founding Bishops were Theosophists. So we see that as our unique contribution to the world of religion. We are bound together by a common liturgy, but not necessarily a common theology.