

Now & Then in Ripon ...

Looking back with the Ripon Historical Society

Not many people know there were Episcopal nuns in Ripon

This article is the second in a series citing the achievements of nuns who were located in Ripon.

Many people were baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church who have never heard of Episcopal nuns. Instead, they've probably come into contact with or been taught in Catholic schools by Roman Catholic nuns and are therefore familiar with their various orders, which were sisterhoods within their organizations.

The Ripon Historical Society recently interviewed an Episcopal nun located here in Ripon named "Sister Charis" to learn about why and when the Episcopal Church embraced nuns as part of their parishes.

First, it should be acknowledged that the Episcopal Church in the United States stemmed from the Church of England during the American Revolution. Although its Mass always has been similar to that of the Roman Catholic Church (and for many years mass included Latin words), it does not believe in the Pope as the absolute ruler over its faith. Episcopalians believe in the seven sacraments, ordination of women and marriage of priests.

The Episcopal Church accepts all faiths and all religions to its services, and welcomes baptized persons to receive communion regardless of their denominational backgrounds.

The Ripon nun we spoke with, Sister Charis, has an interesting past which led her to the Episcopal Church. Raised in a different faith, she eventually attended a Presbyterian University where she met



SISTER CHARIS STANDS outside St. Peter's Episcopal Church with her service dog companion. submitted photo

a man in clerical garb who was an Episcopal Rector (the church's title for a priest), the head of a parish. Although she already was baptized in another denomination, after being invited to attend church she is confirmed Episcopalian.

In addition to this, she was compelled to become an Episcopal nun who, similar to Roman Catholic nuns, are considered married to Christ with three central vows: Chastity, obedience and poverty. Sister Charis has been a faithful nun for more than 40 years.

Sister Charis is a member of the Sisterhood of the Holy Nativity, founded in 1882 in Providence, R.I. by the Rt.

Rev'd Charles C. Grafton.

This order spread from Rhode Island, New York to California, and finally to Ripon. In fact, the former second Mother House of Episcopal nuns still stands at Division and Avery streets in Fond du Lac.

When their convent (housing for nuns to pray and God's work) in Fond du Lac closed, the nuns continued their ministry through St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Ripon, which is located at 217 Houston St. Sister Charis' order's mission is to bring souls to Christ and make the Anglican faith known.

At its peak, the Sisterhood of the Holy Nativity had 75 nuns and has declined to two living sisters who carry out its mission today. Though Sister Charis is elderly, she ministers along the staff and clergy teaching, praying and inspiring others to follow Jesus's way of love at St. Peter's Church.

A book about the Sisterhood of the Holy Nativity is being written by a "Mother Cheryl," who is an Episcopal priest located in California. Sister Charis of Ripon will be listed and profiled within the book.

The Ripon Historical Society is the oldest continually operating historical society in Wisconsin. It is open Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information follow us at Facebook/riponhistory or www.riponhistory.org



ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL Church is one of Ripon's oldest houses of worship and accepts all faiths. Sister Charis reminds people that it is beautiful outside and inside, worthy of touring even if their currently are not an active member. submitted photo

Dallman Responds to League of Women Voters Forum invitation

State Rep. Alex Dallman (R-Green Lake) noted in an email last week Monday that he officially declined the invitation from the League of Women Voters of the Ripon Area and the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin to participate in a forum for candidates running in the 39th Assembly District.

This comes despite him having an initial deadline Sept. 18 to respond to whether or not he would participate in the forum, which was scheduled for last week Wednesday, but did not happen as a result of him not agreeing.

"I am fully committed to remaining in touch with all of the voters of the 39th Assembly District," Dallman said in the press release. "There is no doubt that I will continue to knock doors and meet with voters at community events each and every day that I am able. I have taken great pride in being a highly accessible representative and I have always been willing to take on the major issues that are affecting our rural communities. I look forward to continuing to build upon the successes that we've shared during my first two sessions as your representative."

He added that the League of Women Voters (LWV) has been under increased scrutiny for the last several years.

"Any person navigating the 'non-partisan' LWV website will be hard-pressed to find anything but left-wing propaganda," he said. "The 'non-partisan' LWV, at one time, used to have the influence and respect to host major forums on the national stage such as presidential

debates. Over the years, however, the LWV has become increasingly more liberal and has made massive efforts to push the far-left agenda.

"I will not participate in a forum that is hosted by a liberal organization that hides under the guise of a non-partisan title. The League of Women Voters has spent thousands of dollars to defeat constitutional amendments that would have placed more checks and balances across our dysfunctional government, while also actively trying to allow non-United States citizens to vote in our state and local elections.

"The LWV have also taken the far-left position of advocating for a National Popular Vote, which would ultimately take the voice away from the voters of more rural conservative states like ours and leave the decision making of our country in the hands of states like New York and California.

"I will continue to fight each and every day to build upon and strengthen the conservative values that I know the voters of the 39th District share. As always, I encourage any constituent to please reach out to me with any questions or concerns that they may have and I will be more than happy to respond to each of them, personally."

Dallman currently is serving in his second term in the Wisconsin State Assembly. He serves on the Joint Committee on Finance, which is tasked with drafting Wisconsin's biennial budget. He is seeking reelection in the 39th District which includes all of Marquette and Green Lake counties, and portions of Fond du Lac, Columbia, Adams and Winnebago counties.



Alex Dallman (R-Green Lake)

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