

## **EPIPHANY**

Wise men still search the sky for understanding of the universe. What they seek now, however, is not where a star will appear, but where a star has disappeared, imploding in a burst of incredible brilliance that becomes a darkness so absolute it swallows all light. Medieval men saw in the heavens an image of God's order; modern men may see in the skies an image of their disorder.

In some ways a black hole is an inversion of Bethlehem's star. A black hole results when a star loses balance between inward and outward forces as it begins to radiate less energy; it becomes self-centered, turning to and on itself, pulling in tighter and tighter until it collapses under its own gravity. A black hole destroys not only its own light and life, but that of anything which comes near it. The star that signalled the birth of Christ may also have been a dying star, but its light was not overcome by darkness, not even the darkness of death. In an outpouring of Himself, the "Love that moves the sun and the other stars" comes into our heavy hearts and shadowed spirits to enlighten and enliven. Christ breaks our deadening focus on ourselves and frees us to return to a life-giving balance in which we draw energy from God and pass it on to others.

Balanced thus, in peace we become instruments of His peace. We do not have to turn away, as those Magi did, to take up life apart from Him, for we know surely that in Him is Life. God set in the sky a rainbow of promise that He would never again destroy the sinful earth; he sets in our hearts a star of hope for the world illumined by its radiance: "Behold, I make all things new. " Wise men still adore Him.

Come, starbright Son-light, Come.

Richard Thomas, BSG Superior

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## "Lord, make me an instrument . . . "

"Lord, make me an instrument, " - these are the opening words of Saint Francis of Assisi's prayer, "Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. " All of us, Religious as well as secular persons, are here on earth as instruments of God. We are here to carry out His purpose. All of us have some sort of gift that God has given us, and it is this gift that we must develop so that we may be true instruments of God.

For each of us the gift differs. Most of us don't discover what that gift is until late in life; God will develop our talent as we grow. Many of us find our talent early in life, but unfortunately, we don't always use it. We find that it is not what we want to do as individuals. God does not care what we want, for he knows what we need. We may put the talent aside, but in God's own time He will make us use the talent He has given us.

God never presses us to do that which we are unable to do. He will never give us a task unless He gives us the strength and the ability to do it. It may take us years to discover what He wants us to do; no matter what it is that He wants us for, it will be in His time.

We pray, as Saint Francis did, "Lord, make us instruments." Once He has touched us, we will know what He wants. For us in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, we pray that we are his instruments, that we are servants of God. As He touches all of our lives, and especially the Brothers', let us never lose sight of what it is He wants us to do. As the motto of the Order goes: "Soli Deo Gloria -\_To God Alone the Glory:" all that we do, all that we may receive recognition for, it is for God alone the glory. Let us never lose sight of that motto, for by keeping to it we truly become His instruments, and with our Patron, Saint Gregory the Great, "Servants of God. "

William, BSG Bronx, New York

Brother William, a Novice in the Brotherhood, has for thirty-one years been a layreader at Saint Andrew's, the Bronx, New York. He has served on the Advisory Board and as a member of the Vestry, and on the Bronx Committee on Christian Education and Lay Ministry; he has also acted as a counsellor for seminarians serving in his parish. He recently received the St. Andrew's Distinguished Citizen Award for service to the parish and the community.

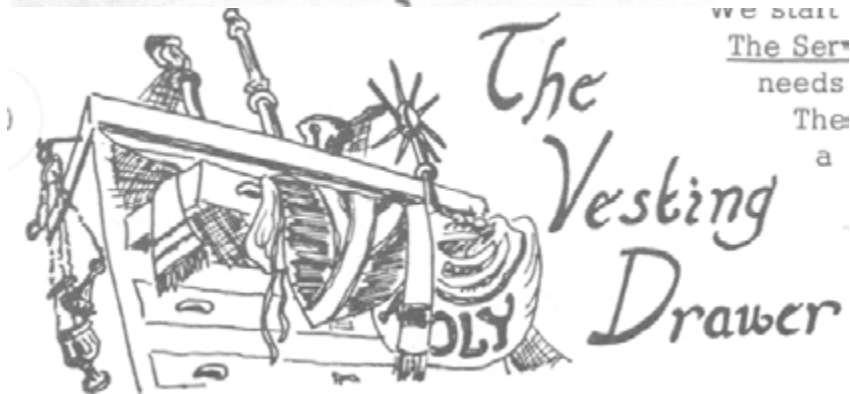


MOVING?

Please send us notification of your new address:      The Brotherhood of St. Gregory Circulation  
St. Augustine's House  
2462 Webb Avenue  
Bronx NY 10468



In an effort to revive an old custom in the Church, particularly suitable to this season, the Brotherhood has begun to handmake Rosaries. Two types are available: plain or silver-plated, with either oval or round olive-wood beads. A Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady is also available. A donation of \$6 for the plain Rosary or the Chaplet, and \$10 for the silver-plated Rosary is requested. Write to Br. Tobias Stanislas St. Augustine's House 2462 Webb Avenue Bronx NY 10468 Please specify either round or oval beads, and whether the plain or silver-plated is desired. And please be patient in waiting for your Rosary to arrive, since each is hand-made to order.



We start the new year with a new department in The Servant, where we will post news and needs of the Brotherhood Vestment Exchange. The Exchange is doing well, and we have a surplus of donated green and black Mass sets, and a few green frontals and superfrontals.

Contact Br. Christian at: St. Gregory's House  
25 Allen Street  
Manchester NH 03102

# COMMUNITY NOTES



NY NY: The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory joined in the 5th Annual Cathedral Day at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, a celebration of liturgy and music to the glory of God. Shown (l. to r.) are Brothers Stephen Joseph, Tobias Stanislas, James, Anthony Francis, Jason Jude and William, with the Rt. Rev'd Paul Moore, Jr., Bishop of New York and Visitor to the Order. . . . Brothers of the Order joined with members of the Order of Holy Cross, the Order of St. Helena, the Community of St. Mary, the Community of the Holy Spirit and the Society of Saint Francis to act as tellers at the Diocesan Convention. . . . Bishop Moore led a quiet day sponsored by the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer at Saint Bartholomew's Church, Manhattan, and four of our NY - NJ area Brothers were able to attend. The Bishop's meditations were very moving, and the Brothers got to join Sr. Mary Gregory, CSM and the rest of the assembly in wishing him a happy birthday! . . . As is our tradition, the Brothers spent Thanksgiving Day serving a hot meal to me of New York's many homeless poor at the Bowery Mission. . . . Br. Tobias Stanislas joined the people of his parish, the Church of Saint Luke-in-the-Fields, as Bishop Moore blessed materials for the reconstruction of the church building (which was destroyed by fire this past Spring), and blessed the people as living stones in God's spiritual temple. Mayor Edward Koch spoke on the importance of the Church in the community.



Brooklyn, NY: Br. Stephen Joseph attended a special service at St. Leonard's African Orthodox Church, welcoming the Right Reverend D. Gomez, Anglican Bishop of Barbados (Windward Islands). Shown (left to right) are Bishop James Rogers, Pastor of Saint Leonard's, Bishop Gomez, and Br. Stephen Joseph.

Washington D.C.: As Brother John begins his sixth year in Life Profession, he has received a new assignment from the Right Reverend John T. Walker, Bishop of Washington: beginning a campus ministry at Montgomery College. He is also working on a project with Sister Frances Katherine of the All Saints Sisters of the Poor; in addition he is working as an "ambassador plenipotentiary" spreading the news of the Brotherhood's ministry to various parishes in the Washington - Maryland - Virginia area.

Bronx, NY. The Right Reverend J. Stewart Wetmore, Senior Suffragan Bishop of New York, officiated at a special ground-breaking service for Saint Andrew's housing project for the elderly. Two of our Brothers, Jason Jude and William, serve in this vital, forward-looking parish.

Fr. Errol A. Harvey, rector of St. Andrew's extended a warm welcome to the other Brothers who were able

to attend this service of dedication and commitment. . . . The Brotherhood turned out in force for the Episcopal Visitation of the Right Reverend Walter D. Dennis, Junior Suffragan of New York, to the Church of the Mediator, at which Br. James, Assistant Superior, serves, and Fr. Frank L. Knight, Provincial Chaplain, is rector. A Parish supper followed, and the Brothers to chat with the Bishop concerning their various parochial involvements . . . . Fr. Knight also celebrated the Mass of Dedication for the Oratory of Our Lady of Walsingham at Saint Augustine's House; he also led a quiet day retreat for the Brothers at the Church of the Mediator in mid Advent.



## **INTERCESSIONS**

### For the ill:

Elizabeth Margo, Jules Formel, Christian W. Flohr, Jr., The Rev'd Canon William Johnson Bud Gregg

### For the departed:

Matthew Rottkamp, Bill Wisniewski

### For the Clergy, especially:

The Most Rev'd Robert A. K. Runcie

The Rt. Rev'd John M. Allin

The Rt. Rev'd Horace W. B. Donegan

The Rt. Rev'd Paul Moore, Jr.

Visitor Emeritus

Visitor and Protector

the Clergy of Provinces III, IV, V and VIII, and the Brothers of the Order who serve there:

The Rt. Rev'd Matthew P. Bigliardi

The Rt. Rev'd Dean T. Stevenson

The Rt. Rev'd William G. Black

The Rt. Rev' d John T. Walker

The Rt. Rev'd James Daniel Warner

The Rev' d Stuart K. Frane

The Rev' d Robert J. Vanderau, Jr.

The Rev'd Henry N. Fukui

The Rev'd Wayland E. Melton

Provincial Chaplains

Provincial Chaplains Emeriti The Rev' d Elwyn D.

Brown

The Rev' d Thoma s F. Ryan, Jr. The Rev'd Frank

S. Walinski

Brothers John, Kevin James, Nicholas, Thomas Joseph, Thaddeus David and Augustine James

### For the Religious, especially.:

The Sacramentine Nuns

The Visitation Nuns

The Order of the Holy Family

The Brotherhood of Jesus

The Sisters of Jesus

The Companions of the Holy Savior

### Special intentions for:

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk, England

The Friends and Companions of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory

The new ministry of the Rev'd Wayland E. Melton at St. Luke's Church, Knoxville, Tenn. Jean and Bob

David Pelletier Joe Hughes

Jerry Moize

Roy Tobin

The ministry of the Rev'd Arthur Pedersen as Chaplain to our Brothers in New Jersey .

St. John's Montgomery College Campus Ministry

The Church of Our Saviour

The Church of St. Luke-in-the-Fields

### Thanksgiving for:

The birth of Travis Christian, first child of David and Debbie Graham

The dedication of the Oratory of Our Lady of Walsingham, and the Chapel of the Nativity The birthday of

Br. Anthony Francis