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GENERAL CHAPTER - 1984 - FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDATION

**Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold  
and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has  
planted.**

— Ps. 80:14

The Brotherhood of St. Gregory has been blessed over the last fifteen years both in works and vocations. This is an account of the General Chapter and Retreat, held at Stony Point Conference Center in Rockland County, New York, Sept. 12-17, 1984. It was a time for looking at the past, understanding the present, and praying about the future. Only by looking inward, examining ourselves as individuals and as a community, can we be prepared to carry our mission outward to the Church and the world.

The pre-Chapter Retreat began on Sept. 12, with meditations led by the Superior General and Br. Tobias Stanislas, Director of Education. The meditations centered around seeking the will of God -- surely the key to any devoted and dedicated life in Christ. An in-depth examination of the three-fold vows as taken and lived by the members of the Brotherhood, led to some new understandings of our life and mission together and individually. The setting at Stony Point was extremely conducive to the silence which formed a large part of the retreat.

On Holy Cross Day, Sept. 14 (the anniversary of our founding) the community was joined by the Rev. Thomas F. Pike, first Chaplain and mentor to Br. Richard Thomas. Fr. Pike celebrated the Eucharist and Br. Richard Thomas joined him in a dialogue homily, discussing the early years of the community and its growth and progress in the first fifteen years. There was a reception following at which many of the newer brothers had time to talk with Fr. Pike. One of our new postulants, John Francis Jones, serves at Calvary / St. George's, New York, of which Fr. Pike is rector.

On Saturday, September 15, the Chapter meeting was called to order, and legislative matters and community business were discussed. The most significant legislation passed was the adoption of the Book of Common Prayer as the office book of the community, replacing the Monastic Breviary which had been used for the last five years. This change, which passed without opposition, grew out of the growing awareness of the need for a closer and deeper connection of the Brotherhood with the Episcopal Church, -and from a careful examination of the ethos of the community: as "servants of the servants of God" in this particular branch of Christ's Church.

At Vespers on Saturday three new postulants were admitted: John Francis Jones (mentioned above), Earl Christian (of St. Andrew's, Bronx, NY), and Steven Edward Zimmer (of Trinity Parish, Copley Square, Boston MA). Three brothers were received into the Novitiate: Joseph Thomas (Niantic CT), Thomas Martin (Quantico VA) and Bernard Francis (Madison WI). The Superior General commis -

sioned brothers for the following offices and responsibilities in the community: Br. Roy, Director of Postulants and Novices; Br. Luke Anthony, Director of Companions; and Br. James, Director of Public Relations

Sunday, Sept. 16, found the community at St. Bartholomew's Church, White Plains, the parish where Br. Richard Thomas serves as Director of Music. The brothers attended the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist, at which several sang in the choir. In addition, the Brotherhood "Schola" sang the Magnificat with Fauxbourdon during the administration of the Holy Communion. The brothers (ably led by Br. Kevin James, who is a professional hospital dietitian in Portland, Oregon) prepared and served the annual parish "Homecoming Brunch."

At 4:00 p.m. the formal celebration of our Fifteenth Anniversary took place, with a Solemn Eucharist. The Rt. Rev. Paul Moore, Jr., Visitor, was celebrant and preacher, and the Gospel was sung by the Rev. Canon James R. Gundrum, Executive Officer of the General Convention. Many friends of the community were present, among them the Rev. Canon Richard J. Anderson, Executive for Communication at the Episcopal Church Center, the Rev. Sam Benson, and the Rev. Wesley Konrad. Ecumenical representatives included Br. Cyr Belaney of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart (Roman Catholic), Sr. Ursula of the Sisters of the Brotherhood of Jesus (Lutheran), and the Rev. David Henritzy of the Order of St. Luke (Methodist). A reception followed in the parish hall at which friends were able to greet the bishop and the two brothers who made their first Vows of Profession at the service, Br. Laurence Andrew (Church of the Advent, Boston MA) and Br. Charles (St. Paul's Chapel of Trinity Parish, New York NY).

The photo below (left) shows the community gathered following the Festival Eucharist. Joining them are Bishop Moore, Sr. Ursula, Canon Gundrum, Br. Cyr Belaney, SC, Br. Martin, SCK, and Br. Philip Francis, MCC.

The photograph on the right shows the relic of St. Gregory the Great presented to the community by the Vatican, and the original Profession Cross first worn by Br. Richard Thomas.





The Superior General, Br. Richard Thomas, BSG, with the Visitor, the Rt. Rev. Paul Moore, Jr.

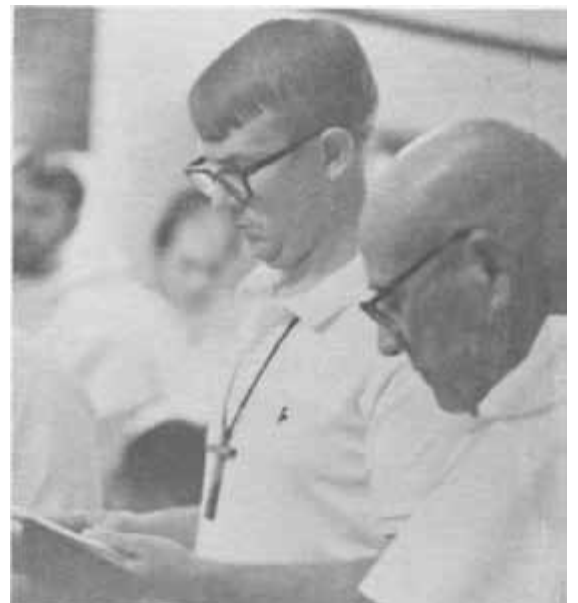


Brothers Luke Anthony, Christian and Leslie Victor look on as new brothers prepare to make their first vows of profession.



### NOVICES RECEIVED

Three Postulants were clothed in the white Novice habit at Vespers on Saturday, and are seen here being presented by their sponsors. (Above, 1. to r., Br. Bernard Francis of Madison, Wisc., and Br. Thomas Joseph of Niantic, Conn.; (R.) Br. Thomas Martin of Quantico, Va., with Br. John, Provincial of Province III, acting as sponsor.



## FIRST PROFESSION OF VOWS

Br. Laurence Andrew, of Boston, Mass., (below, r.) signs the instrument of profession before the Superior General. (Right) Br. Charles of New York, N.Y., makes his first vows, his hands clasped by the Superior General's.

After the making of vows, and the signing of the instruments of profession, the new brothers received the brown scapular (symbol of service), the cincture with its symbolic knots, and the profession cross, with the Community's motto, "SOLI DEO GLORIA," engraved on the front.



## POSTULANTS ADMITTED

New members of the Brotherhood include Earl Christian (below) of the Bronx, N.Y., John Francis Jones (lower l.) of New York, N.Y., and Steven Edward Zimmer (below r.) of Boston, Mass. The next six months will be a time of listening, learning and seeking after the will of God. We ask your special prayers for these men as they begin a journey toward a new life dedicated in Christ.



## NOVEMBER INTERCESSIONS

### FOR THE ILL

Iona Deur	Clifford Sutcliffe	Harvey Solomon
Melvin Shadawitz	Nancy Toozes	Ruth Leverich
Br. Charles, BSG	Br. Bernard, BSG	Thomas Joseph Sullivan
Robert Bilbay	Walter Hammond	The Rev. Leslie J.A. Lang

### FOR THE DECEASED:

Lillie B. Wright	Joseph Delago	Stanley Lacostie
	Sarah Arndt	

### FOR THOSE WHO SERVE THE CHURCH, especially:

The Most Rev. Robert A. K. Runcie	The Most Rev. John M. Allin
The Rt. Rev. Paul Moore, Jr.	The Rt. Rev. Horace W. B. Donegan
Episcopal Visitor	Visitor Emeritus
The Rev. Thomas F. Pike, Chaplain Emeritus	
The Rt. Rev. Matthew P. Bigliardi	The Rt. Rev. James Daniel Warner
The Very Rev. John P. Bartholomew	The Rev. David Olsen
	The Rev. Frank S. Walinski

### and for the brothers of Provinces VI and VIII:

Kevin James, Augustine James and Paul

### FOR RELIGIOUS ORDERS AND CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES, especially:

The Visitation Nuns	The Sacramentine Nuns
The All Saints Sisters of the Poor	The Community of Taize
The Order of Saint Helena	The Servants of Christ the King

### SPECIAL INTENTIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS:

The Rev. E. A. St. John    Br. Anthony Francis, BSG    Br. Richard Thomas, BSG  
For General Chapter 1984 – the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Foundation of the  
Brotherhood: a wonderful opportunity for worship, fellowship and prayer.  
World Food Day -- October 16, 1984  
The Silver Jubilee of Br. John Charles, SSF: 25 years as a bishop  
The ordination of Nick McDonald to the diaconate  
The birthday of the Rt. Rev. Arthur Michael Ramsey, Sometime Archbishop of  
Canterbury  
The birthdays of Novice Br. Bernard and Postulant Steven Edward