## HE SERVANT



BEHOLD NOW, BLESS THE LORD, ALL YOU SERVANTS OF THE LORD...

Clockwise from upper lert: John Peter, Bernard, William, and John

#158

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### The Servant

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Superior General, Richard Thomas Biernacki Editor, Tobias Stanislas Haller

### FAITHFUL SERVANTS

This issue highlights our departed brothers, and I would like to take this opportunity to mention each of them in a personal way. Canon Edward West, that giant of the church, once told Mother Ruth, Founder of the Community of the Holy Spirit, "Your community will only be great when you have a sister in heaven." We (in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection) now have four brothers there.

Br John Nidecker was the first brother to die in community. It was a great loss for us since John had been a mover and shaker in many ways. The very newsletter you are reading and the Brotherhood Vestment Exchange were his creations.

As in all family situations, there are those who stand out as different. Br William Bunting was one of those. "Geographicus," as he was named, was the traveler, and as he did so, he completed voluminous diaries of each trip. We always had a detailed report right down to the meals he consumed. As you will note from the sermon printed in this issue, his theological and spiritual roads were also well traveled!

Br Bernard Fessenden was one of my closest "brethren." Bernard was my confidant and buddy. He was one of the remaining smoking companions I had, and some of our best conversations were conducted over an ash tray during convocations. But Bernard was also a

deeply committed and spiritual being; twelve steps and AA, and "Dare to Hope" Retreats at Graymoor — these searching and deep experiences were the fiber of Bernard. As he lay in bed near death he asked one thing and I immediately knew what that was. So, in secret (and away from his oxygen supply), we shared what we had so often shared in better times — a cigarette!

Br John Peter Clark was one of those gentle and quiet spirits that give us a glimpse of the Holy One. He was always there and always faithful. His Embertide Report was always the first to arrive. He loved the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine and, as executor of his estate, it was my humble privilege to carry his ashes to the cathedral to be placed in the columbarium. He rests now in the shadows of the place he considered a piece of heaven, and he faces the high altar at which he so ably served for so many years.

"Behold a cloud of witnesses." Of your charity, pray for these, our departed brethren. Knowing that each of them is praying for each of us, behold, how good it is when brethren dwell together in unity. We, and they, all dwell in the shadow of the Almighty.

RTB

#### Two sisters: one Lord

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. — Luke 10.38-39

You would think this Gospel passage would be an easy one to talk about or write a sermon on, yet it seems to be difficult to choose a text. There are two sides to the story: there is Martha, mistress of the household; and Mary, her sister. Our Lord says that Mary chose the better part. If I try to explain Martha's view or Mary's view, then I might be accused of taking sides or perhaps say that this is not what our Lord meant when he said that "Mary has chosen the better part." Which way do I go?

Perhaps the best way is to leave it and let you decide. I'm going to take the lesser way and try to equalize or weigh the evidence. I will put it on the scale of justice and see if we can get it to balance equally or perhaps tip the scale so that one side will equal the other. I think both Martha and Mary are right in what they do: Martha in serving or doing the work; and Mary in listening to our Lord's words. There are a lot of us who are Marys and many of us are Marthas. Both are needed in this world.

Let us look for a few minutes at the eucharist, the Holy Communion, the Mass, for our clarification, our insight. The eucharist begins with the Liturgy of the Word. This is the reading of scripture and a homily or sermon about what has been read. This is the listening point; the part the "Marys" of the world will take. Listening is important. In listening, some thought, some new

emphasis on a particular passage, or the way someone reads a passage may provoke a new understanding of the Word. The listening is well and good, but something else goes with the hearing of the Word. If we all just sat and listened, how would the Word go further?

From the listening and hearing we go to proclaim our faith as summarized in the Creed. Here both the Marthas and Marys join together as one to voice the belief of their faith. Then come the Prayers of the People in which we all pray together, offering at times our own intercessions for friends we know who are ill; for understanding in the world; for moving people in the right direction for a closer relationship with God.

Then the Peace is exchanged, when all of us greet one another with "the Peace of the Lord." This is the beginning for the Marthas — the sharing of togetherness; the closeness when the one who serves makes contact with another person; the sharing together of the listener and the worker. Then comes the Offertory, when we bring back to God the gifts so freely given to us. This is in the form of money — the fruits of our labor — and the bread and wine that represent our universal fruits of laboring — or listening — in God's vineyard, together the summation of sharing what we received from God's gracious generosity, represented in the visible form of bread and wine.

At the Great Thanksgiving we now come together as one, the Marys and the Marthas of the world, all of us together, sharing God's greatest gift, the Body and Blood of Christ, the Heavenly Food, the sustenance that gives us strength during the week to guide us in whatever way our Lord plans for us to go — whether a Martha or a Mary. It is in the eucharist that we receive the strength to do the will of God in the tasks before us. It is with the coming of Jesus into our bodies that we receive strength to do either the listening or the physical labor. Both are important. There are times

when the Marys will become Marthas and the Marthas, Marys, depending upon the way the Holy Spirit will guide or move us.

At the end of the eucharist we give thanks for the reception of Christ into our bodies, the sustaining strength to go out from this place to bear witness to Christ in the world. At the end of the service, before we leave the church building, we are given the words: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord"; we respond with "Thanks be to God." We

are sent out from here as Marys and Marthas to love and to serve, and both are truly important. If our talent lies in listening and perhaps sharing quietly with someone else what we have heard, then we are Marys — but also Marthas, because of our sharing. If we leave here with renewed strength to work and serve the Lord in some physical way or in whatever way God directs through

the Spirit, then we are Marthas —

with a little bit of Mary thrown in. For we have to listen to know what the will of the Lord is.

We leave here, hand in hand, with a little bit of Martha and Mary in our hearts. Whoever we are, Martha or Mary, let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

Br William Bunting died on October 12, 1988, in the sixth year of his profession. He left behind a collection of his homilies and essays written in over 30 years of active ministry, comprising a legacy of his love which is beyond value. William preached this sermon in July 1983, at Saint George's, Maple Valley, Washington.

Here and there with the brothers and sisters

#### **COMMUNITY NOTES**

### The Jubilee Year

The final event in the community's observance of its Silver Jubilee took place at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, Manhattan, on Sunday evening, April 23, in the form of a candle-light service of Choral Vespers, entitled

"A Celebration of Religious Life." The service focused on the anniversaries of the Society of Saint Francis (75 years), the Order of Saint Helena (50 years) and the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory (25). Our Founder and Superior General, Richard Thomas, was officiant, and Justus Richard Van Houten, SSF,

Minister Provincial of the American Province of the Franciscans, preached. Thirteen Gregorians attended, and representatives from SSF, OSH, and other communities with ministries in the Diocese of New York were in the procession, while postulants-prospective, friends, parishioners, and a number of Roman Catholic religious joined in the celebration of the office.

### Council Meeting

The Council of the Brotherhood gathered at Graymoor for its spring meeting, and it was a busy time, as always. Four applicants were interviewed and have entered the ranks of postulantsprospective: William David Everett (Vermont), Michael I Bushnell (Massachusetts), and Thomas J Liotta and James J Mahoney (both of New York). Damian-Curtis was approved for life profession, to take place during Annual Convocation in July, and Charles was placed on a leave of absence. Council regretted hearing of Donovan Aidan's illness, which necessitated the Superior General appointing Ciarán Anthony as Provisional Provincial of Province I for the next three months, providing Donovan Aidan with much-needed recuperation time.

Elizabeth Mary and Novice Karekin Madteos visited for lunch on the Saturday, thus providing the Council the opportunity to say "bon voyage" to Karekin, who left the following day for San Francisco. Various committees met during the weekend, and on Saturday evening a group went to Yonkers to visit the future site of Fessenden House (see below under Province II). The busy Council weekend came to a close with the remaining members attending the

eucharist at Saint Peter's, Peekskill, where the congregation and their rector, the Rev Robert V Taylor, welcomed the friars for their second visit.

#### Province I

The members of Province I held a Lenten retreat at Epiphany Monastery, New Boston, New Hampshire. Present were Donovan Aidan, Ciarán Anthony, Charles Edward, Helen Bernice, John Michael, Robert Michael, Associate Mary Virginia Clement Haney, postulants-prospective Michael Bushnell, Stephen Moss and William Everett, and friend Jim Cyphers. John Michael gave the first retreat address on "The Religious Life as a Prophetic Response to the Word." Father Romuald, OSBCam, prior of the monastery, gave the second address on "Gregory the Great's Balance Between Prayerful Conversation with God and the Prophetic Call to Action." + + + In May, the province held a quiet weekend at the monastery. Attending were Donovan Aidan, Ciarán Anthony, Helen Bernice, Robert Michael, postulant Susan Caroselli, Associate Alec McLure, postulants-prospective Michael Bushnell and Stephen Moss, and friends Jim Cyphers and Stephen Murtagh. The province spent the weekend in common worship and quiet reflection.

Postulant Susan Caroselli seems to have fit right into the life of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University as a visiting professor, lecturing in three different classes on Christian themes in the visual arts. She has made connections with a number of other religious at the university. She made a brief return visit to Los Angeles in February to give a lecture, and had time to touch base with Francis Andrew. She has be-

come active with a choir at Berkeley and also with one at Trinity-on-the-Green, New Haven. But her most exciting news is that her book, *Italian Panel Painting of the Early Renaissance*, was published in December jointly by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the University of Washington Press.

Novices John Michael and Helen Bernice visited the Congregational Church in Boscawen, New Hampshire to present a Lenten program on their journey in religious life, in which the pastor shared her experience with the Iona and Taizé communities. Helen Bernice is also continuing her work to set up cluster ministries in parishes bordering the Connecticut River in New Hampshire and Vermont. John Michael has been keeping busy with progressive politics, working with the Rainbow Coalition and awaiting Jesse Jackson's independent candidacy; he hopes to run for state legislature this fall.

Charles Edward has made a canonical transfer of his diaconal orders to the Diocese of New Hampshire, from Rhode Island.

#### Province II

Three community members have been involved in undertaking a new venture: Brother Bernard Fessenden House — dedicated to the memory

of our brother who died in 1993 — is a housing facility for people living with HIV/AIDS; it is sponsored by Richard John's Agape



Fund. Francis Andrew has moved from

Los Angeles to take up residence as chaplain and William Francis has moved from the House of the Redeemer to become guardian. Daily services are being held in the chapel, to be dedicated to the Martyrs of Memphis, and residents should be arriving soon. The formal dedication for the facility is set for the Feast of Pentecost.

The Rev Katherine Day welcomed friars, sisters, Associates and vocationers from the southern region of Province II to her parish — Holy Trinity, South River, New Jersey — for the annual Lenten retreat on the Feast of the Annunciation. Elizabeth Mary organized the day (Holy Trinity is her home parish), titled "Being in the Presence of God!", and meditations were given by the provincial, Richard John ("Surrendering to God"), and by William Francis ("God's Will"), and novice Karekin Madteos introduced the experience of Centering Prayer and led the group in an exercise. The day was completed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, with Clare as celebrant, Associate Karen Kleinmann as deacon and James assisting; Tobias Stanislas found the thread which held the whole day together in his homily for Annunciation, reminding us of the example given to the church by the Blessed Virgin Mary in her surrender to God's will.

Associate Diana Frade was at the Episcopal Church Center in New York City to attend a meeting of the Anglican Women's Network and she was hosted to lunch by Richard Thomas and James, the two canons of her home diocese, Honduras. The brothers were most interested in hearing her impressions of her first two Executive Council meetings as a newly-elected member of that body. It was a wonderful opportu-



And so to Rome... A Gregorian friar visits Gregory's see (Michael David at Saint Peter's).

nity to catch up on mutual friends and current events in the Diocese of Honduras and at the Church Center. In mid-May Richard Thomas accompanied the Presiding Bishop to Mexico City to represent the General Convention at the service instituting the Most Rev Jose G Saucedo as first Primate of the newly autonomous Anglican Church of Mexico; among the bishops present was

Associate Leo Frade, Bishop of Honduras. Following the service Richard Thomas took some vacation time in Mexico and the Frades came up to New York (the bishop is a member of the Board of the General Theological Seminary), where they had the opportunity to spend some time with James.

Novice Robert Michael was able to extend his visit to New York for the Vespers service at the cathedral (see above) into a weekend with James and Tobias Stanislas at Saint Augustine's House, the Bronx. In addition to the fellowship, his whirlwind visit included the Sunday morning eucharist at the Church of Saint Luke in the Fields, and tours of the cathedral and of the General Theological Seminary, where Tobias Stanislas has just completed his junior year as a seminarian.

Michael David has been on the road traveling with a group of his students from the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts, visiting many historic and beautiful sites in Italy. Among the most memorable were the time spent in Assisi, praying at churches and sacred spots from the life of Saint Francis, and in Rome, where they attended an audience with Pope John Paul II on Ash Wednesday — the school pilgrimage was made mention of during the audience and the Pope waved at them. Then, shortly after returning from Europe, Michael David journeyed to Washington DC to accompany a friend and colleague who was to receive a Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics; this trip entailed another audience, this time at the White House where he met First Lady Hilary Rodham Clinton. For some of us, Lent is a time of quiet and of reserved reflection...!

Francis Andrew joined Richard Thomas and James on the staff of the Episcopal Church Center in April, as Assistant to the Coordinator of Ministry Development (a natural for him, as he continues in vocational diaconate training himself). He underwent his baptism of fire on May 9, as he was asked to preach at the Chapel of Christ the Lord by that day's celebrant (and his new boss!), the Rev Dr John Docker. But Francis Andrew was well-prepared, and James attended for moral support, hearing a fine homily on the feast of Saint Gregory of Nazianzus.

The Superior General was interviewed by the editor of *Alivel*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Western Louisiana. + + + Tobias Stanislas' poem, "Anamnesis," appeared in the May 14 issue of *The Living Church*.

John Peter's ashes have been placed in the columbarium at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, where he had

served as verger. "Good and faithful servant, enter your master's rest."

#### Province III

Lent was a busy time for Luke Anthony, as he was put to work at his parish (Mount Calvary, Camp Hill, Diocese of Central Pennsylvania) teaching a basic Anglicanism course entitled "What does it mean to be an Episcopalian?" on Tuesday evenings. He also led the parish's Lenten retreat in mid-March, built around the theme of "Prayer and active spirituality."

Novice Lillian-Marie is now a Lay Eucharistic Minister in the Diocese of Central Florida. She will further her ministry by taking instruction in going to the local nursing homes to bring the eucharist there. She will also become a Lay Reader and Chalice Bearer.

#### Associates

We are pleased to welcome new Associates James David Walley (Maple Valley, Washington), the Rev David Benshawel (Garland, Texas), and Roberta R M<sup>c</sup>Kay (Old Bridge, New Jersey).

Grosvenor Calkins recently moved to a new apartment in a retirement community in Newton, Massachusetts and has begun a new ministry there: during Lent he joined in with a group of his Roman Catholic neighbors who were gathering weekly to say the Rosary, and in no time he was asked to be the *leader!* It certainly appears that Anglican abilities are recognized universally!

Mark Harris received the Doctor of Ministry degree from the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts on May 25; congratulations upon completing your studies — you've done yourself and us proud!

## The Vestment Exchange

The Vestment Exchange receives donations of used but still useful vestments and church furnishings, and repairs and inventories them against requests from congregations in the U.S. and around the world. The community supports the cost of repairing and shipping.

We are grateful for donations ranging from vestments, hymnals, bishops' clerical attire, and hangings, received from: Trinity Church (Tilton NH), All Saints (Littleton NH), Saint Gregory's Abbey

(Three Rivers), Nativity (Maysville KY), Indian Hill (Cincinnati), the Bible and Common Prayer Book Society, Saint John's (Massena NY), the Rev Anthony Jewiss, Saint Paul's (Chillicothe OH), Col Matt Thomson, Bishop Douglas E Theuner, the Diocesan Altar Guild of Central New York, and All Saints (Peterborough NH). Vestments and supplies were sent to Saint Michael and All Angels (Cancun, Mexico), Our Savior (Cincinnati), Saint Bartholomew's (Kearneysville WV), Epiphany (South Hadley MA), Holy Cross (Weare NH), Messiah (Newton MA), the Rev Christopher Byarauhanga, Br Tobias Stanislas, the Rev Robert Bowman, Christ the King (Wilbraham MA), the Rev Linda Moeller, Saint James (McLeansboro IL), Trinity (Tilton NH), and Heritage Baptist Church (Manchester NH).

We are also pleased to be able to support the ministry of our Associate the Rev Enrique Illarze, Vicar of Cristo Redentor, Araranguá, Brazil. He wrote:

Two cassocks and surplices were given... to two Lay Readers of the Pastoral Area, and now they are properly dressed... The other [cassocks and surplices] are for altar servers... God bless you for this concrete gesture of support and care for a less benefited part of the Body of Christ...

A note from the senior warden of Saint Michael and All Angels, Cancun, Mexico, expressed thanks for the vestment, chalices and paten provided by the Exchange. "We are very appreciative. Now we have even more reason to find a building, to move out of our lovely, but temporary, hotel room! Thank you for your love and support."

Donations and requests may be sent to:

The Brotherhood Vestment Exchange Saint Gregory's House 25 Allen Street Manchester NH 03102–5112 USA

> The Brother John E Nidecker Memorial Education Fund

The Nidecker Fund was established to honor Br John and assist members of the community who are studying for ministry (lay or ordained). John was an active and committed lay minister throughout his long life: his bishop honored him with a Life Lay Reader's License on his 51st anniversary as a Lay Reader! Over the years since its establishment the Nidecker Fund has assisted members of the community in covering the costs of diaconal training and seminary education, as well as costs associated with in-depth lay ministry programs. Your tax-deductible contribution to the Nidecker Fund will continue to honor Br

John in the most appropriate way: by furthering and enabling the kinds of active ministry he carried

out with such faith and commitment. Contributions may be sent to:

The Nidecker Fund The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory Saint Bartholomew's Church 82 Prospect Street White Plains NY 10606-3499 USA

#### INTERCESSIONS

# THE BROTHERHOOD & COMPANION SISTERHOOD

Episcopal Visitor

Walter D Dennis

 $Episcopal\ Visitors\ Emeriti$ 

Horace WB Donegan d 11.11.91 Paul Moore, jr

Life Professed

Richard Thomas Biernacki Iohn Nidecker d 6.20.88 Iames Teets Christian Williams Luke Anthony Nowicki John Peter Clark d 2.25.94 William Francis Jones Stephen Storen Thomas Joseph Ross Tobias Stanislas Haller William Bunting d 10.12.88 Thaddeus David Williams Edward Munro Charles Kramer Bernard Fessenden d 8.10.93 Donovan Aidan Bowley Michael David Elvestrøm Edward Ramón Riley Christopher Stephen Jenks Ciarán Anthony DellaFera William Edward Orce

Annual Professed

Clare Connell
Damian-Curtis Kellum
Richard John Lorino
Ronald Augustine Fox
Maurice John Grove
Charles Edward LeClerc
Francis Andrew Phillips
Andrew Fortuna
Elizabeth Mary Burke
Gordon John Stanley

Novices

Lillian-Marie DiMicco Patrick-Francis Schwing Helen Bernice Lovell John Michael Haney Karekin Madteos Yarian Robert Michael Burnham

Postulants

Patrick Cornell Thompson

Susan L Caroselli

Associates

Cecil Berges d 10.16.90 Marion Pierce d 12.26.91 Helen Marie Joyce, VHM Robert Macon Jeff Emmett Grosvenor Calkins, ir Richard A Belanger d 11.21.94 Ioseph di Mauro, SA Catherine W Sturm Mary Helen Clare Maryann Wolff Stephen D Montgomery Joseph F O'Day Fidel Flores Karl W Fry Brendan W Nugent, TSSF Sheila Gould Earl Christian Lawrence LeRoy David Kenneth Staples d 10.6.92 David Smith William R Munroe Wendell Allen Elizabeth J Holton d 8.27.93 Roland "Randy" RR Pryor Grant Walsh Mary Virginia Clement Haney Alec David Juan McLure Karen R Kleinmann Jeffery L Benson M Eugene Ellis Mark Harris Enrique Antonio Illarze Dennis W Pattey John A Bell Gerard F Beritela Perry L Conley Ethel B "Ettye" Hurley Wilhelmina Barton Raymond E Barton Amy M Barron Gabriel McGovern Leopold Frade Diana D Frade Robin Stephanie Steele Ulric Van den Berghe

Carol Gwynn Hays

James David Walley

David Benshawel

Roberta R McKay

& Friends of the Brotherhood

#### RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

The Sacramentine &
Visitandine Nuns
Society of the Atonement
Order of Agapé & Reconciliation
Camaldolese Benedictines

#### FOR HEALING

Damian-Curtis Kellum, BSG
William Edward Orce, BSG
Clare Connell, CSSG
Charles Scott
Jeannette Kishbaugh
Ronald Baker
Brian Addy
Tony Alfano
Matthew Hoffman
Billi Dorsey
Steven Morris
Jeffrey Nute
For all who live with HIV/AIDS

#### DEPARTED

Charlotte B Morgan J Norman Hall George T Koerner Henry N Fukui Richard Beck Carmen Soto Jonathan Andrew Crawford Dario Torres Burl Ives Eddie Diaz John Lengyel Lillie Mae Wilson Irene Tobin Ion Lockstone David Baker Chad Sullivan Robert S Denig Mary of the Presentation O'Neill

#### INTENTIONS

The Decade of Evangelism Joseph Richey House Saint Gregory's Retreat Center Brother Bernard Fessenden House Tobias Stanislas Haller, BSG Thaddeus David Williams, BSG George Benner

more

Intercessions, continued
Elizabeth Mary Burke, CSSG
Eli and his daughter Magdalen
Ana Maria Soto
Alec D J McLure, Kathryn
White, James Smith, Cal
Rockefeller, Chris Roschbach,
Jon Siegrist, Jerry

Boomershine, Suzanne Olmstead, Martha Peabody, Frank H Stern, Diana Tucker, Michael Bushnell, Manuel Andrade, John Bell, J Stephen Moss, Donald P Dickson, William Everett, Joel Sanders, Debbie Pyle, Barbara Conroy Conversion of heart for John, William, James, Stephen, John-David, Terence, James, Jack, Maurice and Keith Walter

#### **THANKSGIVING**

Arthur and Gladys Golden Ernestine E Burke

#### **CONVOCATION 1995: GRAYMOOR**

The Rite of Profession for the Companion Sisterhood of Saint Gregory will be held on Friday, July 28th, at 3 p.m. at the Little Flower Chapel, Graymoor. The Rite of Profession for the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory will take place in the context of the Convocation Eucharist on the following day, Saturday, July 29th, at 3 p.m., in the Little Flower Chapel. Your prayers and presence are requested.

Soli Deo Gloria — To God Alone the Glory

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