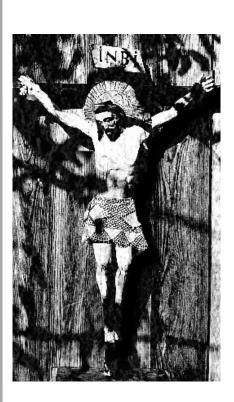
# HE SERVANT



# **169**Summer 1998

## Publications from the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory

Publication	Description	Cost	Oty	Total
Music of BSG	Revised and enlarged. Simplified Anglican Chants; full settings for Noonday and Compline, settings of <i>O Gracious Light, Magnificat</i> , and <i>Nunc</i> ; and music for Communion. 24 page booklet.	\$ 2.00		\$
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The Servant	Meditations, poetry, and news of the community; published four times a year. Use this form to change your address, or add a friend to the mailing list.	\$ 8.00 per year		\$
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### The Servant

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## Founder's Forum

#### PERSEVERANCE: DO WE-CAN WE?

The religious life today is a mixed bag. Many in the Episcopal Church are still unaware of the presence and witness of brothers, nuns, sisters, monks, solitaries—religious! In some areas of the country those who have taken on these forms of commitment to the gospel life are still looked at with puzzlement.

The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory is one of the strange animals in this exotic menagerie. It is a mutation: part traditional, part conservative; part contemplative and partly radical—the "Flexible Friars" as Bishop Paul Moore calls us.

We are in a world today which is suspect: men and women are restless. Some have no apparent reason or course for what they do. The truth is that every person not rooted in a spiritual observance of some kind will remain homeless on earth, a vagrant instead of a pilgrim.

The Brotherhood is coming upon its Annual Convocation this July and we face a

week of discernment and retreat; of study and fellowship and sharing. We open the family to six new members as five men and one woman prepare to make their first vows. One among us will make his life profession of vows. "I'm in BSG for Life" is on the t-shirt.

The religious life cannot offer roots to those with no will to grow. It can and does offer a full life in Christ to those who seek to move away from gross individualism and personal infallibility.

It can and does offer new life to those who look at the scriptures with new eyes each day and allow God to lead and guide.

Perseverance: we see it here in the Brotherhood and we hope this community is a microcosm of the larger church. In an ancient hymn for the Transfiguration we read, "Not always on the Mount may we..." Perseverance is the ability to stay on course without always having to be on top of the world. It means we learn from the valleys as well as the hills and peaks.

Perseverance, our soon to be members and professed know (or will know) is a steady plodding away following the Way of the Cross and making no demands on God, but rather waiting for his word.

When our attitude is such, we will find some day and in due time that we *are* suddenly and brilliantly on the mountaintop!

Richard Thomas



Members of religious communities gather in the vast undercroft of New York's Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, prior to the ordination service for Bishop Mark Sisk.

# Here and there with the brothers and sisters COMMUNITY NOTES

## **Europe**

Richard Thomas had a wonderful opportunity to be director of music for the European Episcopal Chaplains Conference, hosted by Bishop for the Armed Forces Charles L Keyser. This year's week-long conference took place in Bernkastle-Kues, Germany, in April and afforded the Superior General the chance to visit medieval churches and do some local touring. He enjoyed every minute of his time there.

## **Long Island**

Province II held its Lenten Day of Recollection at Saint Matthew's Church, Woodhaven, Queens, in the Diocese of Long Island. The day was organized by Charles—Saint Matthew's is his parish and that of two of our Associates, Paul E Van Brunt and Virginia E Holloway (who joined the Associates that very day!)—and the day included meditations by William Francis and Christopher Stephen, with Ellen preaching the sermon at

the Holy Eucharist. James officiated at Morning Prayer and Richard John at Noonday, and the celebrant was the Rector of Saint Matthew's, the Rev Tracey Mark Williams, who, together with several parishioners, heartily welcomed the Gregorians to their lovely parish church and facilities.

## New Jersey

Clare was instituted as Vicar of Trinity Church, Vincentown, New Jersey, on the evening of March 18. By all accounts it was a joyous occasion—especially for Lent!— and she was joined by her sisters, Elizabeth Mary, Susanna Bede and Carin Bridgit. Bishop Joe Morris Doss officiated at the service and Clare's husband, the Rev Christopher Connell, was the Master of Ceremonies. This is Clare's first opportunity to assume the leadership of a parish, and as vicar she will be working closely with Bishop Doss.



Elizabeth Mary, Carin Bridgit, Clare, Bishop Doss, and Susanna Bede at Clare's institution service



Tobias Stanislas and the crowd of Gregorians at his institution at Saint Paul's Church; photograph by Bishop Roskam!

Holy Week and Easter Week were exciting this year in Postulant Robert McLaughlin's parish, the Church of the Epiphany, Ventnor, New Jersey: The Bishop Suffragan of Truro (Church of England), Graham James, was present in the parish and celebrated the **Great Vigil—including two confirmations** and a baptism—on Easter Day he blessed the parish's new statue of Our Lady of Walsingham in their newly-renovated chapel, and on Easter Monday Bishop James led a quiet day for the parish entitled "An English Bishop's Easter Reflections." Word is that it was an Eastertide to remember! The bishop and his family finished their visit by attending a dinner hosted by Robert for them and the parish's rector, the Rev Douglas Baker.

Springtime always provides a good excuse for Elizabeth Mary to travel; she gives new

meaning to the title "The Flying Nun"—although she usually drives! In May she attended a four-day conference of the Order of Saint Luke the Physician followed by a visit to her sister's family in Palm Beach, Florida. June found her participating in a five-day Education for Ministry Mentor Training Program in Cape May, New Jersey, and on the 7<sup>th</sup> she graduated from EFM studies with a celebration at her parish, Holy Trinity, South River, New Jersey. That barely accomplished, she and Associate Robin McKay departed for the annual Associates' **Retreat for the Community of Celebration** near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, followed by a visit with Maurice John and Alban Patrick at Saint Gregory's Retreat Center and Farm in Mexico, New York, on their way to the annual week-long Finger Lakes Conference at Hobart College in Geneva, New York (Eliza-



Bishop Roskam lays on incense at Tobias Stanislas' Celebration of New Ministry.

beth Mary has long been a member of the conference's planning and design team). All of this and summer has not even begun yet!

#### New York

On Sunday evening, April 19, Tobias Stanislas was instituted as Pastor of Saint Paul's, Yonkers.

The community's Council had just concluded its spring meeting at Graymoor and most of the members were able to stay over and participate in the institution. Of the four applicants to the postulancy interviewed and approved at that Council meeting, one was also able to stay for the Sunday evening service. Alban Patrick and postulant Robert McLaughlin visited Graymoor for the Council meeting and they remained for the service, as did Elizabeth Mary, and Carin Bridgit came down from Albany for the event.

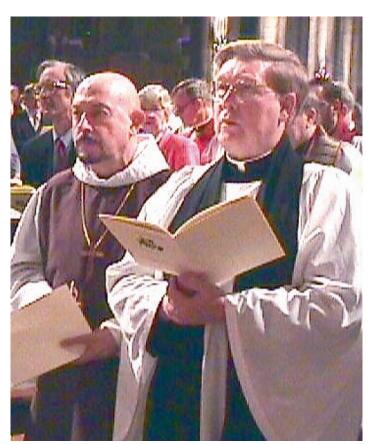


Tobias Stanislas imparts his first blessing as formally instituted Pastor of Saint Paul's Church, Yonkers.

Bishop Catherine Roskam, Suffragan for Region II of the Diocese of New York, officiated at the institution and celebrated the Holy Eucharist, with a number of local clergy in attendance as well as several of Tobias Stanislas' colleagues from the diocesan office and friends from other parishes at which he has served. Bishop Roskam also blessed the new icon of Saint **Paul which Tobias Stanislas** wrote for the parish; it was placed in position on the gradine of the High Altar. This is not the first icon to grace that parish: shortly after his coming to Saint Paul's, Tobias Stanislas placed an icon of the Virgin and Child on the altar of the Lady Chapel—that icon was written by Michael David as a gift for **Tobias Stanislas' life profession.** 

An icon of the crucifixion written in Greece now hangs in the pulpit there, a gift from James.

The following Saturday was another grand occasion for the Diocese of New York and the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine—the **Ordination and Consecration of the Very Rev** Mark S Sisk as Bishop Coadjutor—and the **Brotherhood and the Companion Sisterhood** were in the thick of things, as usual! In his capacity of Deputy Registrar of Consecrations for the Office of the Secretary of the General Convention, Richard Thomas held sway among the numerous bishops who attended in support of their newest brother bishop. This was one of those rare occasions at which both the Secretary of the General Convention, the Rev Canon Donald A Nickerson, and Richard Thomas were in attendance together; normally, one or the

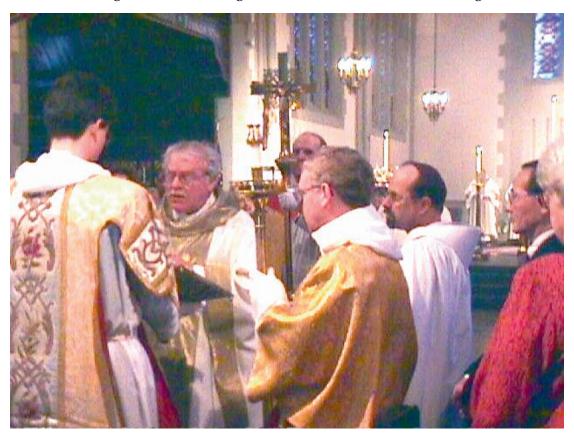


Richard Thomas with Canon Don Nickerson at Bishop Sisk's consecration

other represents the office at consecrations of bishops. Tobias Stanislas was prevailed upon by the diocese to use his skills as official electronic photographer for the event, and his efforts made it possible to have photos of the service up on the Diocese of New York's web page even as the event was still in progress! (A selection is still on display at http://www.dioceseny.org). In the procession James led the BSG/CSSG contingent, with William Francis, Christopher Stephen, Ellen, Patrick Ignatius and postulant Donna Lise in attendance. Members had a moment to chat with Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, Bishops Richard Grein, Walter Dennis (our Episcopal Visitor), Catherine Roskam and Don Taylor of New York, Bishop Sisk, Bishop Paul Moore (our former Visitor), and a variety of other bishops from as far away as across the US, from Haiti and from



Michael David, Ronald Augustine, and Damian-Curtis after the Palm Sunday aervice at Atonement, Chicago; below, Ronald Augustine assists as thurifer at the Great Vigil.





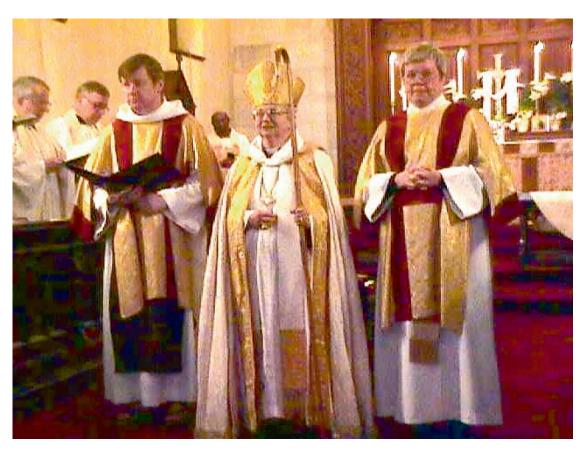
Members of religious communities with ties to the Diocese of New York listen attentively to Presiding Bishop Griswold's sermon at Bishop Sisk's consecration.



Members of the community climb the stairs to the main level of the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine.

New Zealand. And the reception on the cathedral's Great South Lawn was as diverse as were those who attended it. Four large tents were erected and housed beverages and ethnic foods from twelve countries/regions of the world! It was indeed a gastronomic festival worthy of the vast diversity which is Bishop Sisk's new home!

Tobias Stanislas led a discussion of C S Lewis' *The Problem of Pain* at the invitation of the Rev Clair McPherson, Rector of Trinity/Saint Paul's, New Rochelle. His sermon for Trinity Sunday was published on the Internet as part of the national church's series of sermons "Worship that Works,"



William Francis served as subdeacon at Tobias Stanislas' institution; here he joins Bishop Roskam and Deacon Claudia Wilson.

the successor to the earlier Selected Sermons series.

In the spring Novice Patrick Ignatius moved to Fessenden House in Yonkers, taking up residence there and beginning his new ministry as chaplain and assisting Christopher Stephen, the house's warden. Fessenden House has broadened its scope of work with men in recovery as well as those living with AIDS, and the facility is now full to capacity. Patrick Ignatius has completed his second unit of CPE (Clinical Pastoral Experience) and this summer begins volunteering at a hospital and a nursing home, and will also start a teaching ministry at a local prison. On the Eve of Pentecost he was officially sent forth from his long-time parish of Trinity/Saint Paul's, New Rochelle, and joined the friars and Novice Ellen at "the

Gregorian Parish" of Saint Paul's, Yonkers, where he is a welcome addition.

At the Spring Council meeting, formal notice of the withdrawl of Doug Cain from the postulancy was made.

### Central New **York**

Maurice John and Alban Patrick attended a L'Arche workshop and day of reflection in Skaneatales. Alban Patrick is recovering from surgery on his foot, and will be back to work soon. Maurice John has been gearing up for the summer and fall seasons on the farm, and working hard at developing new recipes for the Gregorian vinegar works.

## **Pennsylvania**

Susanna Bede presented a faculty recital at Messiah College, accompanied on piano and harpsichord by Richard Roberson, chair of the music department. In the first half of the recital, she sang arias by Cavalli, songs by Barber, Fauré, and Massenet, and four traditional Irish ballads. She was then displaced by The English Lady, who lectured the audience on How to Recognize and Avoid a Bird Song, and How to Applaud.

## Chicago

Michael David visited the Chicago brethren and joined in the Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist at the Church of the Atonement, attending a service of Evening Prayer that evening at Saint Peter's. He was in Chicago for the National Art Education Association conference.

Back in Louisiana, Michael David has performed in two concerts, playing "Monastic Songs" composed for him on the concert harp.

### Palo Alto

Karekin Madteos is working as the new Office Manager for All Saints Episcopal Church and Downtown Center. It is a wonderfully active parish that serves the community well in the Diocese of El Camino Real. Aside from housing the largest Food Closet on the Peninsula, it has active involvement in the urban ministries program, El Buen Pastor: a tutoring program for ESL, has a day care center on the grounds subsidized by the city, a Peace and Justice Group, a Hebrew congregation and a Parent's Leadership Group that rent space and offices there.

## Portland, Oregon

Francis Andrew has begun a new ministry as Pastoral Services Director at Saint Jude Care



Tobias Stanislas and Bishop Roskam

Center, a 136-bed residential facility specializing in care of persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The facility is operated as an outreach of the Ecumenical Order of Charity, and Francis Andrew is living and working in community with Dale Robert, OC, Administrator of the facility and Director General of the Charitists. He is also assisting as deacon at the Church of Saints Peter and Paul.

On Palm Sunday afternoon, Francis Andrew represented the Superior General and the community at a memorial service for the Rev Canon Charles Mortimer Guilbert, for many years Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer, in a service held at Saint Stephen's Church. Canon Guilbert was one of the guiding advisors in the early formation of the Brotherhood, and it was he who had suggested Saint Gregory as patron.

## A sermon on Holy Cross Day AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

My best friend's lover died of AIDS two years ago. In the final few years of his struggle



with the disease, the virus attacked his brain, and he became paranoid. In his state of dementia, he be-

came convinced that I had an evil influence over his lover, my friend. He began to see his lover as unduly swayed by

my influence, in an unspecified, negative manner, and he related to us both as though we were united in a secret coalition against him. As the onslaught of HIV progressed in his brain, and he remained impervious to the drug therapy being attempted, he reached the point where he was

convinced that his lover and I were in fact the real couple on the scene, and he was an outcast.

I don't know if you have had any experience relating to someone with dementia, particularly someone who is paranoid, but there is often virtually no way to reach a person living in this kind of hell, and thus no

way to make the situation right. This was the

case with my friend's lover. Because of this, he was trapped in a hell of insecurity. His lover, my



from



our normal pattern of social contact which took place within the context of a large circle of friends. It was necessary for me to withdraw indefinitely from almost all of the contact I had with this group in order that my friend's lover not lose the friends we held in common, whose support he needed to help him say goodbye to his lover and prepare to die.

This complex human predicament could not legitimately be reduced to a simple story of right and wrong, hero and villain. For my part, I was very much shaken by the impending loss of my friend's lover and the multiple losses of friendship and support I experienced. I found myself in the dilemma where the most loving thing I could do was to accept the reality of the suffering of my friend's lover, and its effects on my friend and me. I sought out pastoral assistance to help me, and my counselor invited me to reflect on



the cross, and to meditate on the Lord's Prayer, particularly the lines, "Your kingdom come, your will be done." I began to study and pray with the Passion Narratives, and what I found at the foot of the cross surprised me.

I found a sense of spaciousness that was large enough to hold my friend, his lover and me, all together at the same time. In this space the anguish of each of us was acknowledged; no person or alliance needed to snatch the moral high ground, being right at the expense of another person or pair. The injustice of all our pain was fully understood. None of us deserved the pain we had to endure, and none was scapegoated as the cause of the pain. The caring stance in which my friend and I waited patiently and hoped for a better outcome was perfectly mirrored there, at the foot of the cross. In



fact, I experienced an abundance of love there, particularly in the form of compassion.

I found a sense of spaciousness that was large enough to hold my friend, his lover and me, all together at the same time.

The type of love I found at the foot of the cross was non-possessive, refusing to limit itself to certain people, or operate only under restricted conditions. It is a generous love that pours out and spills over onto others, gracing everyone it touches with genuine acceptance and profound caring. It is a love that appreciates the infinite worth of personhood. It is a love that inspires relationship. It is a love which cannot restrain itself from building community.

What I found at the foot of the cross was the presence of God, and God was bruised and broken, like me, like my friend and his lover, like all of us. And the Word that never leaves me is "Emmanuel." God is with us.

Robert Michael

# From "The Journeyman II" IX. A COMFORT IN FALLING... SURRENDER

Upon a pillow of riverside babble gave way, revealing did I rest my weariness, and sweetest resting place for eased my travel battered sighs the treasure whose like notes into lonely brook song. tiny laughter wagged Somewhere between addiction playfully behind the curtain. and grace... did I My travail proceeded thus mindless of the darkness traverse the road of prayer these days, so with need and resignation, springing like a coil and aspirations of redemption, from the west. a riposte to God's gentle nagging, A door slammed, rattling the heart I opened like a desert frond and with slip of hammer young, new, greedy and awl... I for rain, and the storm began. routed a hole in that lovely bed, and On the watchful green of to my horror, blood issued from the wounded wood, fertile banks, among inflicted by my carelessness. the laziness of stones and sun-washed pebbles, waiting From round about to be moved by I heard... laughter Providence or pity like a keening wail, to the other sweeter side, assailing my guilt with mockery, blinding me I wept. Drenched in a torrent of rageful. With thunderous whys and darkness visible, veiling the faces of my tormentors, I darkness illuminated, only by the righteousness of slashed in terror my own self-pity, I crawled with the tools in my for infantile succor. panicked grasp, and beneath the shade of in my fury, firmly and completely, lodged a motherly shade tree, and their sharpness in the allowed her gentle silhouette bloodied wooden bed. to nurse me to my sleep. The dream unfolded thus. I let out a cry... and The scent of wood was fresh saw him, standing and tingled like autumn breezes. tears on his worn face, As if in memory his hand reaching to an infant mewled and cooed, close the distance... and as I with hammer. awoke with silent screaming awl and chisel wrapped around my throat like carved the cradle copper bands, and on my workshop floor. grief... indelible With each deliberate stroke as a tattooed scar, and.... of callused hands, and

Karekin Madteos 🛈

guided iron, the block

## INTERCESSIONS

The Gregorian Family Episcopal Visitor Sun	James E Cyphers	Graham Thomas Prosser Philip L Hewitt
Walter D Dennis	Associates	— Michael S Parenti
Episcopal Visitors Emeriti <i>Horace WB Donegan d 11.11.91</i> Paul Moore, jr	Cecil Berges d 10.16.90 Marion Pierce d 12.26.91 Helen Marie Joyce, VHM Grosvenor Calkins, jr	Mark L Raper Laurie A Wiegand John-Albert Moseley JoAnn Tomback
Life and Annual Professed Richard Thomas Biernacki John Nidecker d 6.20.88 James Teets Luke Anthony Nowicki John Peter Clark d 2.25.94 William Francis Jones Stephen Storen	Jeff Emmett Richard A Belanger d 11.21.94 Joseph di Mauro, SA Catherine W Sturm Mary Helen Clare Maryann Wolff Joseph F O'Day Stephen D Montgomery	Carl Lindgran OSN
Thomas Joseph Ross Tobias Stanislas Haller <i>William Bunting d 10.12.88</i> Edward Munro	Fidel Flores Brendan W Nugent d 10.10.96 Sheila Gould Earl Christian Lawrence LeRoy David	Denise A Tibedo sa Kathleen C Klee Sarah G Wells Patrick Bell Schwing
Charles Kramer Bernard Fessenden d 8.10.93 Donovan Aidan Bowley Michael David Elvestrøm Edward Ramón Riley Christopher Stephen Jenks	Kenneth Staples d 10.6.92 David Smith William R Munroe Wendell Allen Elizabeth J Holton d 8.27.93	R William Franklin Martín Barahona M Carl Lunden Patricia A Ahearn David Alvarado Jay Frank Crosthwaite
Ciarán Anthony DellaFera  William Edward Orce Clare Connell Damian-Curtis Kellum Richard John Lorino Ronald Augustine Fox	Roland "Randy" RR Pryor Grant Walsh Mary Virginia Clement Haney Jeffery L Benson M Eugene Ellis Mark Harris Enrique Antonio Illarze	Paul E Van Brunt Julianne Kraft M Sharon Ryan Virginia E Holloway Charles C Nichols, jr Kevin Heckman
Charles Edward LeClerc Maurice John Grove Francis Andrew Phillips Andrew Fortuna Elizabeth Mary Burke Gordon John Stanley	Dennis W Pattey John A Bell Gerard F Beritela Perry L Conley Ethel B "Ettye" Hurley	& The Friends of the Brotherhood Religious Communities Sacramentine & Visitandine Nuns Society of the Atonement Order of Agapé & Reconciliation Camaldolese Benedictines
Lillian-Marie DiMicco Helen Bernice Lovell Karekin Madteos Yarian Robert Michael Burnham Alban Patrick Thompson	Wilhelmina Barton Raymond E Barton Gabriel McGovern Amy M Barron Leopold Frade Diana D Frade	Society of Saint John the Evangelist Community of the Paraclete Congregation of the Anglican Oblates of Saint Benedict Community of the Transfiguration
Novices Fri Susanna Bede Caroselli Stephen Julian Moss Gabriel Liam Everett Thomas Bushnell Thomas Mosk Liette	Robin Stephanie Steele Ulric Van den Berghe Carol Gwynn Hays James David Walley David Benzshawel	For healing Thomas Joseph Ross, BSG Damian-Curtis Kellum, BSG William Edward Orce, BSG Edward Ramón Riley, BSG ————————————————————————————————————
Thomas Mark Liotta James Dunstan Mahoney Ellen Poisson Carin Bridgit Delfs Patrick Ignatius Dickson	Robin R M Kay Theresa Allan Glenn R Charlton Betsy Kardos David Burton	Lillian-Marie DiMicco, CSSG For all who live with HIV/AIDS Eleanor Poisson Leigh Pat, John and Alexis
Postulants Sat Barbara B Dunne Donna Lise Dambrot Robert J McLaughlin	Timothy Lundy Wiley W "Jack" Merryman David A Dean Albert O Cantwell	Bob Morrell Cheryl Gerlach James Viggiano <i>more</i>

Intercessions, continued

John J Phillips Gayle, Ian William McGinnis Christopher & Charlie Tibedo David W Perry **Bob Everett** Jeremiah Hopkins Velma Yoder **Deodette Fortuna** Nancy L Marvel Carl E Lindgren, a/BSG

Departed Charlotte B Morgan **Arsene and Louise Lemarier** J Norman Hall George T Koerner Henry N Fukui Gary Jenks

Ann Morrell Fred Ehrensperger James McHugh, SA Patrick Joseph Gardiner John Maury Allin **Bruce Davis** Al Smith **Eleanor Henritzy** Ray Cullen, sr **Intentions** 

The Decade of Evangelism Joseph Richey House Saint Gregory's Retreat Center **Brother Bernard Fessenden House Baltimore International** Seafarers' Center

**Postulants Prospective Stephen** Baker, Peter C Budde, Gordon James Berghuis, José W Mestre, jr, Larry Nobles, Margie L Cowan Aspirants William Borgen, Lawrence David, Glenn Charlton, John-Albert Moseley, Douglas Christie, John Calabrese, Scott Shenkman, Timothy J Morris Margaret Irwin Pat Ahern, a/BSG Janet, Jenny, Mark and Craig The Cullen Family Denise Tibedo Linda Coleman & Bruce Smith

**Thanksgiving** 

The new ministries of Clare Connell, CSSG, Tobias Stanislas Haller, BSG, Ellen O'Hara, Mark Sisk, & John L

Matthew Needham and Sara Fisch

WHERE	THERE'S	A WILL
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You	can assis	st and fui	rther the	e ministries of	the Bro	therhood	of Saint	Gregory	by remer	mbering	us in	youi
will.	If you d	choose to	o do so.	the following	form o	f wording	is appro	opriate:				-

I hereby give, devise, a	and bequeath to The	Brotherhood of Saint (	Gregory, Inc., a No	ew York State not-for	r-
profit corporation, with	th a present address	of 82 Prospect Street,	White Plains NY	10606-3499, and in	ts
successors for ever \$_	and / or	percent of my est	tate to be used in	such a manner as de	<b>)</b> -
termined by its Direct	tors.				