

HE SERVANT



#224

Summer 2012



STARING AT THE SKY

Some of what I will write here is not mine—but “taddled” from the Seminary Intern at the United Methodist Church where I am Director of Music. Recently, he combined Ascension Day and Heritage Sunday into one sermon. The account of the Ascension gives us the disciples staring up to the sky—doing basically nothing. In the development of the sermon, Kyle talked of Wesley’s conversion at Aldersgate—when his “heart was strangely warmed.” Much has been written as to what this “strangely warmed” meant and exactly what it was that set him on his mission to preach a new movement in the Church in England. Wesley did not stand and stare; he acted.

I think what we miss in the church today is the chance to stare past what is and look more to what can be. Our beloved Episcopal Church grappled with difficult issues of sexuality for many years—until we stopped staring and acted. The United Methodists, at their recent General Conference agreed to stare some more at what is already in place and not to look past it to what could be. As we pass into the season of Sundays after Pentecost, a line from a well-known praise hymn speaks to me.

*Thank you, O my Savior, for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

My prayer is that, over the summer, particularly as the Bishops and Deputies gather at General Convention, our hearts will be “strangely warmed” and we will see beyond what is, to what can be. *Thank you, O my Savior!*

RTB

Here and there with the brothers

COMMUNITY NOTES

Province 1

For those who follow the quarterly issues of *The Servant*, the previous issue to this one—#223 Lent/Easter 2012—included a Good Friday reflection by Ciarán Anthony DellaFera entitled “Father Forgive Them...” which dealt with a memorable experience he had while making his rounds as a medical student at Mass General Hospital. The reflection won an Honorable Mention for this year’s Gerald F Berlin Prize, which is awarded for creative writing, prose or poetry, written by UMass medical students, residents, fellows, graduate students, and nursing students in programs based at UMass Medical School, Berkshire Medical Center, and Worcester Medical Center/St. Vincent’s. Congratulations!

Charles Edward LeClerc has been active with his parish—Saint Paul’s in Concord, New Hampshire—on a number of issues. The New Hampshire state legislature recently voted and approved the carrying of guns and concealed weapons, and Charles Edward has joined his rector and vestry in installing signs on church property banning firearms. For some years he has been the facilitator for the New Hampshire Victims Rights Day, an effort by the Attorney General on behalf of those murdered in

cases of domestic, sexual or elderly abuse. Over the past ten years 406 local individuals have been murdered under such circumstances and Saint Paul's created a service in support of the victims' families at which the name of each was read; Charles Edward tells us that "I feel the healing power of the Spirit was present."



Ciarán Anthony (back row, center) with recipients of the Berlin Prizes

Province 2

Province 2 held its Lenten Day of Recollection at Saint John's Church, South Salem, New York, and brothers from throughout the province came to renew fellowship, including two postulants—prospective from as far away as Philadelphia. The day's retreat leader was the Rev John E Morrison III, who was serving as Interim during the parish's search process. Morrison is a scholar and life-long student of the life and works of CS Lewis, the widely-known Anglican theologian, author and poet, and this Day of Recollection was structured around three meditations exploring Lewis' thoughts and visions on the subjects of Reason, Incarnational Language, and the Beauty of Truth. These times of reflection and fellowship always occur within the context of the Daily Office and the Holy Eucharist, and on this day Morning Prayer



Fr Morrison speaks on Narnia and the Christian faith.



Working on the mailing out of this newsletter's Spring edition (l to r), Robert James, Tobias Stanislas, Richard John, William Francis, and James

was officiated by Thomas Mark Liotta, Minister Provincial of Province 2, Noonday by Christopher Stephen Jenks, and Evening Prayer by James Teets, while the mass was celebrated and preached by Tobias Stanislas Haller, commemorating Saint Patrick of Ireland, and assisted by Thomas Mark as deacon. Saint John's is the home parish of Richard John Lorino, who was the host of the day and who welcomed the retreatants to his home for refreshment and dinner following the day's events at the church. Another facet of this gathering was the opportunity for some of those brothers who are located too far away to participate in the quarterly mailing preparation of *The Servant* to assist in that important activity; it was expeditiously accomplished at Saint John's after the close of the retreat. Opportunities such as this have a welcome and re-connective quality to them as Gregorian Friars renew their lives in common prayer, refreshment and the joy of being together.

The Bishop of New York hosts an annual meeting and luncheon to which he invites the Episcopal Visitors of the religious communities whose members reside or serve in



James Mahoney converses with postulant-prospective Andrew Kellner, at the post-retreat dinner.

his diocese, together with the leadership of those communities, as an opportunity for diocesan leadership better to relate to those who live the religious life. This year Bishop Mark S Sisk of New York—himself a member of the Tertiaries of the Society of Saint Francis, more commonly known as the Third Order—held this annual get-together on March 27th at the diocesan offices on the

close of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in Manhattan. Bishop Sisk is the Episcopal Visitor to the Order of the Holy Cross and Br Robert Sevensky OHC, Superior, was in attendance; Bishop of Rochester Prince G Singh, Visitor to the Community of Saint John Baptist attended, together with the community's Sister Superior, Sr Eleanor Francis CSJB; Bishop Rodney R Michel, the Brotherhood's Visitor, was unable to be present due to a schedule conflict, so he asked James Teets to attend as his representative, together with Thomas Mark Liotta, Minister Provincial of Province 2. Sr Catherine Grace CHS, a member of the Leadership Team of the Community of the Holy Spirit, was present, though neither Bishop of California Mark H Andrus nor the recently-retired Bishop Suffragan of New York, Catherine S Roskam—both of whom serve as Visitors to CHS—could be present. Sr Ann Whitaker SSM, who serves at Trinity Wall Street's Neale House in Manhattan, was present to represent the Society of Saint Margaret; Bishop David Joslin, Episcopal Visitor to SSM, could not be present. All were pleased to welcome the new Bishop Coadjutor of New York, Bishop Andrew ML Dietsche, together with Canon to the Ordinary John Osgood, Canon for Ministry Constance Coles, and Canon for Christian Formation Patricia Mitchell. The conversation was lively and covered a variety of subjects including news from each community, this summer's General Convention in Indianapolis, and relations between the orders and the Committee of the House of Bishops on Religious Communities. Through such regular gatherings as this one, we can all give thanks that opportunities continue to present themselves for religious and diocesan leadership to deepen their fraternal friendships.

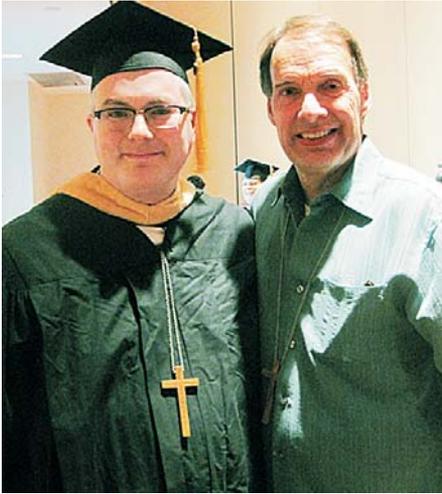
Blane Frederik van Pletzen-Rands has been called to be the next Rector of historic Trinity Episcopal Church in the Buffalo suburb of Hamburg, New York. We all send him our warmest and best regards, and also our congratulations to Trinity Church for their wise decision in this matter! His Celebration of a New Ministry is scheduled for Saturday, July 14th, and all are most welcome.

Minister General Richard Thomas Biernacki has shared with us that he has been elected Dean of the Monmouth, New Jersey Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Sincerest congratulations!

Province 4

Province 4 held its annual spring retreat in Nashville, hosted by Saint Ann's Episcopal Church, where Minister Provincial Thomas Lawrence Greer is a member. Though the province is vast, Thomas Lawrence welcomed Aelred Bernard Dean, Ron Fender, Bo Alexander Armstrong, James Patrick Hall (who traveled from Oklahoma) and Postulant Eric Shelley, plus Postulant—prospective Raymond Chance (also from Oklahoma) and guest Mark Williams. The retreat theme was focused on healthy boundaries in order to prevent burnout while creating healthy relationships. On Saturday night they gathered at the Gerst Haus restaurant and enjoyed the cuisine of Germany. The Daily Office and worship experience were enhanced by the physical beauty and hospitality of Saint Ann's Church and all those who worked behind the scenes to make this possible, and all who attended offer heart-felt gratitude for such kindness.

Eric Shelley, our postulant in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, reports that he has been re-elected as a delegate to the diocese's annual Council Meeting which



Jonathan Francis Bullock (l) at his MSW ceremony with Will Harpest

means that, among many other responsibilities, he will be a voting member of that body when it considers the candidates for their next diocesan bishop. Congratulations, Eric—we are certain that the diocese is in good and capable hands!

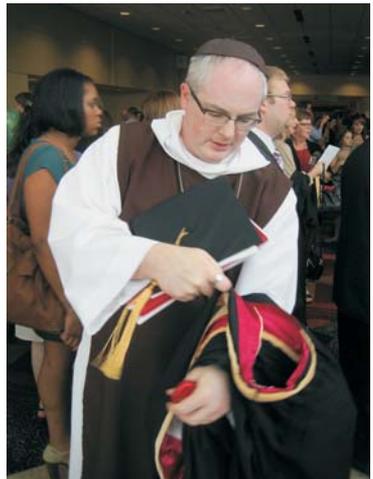
Thomas Lawrence Greer made his first provincial visit to Eric Shelley at his home in Roanoke, Virginia. Although the trip was abbreviated by time, the hospitality, worship and conversation were very rich and rewarding. They had the opportunity to pray the Office of Evening Prayer together with a parishioner from Eric’s parish—Christ Church, Roanoke—followed by dinner with Eric’s reflections on his postulancy journey thus far. They worshiped at

Christ Church on Sunday morning and visited with the clergy and many of the parishioners, who were very interested in hearing about the Brotherhood as well as Eric’s formation process. What a wonderful weekend indeed!

James Patrick Hall serves as a board member for the Housing Faith Alliance in Tulsa. HFA collaborates with fifteen or so faith communities in five different neighborhoods and includes twelve different housing programs. The core of the program is to build bridges of connectivity between the faith community and formerly homeless mentally ill persons living in those programs and to transform the faith community through relationships of service with the poor. In mid-May, Saint John’s Episcopal Church hosted Evening Prayer in celebration of this ministry, and James Patrick officiated, assisted by postulant-prospective Ray Chance. About fifty people attended, mostly non-Episcopalians, and residents of the communities. Friends from the residences also joined them and read the lessons. It was a wonderful opportunity to pray with friends, and to give a Gregorian witness in Oklahoma.

Province 5

Francis Jonathan Bullock joined his classmates from Indiana University / Purdue University Indianapolis School of Social Work for this year’s Commencement Exercises. The ceremony took place at the Indiana Con-



Francis Jonathan now has two hoods to deal with!

vention Center in Indianapolis and our own Francis Jonathan received his Master of Social Work Degree. Our hearts and our prayers were present with him as his Gregorian brothers continue to support and encourage him in this new ministry—a ministry from which so many will benefit. Will Harpest attended the ceremony, along with members of Francis Jonathan’s family, and Will recorded the event to share with everyone. Congratulations, dear brother!

Province 8

Francis Sebastian Medina shared with us a new ministry a friend of his has started—pillowcase dresses for little girls living in poverty conditions. He tells us: “...this ministry touches my heart. The pillowcase dresses are sent to 32 countries where, sadly, men rape young girls who seem uncared for. If a girl looks like someone is taking care of her, they tend to leave her alone. A pretty dress can make all the difference. The dresses made have straps that allow them to last for a long time since they can be ‘let out.’” Every day we are shocked by the tragedy that God’s people suffer with all around the world, and just as often we are rejuvenated by the seemingly—limitless ways that people find to express Christ’s caring presence among his beloved creation! Thank you, dear brother, for sharing this latest experience of hope and love overcoming horror and pain.

A New Bishop for New York

ANDREW’S CONSECRATION

In 2011 the Convention of the Diocese of New York elected the Rev Canon Andrew ML Dietsche as Bishop Coadjutor. March 10, 2012 was the date set for his ordination and consecration, to serve in that capacity until Bishop Sisk’s retirement in February 2013. The venue for this gala festival liturgy—even though it came in the midst of

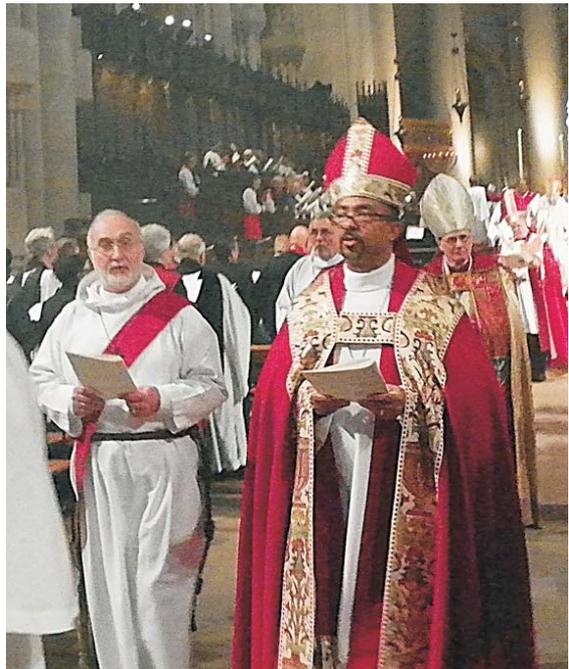


A jolly group from BSG, CHS and OHC, prior to the consecration



(l to r) Tobias Stanislas, Adam McCoy OHC, James, Robert Sevensky OHC, and Millard Cook

Lent—was the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York City, and bishops, clergy, religious and members of the diocese turned out in force on that beautiful spring day to support “Bishop Andy!” The cathedral, which seats an estimated 10,000 and is the largest gothic cathedral in the world, was filled to capacity, and that in itself is an overwhelming experience. The three-hour liturgy was as colorful and spectacular as anyone could imagine and the Brotherhood was present to welcome the new bishop to his office. This issue of *The Servant* in-



Thomas Mark Liotta served as deacon to Bishop of Michigan Wendell Gibbs.

cludes photos taken by Millard Cook, who was fortunate to secure a prime seat on the aisle. Please re-live this wonderful occasion with us now!

Spring Council Meeting 2012

REGULAR WORK

Council met at the Saint Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon, New York, and the session proved to be quite busy, including interviews of two candidates for postulancy. Another major feature of each spring Council meeting is the approval of Outreach Grants; the following charitable organizations received approval for grant requests:

- ☐ Recycled AIDS Medicine Program in San Francisco, providing medicines in the under-developed world;
- ☐ Fessenden Supportive Housing, Inc, in Yonkers, New York, which cares for men in addiction recovery;
- ☐ Outdoor Church of Cambridge, a ministry in the Boston area which provides food and other necessities for the homeless;
- ☐ Saint James School, an educational institution serving inner-city Philadelphia;
- ☐ Saint James' Episcopal Church Fordham, in the Bronx, toward an office computer purchase;
- ☐ Saint Nicholas Episcopal Church, Pompano Beach, Florida, to expand their food ministry to their neighborhood;
- ☐ Jason's Dreams for Kids, in Red Bank, New Jersey, which provides for "wishes" for terminally ill children.

Though the Brotherhood is not primarily a "charity"—rather it is a religious community which provides educational support for enhancing the ministry of its members—it is an important part of our support of our brothers' ministries to be able to consider such grant requests submitted by them.

Elections of Council Officers took place at this meeting, including: James Teets, Treasurer; Millard Cook, Secretary; Thomas Bushnell, Director of Education; Francis Sebastian Medina, Director of Postulants and Novices; Nathanael Deward Rahm, Director of Convocation Liturgy and Music; Joseph Basil Gauss, Infirmarian.

Special thanks was offered to William David Everett for his thirteen years of service as Director of Postulants and Novices.

At the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, Inc, which takes place during the Council meeting, the following brothers were elected to Officer positions: Richard Thomas Biernacki, President; Thomas Mark Liotta, Vice President; Millard Cook, Secretary; James Teets, Treasurer.

Those four brothers were also elected to the Board of Directors, plus Ronald Augustine Fox, Thomas Bushnell, Francis Sebastian Medina, Enoch John Valentine, Thomas Lawrence Greer, Nathanael Deward Rahm, Karekin Madteos Yarian, David Luke Henton, Joseph Basil Gauss, James Mahoney and Robert James McLaughlin. Special thanks was offered to Tobias Stanislas Haller for his dedicated and loving service as Secretary of the Council and the Board of Directors for the past 26 years.

MUSIC FOR THE DANCE

This essay appeared in CHAPLAIR, the national magazine of The Assembly of Episcopal Health Care Chaplains. Richard John Lorino is Director of Pastoral Care at White Plains Hospital.

I seem to be one of the rare chaplains who falls neither into the “clergy” nor “lay” categories. I am not ordained, so I am technically a lay person, yet vowed religious tend not to see ourselves as lay. We exist in that “via media” where living under vows, according to a rule and within a community, adds a dimension that is not easily defined or readily understood. Yet living in that middle area is what seems to inform my life, as the constant tension between secular responsibility and inner life forces me to continually find and maintain a balance. Most of my chaplain colleagues choose not to have parish responsibilities. Since they see their full-time work in their respective institutions as their ministry, they often choose to keep their feet wet with occasional “supply” work, while others worship from the pew and a handful choose not to be involved in the parish at all. Once again, I don’t fall into any of those categories. I work full time in the hospital and part time in a parish. As a requirement for endorsement in this diocese, lay chaplains are expected to be members in good standing of a parish that affirms and supports their ministry through prayer. As a professional organist, I have been able to use my gifts in my own parish where I work as organist and choir-master. This entails planning and playing the music for all services, as well as teaching and rehearsing the choir for all liturgies throughout the year. It’s almost as time consuming as my full-time work as Director of Pastoral Care at a 300-bed community hospital, and it is also equally as rewarding.

While these two roles might seem to be unrelated, they really are not. After all, pastoral conversation is often referred to as “a dance” and you need music to dance. In both hospital and parish, the “dance” is the same. While my responsibilities might be limited to music and choir, I am still dealing with human beings who have all the same physical and spiritual issues as patients. As I’ve always taught my clinical students, “the patient is not always the person in the bed,” meaning, of course, that sometimes the patient is fine while family members or friends around the bedside are the ones who require the pastoral intervention. In a parish, everyone may be up and walking around, but no one is without their issues, problems or burdens. Often, the same pastoral skills that I have honed over these past 20 or so years as a hospital chaplain are called upon in the parish. While the rector is ultimately in charge of the spiritual well-being of the congregation, I am often the sounding board, the one who listens while folks run things by to get my reaction. This is where knowing boundaries and respecting roles is important. Being able to work with a pastor who is both collegial and respectful of my training doesn’t hurt, either!

When I decided to enter religious life 25 years ago, I thought I might have to give up music. Instead, I was encouraged to continue using those gifts in addition to exploring new areas of ministry. That encouragement led to hospital volunteering, which led to CPE, which led to board certification, a staff position, supervisory education, and ultimately a directorship. None of this happened by chance, and it has been a gradual process of learning to dance, and thank God, there has always been music. ☐

INTERCESSIONS

For the Brotherhood

Episcopal Visitor *Sun*
Rodney R Michel

Episcopal Visitors Emeriti
Horace WB Donegan d 11.11.91
Paul Moore, jr d 5.1.03
Walter D Dennis d 3.30.03

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 *Mon*
Stephen Storen
Thomas Joseph Ross d 12.18.01
Tobias Stanislas Haller
William Bunting d 10.12.88
Edward Munro
Charles Kramer d 10.23.06
Bernard Fessenden d 8.10.93

Donovan Aidan Bowley *Tue*
Edward Riley d 9.15.05
Christopher Stephen Jenks
Ciarán Anthony DellaFera
Damian-Curtis Kellum d 10.9.07
Richard John Lorino
Ronald Augustine Fox
Maurice John Grove
Charles Edward LeClerc

Virgilio Fortuna *Wed*
Gordon John Stanley
Karekin Madteos Yarian
William David Everett
Thomas Bushnell
Thomas Mark Liotta
James Mahoney
Patrick Ignatius Dickson d 7.20.05

Robert James McLaughlin *Thu*
Peter Budde
John Henry Ernestine
Francis Sebastian Medina
Ælred Bernard Dean
Joseph Basil Gauss
Mark Andrew Jones
Richard Matthias

William Henry Benefield *Fri*
Nathanael Deward Rahm
Thomas Lawrence Greer
Enoch John Valentine
Ron Fender
Michael Elliott d 2.8.12
David Luke Henton
David John Bratrick
Will Harpest

Bo Alexander Armstrong *Sat*
Francis Jonathan Bullock
Blane Frederik van Pletzen-Rands
James Patrick Hall

Novices

Millard Cook
Richard Edward Helmer

Postulants

Eric Lee Shelley
Larry W Reich

Postulants-Pro prospective

David Kasievich
Andrew Kellner
Raymond Alvin Chance
William VanDoren

For Religious Communities

Sacramentine & Visitandine Nuns
Society of the Atonement
Order of Friars Minor

Community of the Paraclete
Companions of Saint Luke~
Benedictine

Community of Celebration
Little Sisters of Saint Clare
Anamchara Fellowship
Anglican Order of Preachers
Rivendell Community
Sisters of Saint Gregory

Third Order SSF
Worker Sisters & Brothers of the
Holy Spirit
Camaldolese Benedictines
Society of Saint John the
Evangelist
Anglican Oblates of Saint
Benedict
Community of the Transfiguration
Order of Julian of Norwich
Order of the Holy Cross
Order of Saint Helena
Community of Saint John Baptist
Society of Saint Francis

For Ministries

Joseph Richey House
Fessenden Recovery Ministries
Baltimore Int'l Seafarers' Center
Saint Paul's Grayson St, San
Antonio
Aldersgate UMC Dobbs Ferry
Saint Christopher's, Kileen TX
Saint James, Austin
White Plains Hospital
The Community Kitchen
Cathedral of St John, Providence

For the Departed

Benefactors, Friends & Associates:
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Louise Lemarier, Norman Hall,
George Koerner, Henry Fukui,
J Steward Slocum, James
Gundrum, Cecil Berges, Marion
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Brendan W Nugent, Sarah
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Power, William Russell, Mark
Domoguen; Elizabeth Mary
Burke SSG

Goldie Bevins
John Laubach CStJ
Dale Regan
Joe Smythe
Barbara Berrean
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