

HE SERVANT



*Now the green
blade riseth...*

*Spring on the close of
the Cathedral Church of
St John the Divine,
New York City*

#232

Summer 2014

Publications from the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory

Publication	Description	Cost	Qty	Total
<i>Music of BSG</i>	Simplified Anglican Chants; full setting for Noonday including Psalmody with Gregorian tones for every day of the week; Compline, settings of <i>Phos</i> , <i>Magnificat</i> , and <i>Nunc</i> ; and music for Communion. 36 page booklet.	\$ 3.00		\$
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The Servant

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SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVIN' IS EASY

During this time of year families and friends are making preparation for vacations and trips; visits to near and far places. Rarely do we begin such activities without preparation. We can prepare to make a difference in our lives and others. Students now even make plans for their summer break. Some will work while others play; some will take classes; some will have extra sleep. I would encourage all of us to remember that, while we vacation, our spiritual lives are not on hold. We can use some of this “down time” to study and look at things, perhaps in a different light. We can look in prayer to a deeper place of grace.

Where are those moments of grace in the time of rest and refreshment on vacation? During this time, use some of the “free” time “spent” on others: take time to assist in a local help organization and come to a new place of sacrifice and holiness. Or apply some time to relationship-building: a very good and helpful activity which is perfect for vacations is finding deeper friendships and building closer family ties. This could be a time when we might discover that we have friends whose lives are hanging in the balance. Our “vacation” can make that difference—and make a difference for God’s kingdom.

Relax and refresh but in the spirit of renewal and rejuvenation—for yourself and others.

RTB

COMMUNITY NOTES

Spring Council Meeting 2014

The Brotherhood Council met at the Saint Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon, New York, in early April. This meeting dealt with a hefty agenda, including the vote to accept the formal requests from novices Eric Shelley (Roanoke, Virginia) and Larry Walter Reich (Chattanooga, Tennessee) for first profession of vows. Shortly after the meeting, all professed brothers in Province 4—where both novices reside—were polled regarding these professions and endorsed them. We send both Eric and Larry Walter our warmest congratulations as they now prepare for this significant liturgy of commitment to take place during Annual Convocation in mid-July!

Council elected David Luke Henton as Director of Education, to take effect at Annual Convocation in July. He will begin functioning *pro tempore* as there is much to do in preparation for the community’s retreat during Annual Convocation. David Luke, who is a teacher and a social worker, is an excellent choice for this very important role.

A major feature of each spring Council session is the annual approval of Brotherhood Outreach Grants. The following charitable organizations received approval for their grant requests:

Fessenden Supportive Housing, Inc, in Yonkers, New York, which cares for men in addiction recovery;

Saint John's Episcopal Church in South Salem, New York, toward the development and maintenance of their music program; and

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Chattanooga toward the initiation of their new Chattanooga Outreach Fund which will provide response to the homeless and the hungry in their area.

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 a great pleasure to be able to consider such grants toward ministries in which our brothers are personally involved or which they commend.

Council responded to a resolution from Edward Munro, Minister Provincial of Province 2, approving a note of congratulations and prayer support to be sent to the newly-formed Oratory of Saint Mary and Saint John, founded in the Episcopal Church in the Philippines. (See further details on our relationship with this new religious community below, under Province 2.)

Council received and accepted the requests for withdrawal from the community of Stephen Storen and Millard Cook. They remain in our prayers as we wish them God-speed in their future journeys.

Council interviewed applicants for postulancy—one from Iowa, another from Chattanooga and a third from San Francisco. All three candidates were accepted as postulants-prospective, meaning that, God willing, the Brotherhood will admit a total of five as postulants at Annual Convocation this summer.

The Board of Directors of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, Inc convened for a brief business meeting which included the election of new Board Members, new Officers of the Corporation, and to conduct financial responsibilities on the community's behalf.



Celebrating Helen Bernice Lovell's 100th birthday: (l to r) Bishop Hirschfeld, Carin Bridgit, Charles Edward, Mary Catherine (seated), Laurie Joseph, Helen the birthday girl, and Michael Julian.

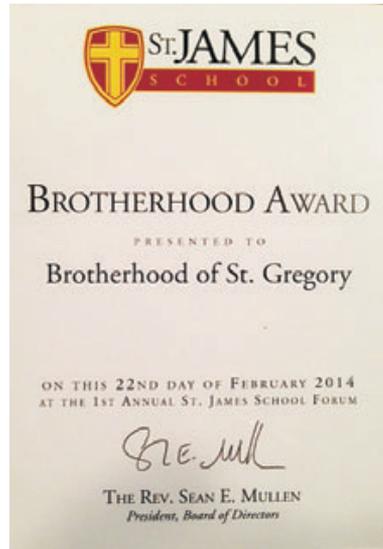
Province 1

It isn't often one can celebrate a centenary, but Helen Bernice Lovell SSG celebrated her 100th birthday this spring, and the town of Cornish NH turned out to celebrate with her. Among those joining the celebration were Bishop Rob Hirschfeld, Sisters Carin Bridgit Delfs, Laurie Joseph Niblick, Mary Catherine Robertson, and Michael Julian Davidson, and our own Charles Edward LeClerc.

Province 2

Robert James McLaughlin and the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory were honored in February with the conferral of the Brotherhood Award from Saint James School in Philadelphia. The citation reads:

The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory is a Christian Community of The Episcopal Church, its Communion Partners, and the worldwide Anglican Communion, whose members follow a common rule and serve the church on parochial, diocesan, and national levels. The trust that all labor and life can be sanctified is summed up in the community's motto: Soli Deo Gloria, To God Alone the Glory. Brother Robert James McLaughlin provided over two years of direct service to our new school through his work at City Camp and Camp Saint James. During our first academic year, Brother Robert served as our altar guild, assistant to our chaplain and provided other services as needed. Through two outreach grants, the Brotherhood has supported our literacy program and our newly created high school placement program. It's our pleasure to present the Brotherhood Award to Brother Robert James McLaughlin and the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory.



During Lent, Edward Munro shared the following note from Br Leon Cadsap of the Philippines:

I would like to inform you of the religious community we just started here in the Philippines. Our formation process started in mid-2012 and we had our two-year initial vows made on March 25, 2014 - the Feast of the Annunciation. Six clergy have gone through this process. We decided to name the community the Oratory of Saint Mary and Saint John. This is the first religious community ever established in the Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

On behalf of the community, I would like to express my deepest and heartfelt gratitude to the BSG for presenting us with a new approach/model in community life. Pardon us because we used your constitution as our reference in forming our own. Frankly speaking, previously we only had a limited idea on how a religious community works because we always associated it with "monastic life." But your coming to

us—through the humility of Maurice John Grove BSG — has broadened our perspective about religious community.

We are aware that a lot of work is to be done for the community as we journey “towards the foot of the cross.”

The Brotherhood is humbled by such touching words and we are overjoyed that our presence in the person of Maurice John has led to such a hopeful and inspiring effort! To God Alone the Glory!



Preparing for the procession in the downstairs gym, it appears that James, William Francis, and Christopher Stephen have Sister Deborah Francis CSJB surrounded.

May 17th in New York City can be an ‘iffy’ day, weather-wise, but this year that day was bright and filled with sunshine; the perfect day, in fact, for the consecration of a new bishop! And that’s just what took place that day at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in Manhattan, with thousands of the faithful present. That day witnessed the Ordination and Consecration of Allen K Shin as Bishop Suffragan of New York, a colleague and friend to a number of Gregorian Friars. Present for the gala event were James Teets, William Francis Jones, Tobias Stanislas Haller and Christopher Stephen Jenks among the several religious communities represented in the procession, and a wonderful opportunity to catch up with so many friends and fellow-travelers, all intent on wishing Bishop Allen every blessing at the very beginning of a new and exciting episcopal ministry!

Richard Matthias, a retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel, delivered a Memorial Day address in Veterans Memorial Park in Massena NY. Echoing the words of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, Richard challenged the listeners with practical ways to honor the sacrifice of those who gave their lives, and to ensure that they will not “have died in vain.”

If you want to honor the sacrifices that were made for you, vote. Someone died to guarantee you that privilege. If you want to honor the sacrifices that were made for

you, volunteer, serve the great good. Someone died to defend your country and your community.... If you want to honor the sacrifices that were made for you, speak up, resist and expose those who would deny others the same justice and security that you enjoy. Someone died to provide your freedoms and you must insure that those freedoms extend to all Americans, whether you agree with them or not.... If you want to honor the sacrifices that were made for you, provide. Someone died so that you and your family can live in safety and security.... Honor the sacrifices that were made for you through your own action and your own sacrifice. Vote, volunteer, speak up and provide. In doing so you will pay the highest tribute possible to the 1,200,000 lives that were given for you, your family, your community and your country.

Province 4

Province 4 held its Spring Retreat in Chattanooga on March 21–23. The brothers enjoyed the beautiful home and comfortable hospitality of Angie and Pat Conroy, long-time friends of the community and benefactors of the Chattanooga Community Kitchen, where Ron Fender ministered so faithfully for the past decade as a homeless outreach case manager, and where postulant Mark Williams is currently employed as Director of Permanent Housing. The retreat was hosted by Ron, who cooked, showered his brothers with such love and generosity, and planned and executed an incredible retreat program for the brothers and for Chattanooga friends of the community. Participating in the retreat weekend were Bo Alexander Armstrong, David Luke Henton, James Patrick Hall, Larry Walter Reich, Ron, Mark Williams, Minister Provincial Thomas Lawrence Greer, and good friend of the province, Angel Roque, visit-



Province 4 and friends and family at Hart Gallery, the homeless art gallery where Southside Abbey meets. (l to r) Southside Vicar Bob Leopold, Ron, Larry Walter, David Luke, Cindia Williams, Angel Roque, Grace Williams, James Patrick, and Mark



On the “holy mountain” at Sewanee (l to r): Francis Boniface, Ælred Bernard, David Luke and James Patrick

ing from Fort Lauderdale and bringing the brothers greetings from his rector, Mark Andrew Jones, who was unable to attend. Although Ælred Bernard Dean was also unable to attend (as he was hosting and leading a retreat for parishioners from the Church of the Epiphany in Atlanta the same weekend), David Luke and James Patrick had the pleasure of briefly visiting and praying Evening Prayer with him and Br Francis Boniface SSA in Sewanee en route to Chattanooga. The only other provincial brother unable to attend—Eric Shelley—was in training for a national advanced certification nursing examination, and was deeply missed and remembered in prayer during the weekend.

The retreat began with Friday evening worship at

Southside Abbey, an emergent community which Bo Alexander was instrumental in founding, and where he currently serves as Bishop’s Warden. This was a particularly eventful evening to be with this dynamic and diverse community, as Vicar Bob Leopold shared the good news of Southside’s formal designation as a Jubilee Ministry of The Episcopal Church, a recognition of their engaging and innovative outreach ministries on the southside of Chattanooga. Following a joyful celebration of the Holy Eucharist and potluck at Southside, the brothers adjourned to the Conroys’ home for Compline and community fellowship.

Ron arranged two surprises for the brothers on Saturday. In the morning, Elliott Smith, a young Chattanooga currently in college in Atlanta and actively engaged in ministry with the Open Door (Catholic Worker) Community there, engaged the brothers in a lively discussion of social justice issues and opportunities, with particular focus on the correctional system, capital punishment, and racial and social inequities in criminal justice. Saturday evening, the brothers and their friends and guests were treated to an incredible banquet courtesy of Ron, and to live music at both Evening Prayer and Compline courtesy of flutist Janet Hale, and her guitarist son, Adam. Among the many friends joining the brothers for this incredible evening were: Philip Fuller (who lives with Ron at the House of the Magdalene in Chattanooga); long-time friend John Taylor from Saint Paul’s in Chattanooga; Saint Paul’s communicants Lynn Hodge and Barbara Graham (the first women to have their union cele-

brated at Saint Paul's since the inauguration of a diocesan process for blessing same-gender unions in the Diocese of East Tennessee); and Community Kitchen Executive Director Charlie Hughes and his lovely wife, Cindy, both of whom have given so generously and bounteously of their time, resources, gifts and wisdom to the community of Chattanooga, and to the brothers of Province 4. It was also a particular joy and blessing for the brothers to be joined for the evening by Lynn Armstrong, Bo Alexander's wife and a dear friend of the community in her own right, and Mark's wife, Cindia Williams, and their youngest daughter, Grace. Cindia herself has a long history of community service in Chattanooga, including an extensive work history with the Community Kitchen and years of service alongside Ron Fender.

Between these two extraordinary surprise events and guests, the brothers were treated to a magical afternoon at Ruby Falls, the generous gift of Larry Walter, who works there. Larry Walter provided the brothers with admission tickets, souvenir photographs, and much wonderful information about the beautiful waterfall and cave formations of this exceptional natural historic landmark. For those of us raised in the South with the ubiquitous advertisement of Ruby Falls, it was a wonderful adventure to finally actually visit in person, and in the experienced hands of one of our own brothers!

Sunday morning, the brothers joined Mark, Cindia, and Grace Williams for the Holy Eucharist at their parish, Saint Peter's, where Mark was serving that morning as a lector. Afterwards, Lynn Armstrong reserved a table for the brothers and their family members at a Greek restaurant in downtown Chattanooga where we enjoyed a leisurely lunch. The retreat concluded with a return to the House of the Magdalene and Noonday Prayer prior to brothers departing their separate ways. Though the weekend was full of fellowship, learning, and celebration, the retreat also included blessed time for prayer together in the Offices and in intercessory prayer and silence, individual embertide meetings with Minister Provincial Thomas Lawrence, and time for rest and reflection. The Province 4 brothers are grateful to Ron and Larry Walter and to Angie and Pat Conroy for the warm hospitality, and to all of our guests, friends, musicians and sisters and brothers for the incredible refreshment of this wonderful weekend.

Ron Fender shared news that Russian artist and poet, Vasily Bliznetsov, asked him to write a poem for a book he is compiling. Each poem begins "The Way..." and has the same structural format. Ron's poem is in the sidebar.

The Way of God
is to reel out the road,
sometimes a dirt path
going up the hill into the
star strewn sky,
sometimes the ribbon
of pavement cutting across
the plains into the relentless sun.
Bethlehem is behind us now~
the lights slipping down
and the empty place
where once there was a manger.
Before us, black and bloody Golgotha
where we will meet the
screaming train.
A little smoke. A little ash.
There are new worlds waiting
to be discovered.

Ron Fender

Province 5

Ronald Augustine Fox represented the Brotherhood at the joint meeting of the National Association of Episcopal Christian Communities and the Conference of Religious Orders of the Americas, this year held in Toronto with the Sisterhood of Saint John the Divine. The main theme was “the new monasticism,” and approximately forty representatives from CAROA and NÆCC communities attended.



Province 5 brothers took part in the Easter celebrations at Atonement, Chicago. (l to r) Ronald Augustine, who was MC of the Mass; Will Harpest, Minister Provincial Nathanael Deward Rahm, William Henry Benefield, and Joseph Basil Gauss. (Photo: Gary Norcross)

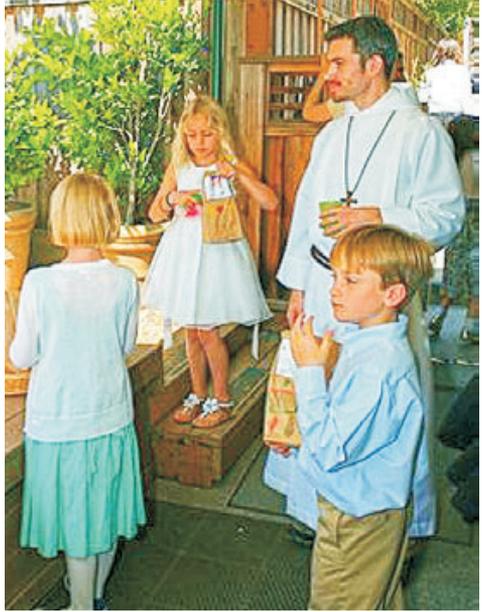
Province 8

Brothers in the San Francisco Bay Area further their service to the church and world. Richard Edward Helmer and William Carl VanDoren, both serving at Our Saviour, Mill Valley CA, enjoyed leading a festive Eastertide. Richard Edward serves as rector, and William Carl leads youth ministry. In June, William Carl leads youth from two parishes on a mission trip to Taos, New Mexico, where they will work together on a Habitat for Humanity Project.

In May, Richard Edward, a deputy to General Convention, coordinated a day-long meeting for the six deputations from the dioceses in California at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley. The 50 participants were joined by House of Deputies President Gay Clark Jennings and Canon Michael Barlowe, Executive Officer for the General Convention. The meeting covered a wide range of topics, from the work of re-envisioning the church to issues around marriage, same-sex blessings, immigration, justice, and climate change. Postulant-prospective Scott Pomerenk is part of the Diocese of California deputation, and led prayers during the day. All are preparing for the 2015 General Convention meeting in Salt Lake City.

Congratulations to Karekin Madteos Yarian, director of electronic products for Church Publishing, Inc., for successfully launching Rite Stuff 2.0, liturgical planning software for the church, and on the completion of his major work of poetry, *Breviary*. Karekin Madteos is Minister Provincial of the Brotherhood's Province 8.

Thomas Bushnell continues his ministry overseeing a team of engineers for Google, and Francis Sebastian Medina offers a gracious Gregorian listening ear to his clients in his work as a hairdresser in San Mateo CA.



William Carl greets the children of Church of Our Saviour after their annual Easter egg hunt.



Postulant-prospective Scott Pomerenk speaks at the meeting of General Convention deputations from dioceses in the state of California.

INTERCESSIONS

For the Brotherhood		Novices		For the Departed	
Episcopal Visitors	Sun	Eric Shelley		Benefactors, Friends & Associates:	
Rodney R Michel		Larry Walter Reich		Charlotte Morgan, Arsene &	
<i>Horace WB Donegan d 11.11.91</i>		William Carl Van Doren		Louise Lemarier, Norman Hall,	
<i>Paul Moore, jr d 5.1.03</i>				George Koerner, Henry Fukui,	
<i>Walter D Dennis d 3.30.03</i>		Postulant		J Steward Slocum, James	
Professed		Mark Williams		Gundrum, Cecil Berges, Marion	
Richard Thomas Biernacki		Postulants Prospective		Pierce, Helen Marie Joyce,	
<i>John Nidecker d 6.20.88</i>		Donald J Sutton III		Kenneth Staples, Elizabeth	
James Teets		Thomas Luther Curnutte		Holton, Richard A Belanger,	
Luke Anthony Nowicki		Michael J Piper		Brendan W Nugent, Sarah	
<i>John Peter Clark d 2.25.94</i>		Max B Steele		Elizabeth Wells SSG, Sue	
William Francis Jones	Mon	Scott Michael Pomerenk		Bradley, Jack Merryman; Paul	
<i>Thomas Joseph Ross d 12.18.01</i>		For Religious Communities		Power, William Russell, Mark	
Tobias Stanislas Haller		Sacramentine & Visitandine Nuns		Domoguen; Elizabeth Mary	
<i>William Bunting d 10.12.88</i>		Society of the Atonement		Burke SSG	
Edward Munro		Order of Friars Minor		Maya Angelou	
<i>Charles Kramer d 10.23.06</i>		Community of the Paraclete		Allen Bilbrey	
<i>Bernard Fessenden d 8.10.93</i>		Companions of Saint Luke~		Lola Buckingham	
Donovan Aidan Bowley		Benedictine		Michael Cameron	
<i>Edward Riley d 9.15.05</i>		Community of Celebration		Daniel Carey	
Christopher Stephen Jenks	Tue	Little Sisters of Saint Clare		Lance Carney	
Ciarán Anthony DellaFera		Anamchara Fellowship		Jesse Edwards	
<i>Damian-Curtis Kellum d 10.9.07</i>		Anglican Order of Preachers		Ivy Howe	
Richard John Lorino		Rivendell Community		Helen Johnson	
Ronald Augustine Fox		Sisters of Saint Gregory		Wray E MacKay	
Maurice John Grove		Third Order SSF		Godfrey Mdimi Mhologo	
Charles Edward LeClerc		Worker Sisters & Brothers of the		Florence Morgan	
Virgilio Fortuna		Holy Spirit		Bitsy Packard	
Gordon John Stanley		Camaldolese Benedictines		Peter Perella	
Karekin Madteos Yarian	Wed	Society of Saint John the		Dakota Ramp	
William David Everett		Evangelist		Phil Scarff	
Thomas Bushnell		Anglican Oblates of Saint		Robert Smith	
<i>Patrick Ignatius Dickson d 7.20.05</i>		Benedict		E Don Taylor	
Robert James McLaughlin		Community of the Transfiguration		Ann B Davis	
Peter Budde		Oratory of the Good Shepherd			
John Henry Ernestine		Community of Solitude			
Francis Sebastian Medina		Order of Julian of Norwich			
Ælfred Bernard Dean		Order of the Holy Cross			
Joseph Basil Gauss	Thu	Order of Saint Helena			
Mark Andrew Jones		Community of Saint John Baptist			
Richard Matthias		Society of Saint Francis			
William Henry Benefield		For Ministries			
Nathanael Deward Rahm		Joseph Richey House			
Thomas Lawrence Greer		Fessenden Recovery Ministries			
Enoch John Valentine		Baltimore Int'l Seafarers' Center			
Ron Fender		Saint Paul's Grayson St, San			
<i>Michael Elliott d 2.8.12</i>		Antonio			
David Luke Henton	Fri	Aldersgate UMC Dobbs Ferry			
David John Battrick		Saint Christopher's, Kileen TX			
Will Harpest		Saint James, Austin			
Bo Alexander Armstrong		White Plains Hospital			
Francis Jonathan Bullock		The Community Kitchen			
Blane Frederik van Pletzen-Rands					
James Patrick Hall					
Richard Edward Helmer					