

THE SERVANT

THE BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT GREGORY



THE SERVANT

THE BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT  
GREGORY

BROTHER RICHARD T, BIERNACKI  
SUPERIOR

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH  
82 PROSPECT  
WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. 106-06

SOLI DEO GLORIA

BROTHER JOHN E. NIDECKER  
ASSISTANT SUPERIOR

SCRIBE ----- EDITOR

VOL. 2 NO. 1

JANUARY, 1978

## THE SUPERIOR'S SANCTUM

The past few weeks have been more hectic than usual. Our Annual Chapter was held on December, 18, and was an excellent conclusion to a great day. It was on that day at a Solemn Evening Mass, that we had a Profession of Brothers James Teets and Roger Hayes as well as the acceptance into the Novitiate of Brother David Joseph Pelletier. Brother Wilyam David made his Life Profession Vows at the same Service and I can attest that it was a glorious occasion and a marvelous conclusion to a very eventful Advent Season.

The Rev. Fr. Frank L. Knight was the Celebrant of the Eucharist and the Chaplain for the Profession Service which was held at Grace Church in White Plains, N. Y.

The Rev. David G. Henritz, Executive Director of the famous Bowery Mission in New York was the Preacher. The Rev. David Henritz is a special friend to the Order and we are grateful to him for his fine Sermon. In the eyes of this Superior, there is no greater joy that to see the growth of our Community and to know that we are all engaged in the work of the Lord.

At the conclusion of the Service, a Reception was held for our guests in the Undercroft of the Church.

At our Chapter Meeting, the Brothers discussed with me the plans for the future, and I happily announced the appointments for the coming year. Due to the press of increased activity, Brother Leslie was appointed Secretary to the Superior. Brothers James and Roger have the responsibility for design and art forms, Novice Brother David Joseph will act as Coordinator of Special Events and I will continue to be responsible for Musical work in the Brotherhood. Brother John will have editorial responsibility in addition to his administration of the Vestiture Exchange.

The Mission Assignments for the Brothers were announced with Brother Wilyam David continuing his work with the Church of St. Simon as Assistant and in the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Brother Michael is at St. James' Church in Great Barrington, Mass., and has there a ministry to those in Nursing Homes. Brothers James and Roger will assist Fr. Knight at the Church of the Mediator in the Bronx, NY., and Novice Brother David Joseph will remain as a full time Staff Member at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, in New York. Brother John will continue his ministry as Assistant to the Clergy of Christ Church, Rockville, MD., and in the Diocese of Washington. My own work as Minister of Music at St. Bartholomew's, White Plains will be in addition to my activity in writing Choral Music and Concert organ works. It must be obvious that such provides me with much to do however that is but a part of the overall responsibilities when one considers the task of being the Superior of a very active Anglican Gregorian Order.

On December 21, the Feast of Saint Thomas, five of the Brothers took part in the Festival Eucharist and Ordination to the Diaconate of the Rev. Rachel Birnbaum. Deacon Birnbaum is Secretary to Bishop Moore, the Ordinary of the Diocese of New York. The Rector of Calvary Church, where the Ordination took place, is the Rev. Thomas Pike who was the first Chaplain to the Brotherhood. It was a great joy to

be with him again and to have him see the progress we have made. As we enter the year 1978, I have much for which I thank God. The past year was so eventful and I am grateful to all in the Brotherhood. The new challenges that are before us provide us with much hope and I pray that God in his infinite wisdom will grant his blessing to the Order and to the Brothers who are dedicated to our mottoes: Servants of the servants of God and Soli Deo Gloria.

Finally, I would like to quote from the Charge given to every Brother at his Profession:

"To be a Brother is to become a witness to the love of God, in Christ Jesus, in your every living moment; to live humbly with patience and in service; to meet Christ, your brother, in the persons of the Brotherhood and in every man, woman, and child, no matter who they may be, and to greet Christ with the open arms of love."

This solemn promise, made by all of us who are Professed, will be our guiding symbol in the coming year. We ARE witnesses to God's love! we ARE servants! We WILL serve!

Brother Richard, BSG Superior.

"AND THREE MAKES EIGHT"

At a glorious Service on Sunday, December 18, 1977, two fully Professed and one Novice Brother were admitted to the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory. Despite very inclement weather consisting of a storm of ice, snow, hail and rain, the Service took place at Grace Church, White Plains, New York at 7:00 p.m. I welcome these new Brothers to our fold. Welcome Brothers James, Roger and Novice Brother David Joseph.

Hector Berlioz wrote a lovely anthem for Epiphany Sunday, entitled, "Thou Must Leave, Thy Lowly Dwelling." It is truly a beautiful anthem with meaningful -words that may touch us all. I hope and pray that when the Brothers return to that lowly dwelling, next year, that as they bear their gifts of love and devotion, we will be greater in number and more firm in commitment to our Lord and our Patron, Saint Gregory.

The Brotherhood has made some wonderful strides in the past year. I -want to thank our Superior, Brother Richard and his assistant, Brother John, for making this a possibility. I am grateful to the readers of The Servant and ask that you keep us in your prayers.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Leslie Victor, BSG

Brother Leslie Victor Secretary to the Superior.

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"Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you; for on him has God the Father set his seal

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THOUGHTS ON THE COLLECTS-BY THE VICAR OF SAINT SWITHUN'S, SURREY.

THE EPIPHANY COLLECTS

What a beautiful journey one takes when reading all of the Epiphany Season Collects. We begin our journey soon after the birth of Jesus and see the manifestation of our Lord to the Gentiles at the visit of the Magi. They came to acknowledge this Child that would be the Saviour of the world. The gifts which they brought were so precious and yet the Child whom they visited was so humble. Strange as it may seem, he spurned those riches to live humbly for the rest of his life and yet possessed the greatest riches ever given by God. Principalities and kingdoms bowed before him in his lifetime and have ever since.

As we walk through the Missal we come to the original significance of this sacred season as it was celebrated in the Eastern Churches. The Baptism of our Lord. That day in the River Jordan when the Christ was being washed in the water, God proclaimed him as His Son and the Holy Spirit descended upon him to show the people that they three are a unity.

Then as we continue on in our trek, we find that we are guided in our askings of God for Mercy, Understanding, that we not be led into the temptations of life and to seek freedom from the bondage of our sins. As we acknowledge our weakness and put our trust in God, we seek his help in maintaining a life of purity. We ask all of these things in the name of Jesus the Son of God.

'Finally, we come to our plea as we prepare for Lent by saying:

O God, who before the passion of thy only begotten Son didst reveal his glory upon the holy mount: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

May the Epiphany Season find in you the desire to learn more and more and to revel in the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Vicar of Surrey.

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WE'VE GROWN

The Brotherhood has grown this year,  
But not the numbers do we cheer. For these three men of quality,  
We raise our thanks, O Lord, to thee.  
To their dedication we attest,  
And pray, Lord, that they will be blest. All glory, give we, unto thee.

*From the Brotherhood of Gregory.*

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BROTHER JOHN E. NIDECKER, ASSISTANT SUPERIOR

642 CROCUS DRIVE, ROCKVILLE, MD. 20850  
Volume 2. No 2.

FROM: BROTHER MICHAEL, BSG

TO: My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Greetings:

Our recent Chapter Meeting provided me with many surprises. First among them was that I was to be the author of an article in THE SERVANT.

In order to set the scene for the writing, I felt that music would offer inspiration. Thus as I write, Handel's, "The Lord is My Light" is the background music and I recall with joy that great day when our two new Brothers James and Roger were Professed and Novice-Brother David was advanced in our beloved Gregorian Brotherhood. The Profession and Mass was one of the beautiful experiences of my life and I am grateful to God that it happened to me.

At our Chapter Meeting, Brother Leslie and I were barely able to withstand the thick clouds of cigarette smoke and had to leave the room in order to breathe. Despite our caution, the Brothers continued to indulge.

The morning after Chapter, I wended a treacherous way to the wilds of Western Massachusetts through a large snow storm that had left its mark on the Taconic Parkway. As I drove, I thought of my work in the Church and the anxiety I felt about a coming interview at a radio station. Having just completed a course of study in broadcasting, I prayed that my studies would come back to me as I was being tested for a new place in my secular life.

Almost immediately after arriving at my home, things began to happen. My Rector, Canon Middleton, called to tell me that I had been Licensed to Administer the Chalice at the Eucharist and that he wanted me to serve at the Festival Choral Eucharist on Christmas Eve. Following that call, I was informed that there soon would be a part-time position open at the studio and that I was to spend evenings there to prepare for it.

The Christmas Eve Eucharist was beautiful and with the help of God, I was able to Administer the Chalice without difficulty. The following day, I began a week's sojourn with friends and returned rested and ready for the activities of the New Year. These began with a visit to one of our Nursing Homes with Canon Middleton. This is a Ministry we share with other Churches in the area. A new Home has been added to our list and Canon Middleton and I will be serving there in the future. Most of our Ministry will be in Great Barrington.

My career in radio has begun with my being "on the air" for an hour each night and I ask that you will pray for me that this will soon be my permanent secular occupation.

God's love to all.

Brother Michael, BSG.



## THE SUPERIOR'S SANCTUM

*The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tables of stone, with the Law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction. So Moses rose with his servant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. EXOD. 24:12*

People who know me are aware of the passion I have for all of nature; plants, animals, water and land. As I set out on January 21, to Puerto Rico for a much needed rest, I planned to journey into the hinterlands just to see the natural beauty of the island.

On the day that my plan was accomplished, this verse of the Old Testament Lesson for the last Sunday of the Epiphany Season kept running through my mind. I want to share with you a sort of travelogue of my experience on that day. A friend and I decided that we would like to tour "El Junque", the tropical rain forest located an hour away from San Juan despite the fact that we had been there on another occasion but with a guide whose watchful and inhibiting eye kept us in close observation.

This time, we rented a car and were treated to an incredible experience. The rain forest is the only one of its kind in an American possession and is a lush, green, alive place teeming with beauty and life. As the trip to the forest began, we thought we were seeing all that was worthwhile but other delights were in store for us. As the car meandered the narrow two-lane highway, there was an almost forbidding aura around us. We arrived at an open gate and drove through to begin an ascent of a mountainous unknown region. Suddenly, we were on U. S. Navy property that housed a Radar Station, and which we later learned was off-limits to any except Naval personnel,

As we reached the top of the mountain, we were literally standing in the clouds. It was then that the words from Exodus came to me in a glaring thought that I was standing on God's mountain. As we photographed the place, the clouds seemed to pass through our bodies. As I stood there, I mused, "How can anyone doubt the existence of God the Creator, in this marvelous exhibit of nature? I feel as though I am standing on God's mountain."

If we read further on in the twelfth Chapter of Exodus, we learn that the cloud covered the mountain for six days, and that on the seventh day God called Moses from the midst of the cloud. As I thought of it, it was almost like being Moses for a moment to be so close to the heavenly city. This may seem to be a bit romantic but by being where we should not have been, we were treated to a sight that few if any tourist ever sees. The silence of that lofty place some thirty-eight hundred feet above the city of San Juan was actually deafening. (Silence in its true sense and in meditation can be so.) The peace of the place was overwhelming as I stood apart from my friend on that mountain top. The more I thought of the Mosaic experience of being on God's mountain for forty days and nights, the more I felt that I could sense what Moses must have felt at that time. I was on God's mountain and I was not alone for God was with me.

As we enter into the Lenten Season and will be on our way to God's mountain, I have this experience to contemplate in my daily meditations. I hope that my sharing it with you will be useful in your meditations. Our Lenten pilgrimage will be our climb on the long steep road but at the end of it is Easter the day when all is fulfilled for us. Then the road will be short and the climb no longer steep.

*Br. Richard, BSG, Superior*

"Great is the Lord and wholly to be praised in the city of our God, His holy mountain, ALLELUIA.

THOUGHTS ON THE COLLECTS OF THE VICAR OF SAINT SWITHUN'S SURREY.

THE ASH WEDNESDAY COLLECT

*Almighty and everlasting God, Who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit one God, For ever and ever. AMEN.*

How beautiful and with what wondrous words does this collect prepare us for the coming of Lent. We are reminded of our sinfulness and wretchedness and have the great assurance that these portions of our lives can be alleviated by the power of our God. This collect, oft repeated, gives us an assurance that our God hates nothing that he has made and that *if* we are penitent, we may obtain perfect remission and forgiveness of our sins.

As we ask God to create in us new and contrite hearts, we are fully aware that he will so do but we must create in ourselves the willingness to obey his commandments and to live in harmony with God and the Church.

As the Priest places the ashes of lamentation on our heads he recalls for us that we are but dust and that to dust we shall return. This rite recalls for us the lament of the Hebrews when they experienced sadness of death or unremitted sin. The old life of sin can be removed and the new life *of* sinlessness is a goal to which we all should attain. This cannot occur unless we are marked by our past sins and begin to prepare for that glorious time in our lives when we can be forgiven. Thus it is that this collect is a wondrous prayer asking us to observe Lent with the intention of behaving as we should to prepare us for that glorious day of Resurrection which will be upon us in a very little time.

May all give up sin. Take on preparation. More than this, let us take on with great resolve some acts of contrition and adoration by presenting ourselves to God in the Church, by loving our neighbors as ourselves and by working for the fruition of Christ's hope that all may be one.

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We asked a mathematician to compare our Budget with that of the United States. He laughingly, said, "There just aren't enough figures to show the percentage of difference." Mayhap he was right as he looked at it, but to us the monumental task of preparing a Budget without a source of income is an assurance that there are some figures that would suffice.

The saddest task given to me by our Superior, Brother Richard is to try and develop a plan whereby we might have sufficient funds to just handle our costs for THE SERVANT and some other printing that we must needs do. The words of Psalm 22, came to me in large type as I thought of a plan but the large type did not bring the answer. It was the Lord who said ask and it shall be given. Thus to you our readers, we ask, will you help?

You may memorialize a loved one in our GREGORIAN BOOK OF MEMORY or you may send what you feel will be helpful in our quest to keep THE SERVANT coming your way each month.

The Editor.

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FEBRUARY INTERCESSIONS

THE ILL            John Hincke            Kathleen Eisner            Lillian Riccio

THE DEPARTED            Andrew A. Raymond            Olive Carr

RELIGIOUS ORDERS

Rev. Mother Virginia and  
ALL SAINTS SISTER OF THE POOR  
THE ORATORY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
HERMANOS FRANCISCANOS  
THE ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR  
THE SOCIETY OF SAINT PAUL  
THE COWLEY FATHERS

Rev. Mother Mary Leonard Whipple and  
THE VISITATION SISTERS  
COMMUNITY OF THE GLORIOUS ASCENSION  
THE ORDER OF THE HOLY CROSS  
THE ORDER OF SAINT FRANCIS  
SAINT BARNABAS BROTHERHOOD  
THE ORDER OF SAINT HELENA

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THE CLERGY

MOST REV. JOHN M. ALLIN  
RT. REV. JOHN T. WALKER  
RT. REV. PAUL LEE  
RT. REV. JOHN M. KRUMM  
RT. REV. CHARLES T. GASKELL  
Rev. Samuel E. Benson  
Rev. Elwyn D. Brown  
Rev. Frank L. Knight  
Rev. Arthur P. Middleton  
Rev. James Mobley  
Rev. Timothy Sampson  
Rev. Robin G. E. Murray  
Rev. Benjamin R. Priest, SLW  
Rev. Roy F. Kephart  
Rev. Robert H. Andrews

RT. REV. PAUL MOORE, JR.  
RT. REV. HORACE W. B. DONEGAN  
RT. REV. WILLIAM CHOI  
RT. REV. ALEXANDER D. STEWART  
RT. REV. ROBERT TERWILLIGER  
Rev. Davis Given  
Rev. J. Norman Hall  
Rev. Richard B. Putman  
Rev. Robert J. Vanderau  
Rev. Harold Avery  
Rev. Fred W. Trumbore  
Rev. Herbert G. Draesel  
Rev. Martin P. Davidson  
Rev. James R. Daughtry  
Rev. Robert D. Herzog

ALL POSTULANTS  
ALL NOVICES  
ALL PROFESSED

FOR ALL WHO PRAY TO KEEP A HOLY LENT, WE SEEK YOUR EARNEST PRAYERS

SPECIAL REMINDER

The Ember season nears and Reports to the Superior are due. Please plan to have yours in the mail to reach Brother Richard on Ember Wednesday. Thank you.

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BROTHER JOHN E. NIDECKER, ASSISTANT SUPERIOR

642 CROCUS DRIVE, ROCKVILLE, MD. 20850

March 1978 (Vol 2. No. 3)

FROM: BROTHER JAMES, BSG  
TO: My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Greetings:

As we walk along the-Way of the Cross in our own Parishes, during Lent, we try to imagine what our Lord must have felt as he made that original journey 2000 years ago. His brow torn by the thorns, his body stung by the whip as he was forced to carry the heavy wooden beam which he knew would cause even more pain. Exhausted, he fell to the ground repeatedly, bruising his head and body still further. The jeers and taunts of the soldiers and the crowd rang in his ears as went on his bloody way. Finally, when he reached the top of the hill, known as the Place of the Skull, he was stretched upon the ground and heard the sound of the mallets as they struck the spikes which pierced his wrists. As the cross-piece was lifted up to the upright, his body swung free and his entire weight was suspended by only two nails. Then he felt the last nail penetrate his feet. His precious blood flowed freely down his face and body from the open wounds.

After hanging and enduring the agony at which we can only wonder, the final blow was delivered by a Roman soldier's lance into his chest.

To many of us who profess the Christian faith, the Holy Shroud of Turin sums up, not only the terrible hours which Jesus spent from his trial before Pilate until he left his earthly body on the cross, but it also shows us the Christ at the moment of his return to that body. Jesus was true God and true Man, and the image he left for all the world to see upon his burial shroud is one of the most important tangible relics which the Church holds today. As we prepare for the Feast of the Resurrection it seems appropriate for us to re-examine it, now.

The impression of the body displayed on the shroud shows far more vividly than our imaginations can devise, what our Lord suffered for us. It is not a pretty sight. More than 100 lash marks cover the chest', back and legs. The scalp is lacerated and bruises are to be seen on the face as well as the body. The impression made by the wooden beam can still be seen across the shoulders. The bloody imprints of the spikes appear on the wrists and feet. The mark of the lance is on the chest and we can see clearly the remains of the true Man.

The expression on the face tells us something else. It is the countenance of peace and serenity which opposes the agony of the body and reveals for us the true God.

There are things about the Holy Shroud of Turin which modern science cannot understand and perhaps never will comprehend. This should not be of concern to Christians for we know how the man in the Shroud came to look as he does, and for whom. We should also be truly thankful to our Father in heaven for this gift of the image of His Son at the Resurrection and for all generations to come.

*Brother James, BSG.*

*ALLELUIA, CHRIST IS RISEN!  
HE IS RISEN, INDEED, ALLELUIA!*

THE SUPERIOR'S SANCTUM

HE IS RISEN! THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED!

What glorious words. They signify the fulfillment of the Ministry of Jesus Christ.

Throughout his itinerant travel and in the experiences he had while here; Jesus spoke of this day that was to come to show to all of that generation and the future, that God had sent him to bring the message of salvation to the world.

The agonies of Jesus in the trial and the Crucifixion were not the only ones that he suffered. Peter was incensed that he planned to go through with what was to come and argued with him. Telling Peter to be calm, he admonished him not to try and prevent his suffering for it had to be done. His closest friends denied him and would not stay awake for even an hour when he needed them.

The utter human meanness of the Sanhedrin in requesting that his cross be placed in the midst of the malefactors was designed to further humiliate him. The Christ knew what they intended but he gave that disdain no room in his heart or his mind. Tried by a man who did not want to try him yet had not the fortitude to set aside his conviction, Jesus still did not deign to excoriate Pontius Pilate.

The malefactors who were at his sides were not merely thieves, they were revolutionaries who may well have murdered to achieve their ends. One teased and twitted him about his Sonship. The other felt that, "Truly this is the Son of God." To him, he gave the promise of Paradise and to his contemporary he gave that which he could from the cross, he prayed for him.

The jeering crowd at the foot of the cross made a circus of the event of his final hours. Devout Jews, they considered themselves, yet they could not recognize his recitation of part of the twenty-second Psalm. They thought he was calling for Elias. Soldiers, who had little more to do than to be sure that those who were crucified had died, bid for his garments. His thirst was quenched by the bitter wine of the poor from a sponge on a stick. All of these things were more than an ordinary human could have withstood.

His burial and entombment were accomplished in a borrowed crypt and the Sanhedrin had it sealed to prevent the removal of his body. How futile, for God had sent his angel to release his Son. Unflinching, the Christ bore every pang without a murmur.

Then came that glorious event for all who were there and for us who have followed them THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. As we go about our Celebrations on Easter Day, 1978, let us, for Christ, joyously sing that Resurrection to the world.

May the joys of Easter fill your hearts with the Love of God through his Son Jesus Christ.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Brother Richard, BSG Superior.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT, our Patron, was celebrated on March 12, in all of the Churches served by the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory. He was one of four of the Fathers of the Church who bore the title, "THE GREAT." Gregory sent the first 40 Misisonaries to England and brought Christianity to the British Isles. One English writer has called him the true Father of Church Music and Liturgy.

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### NEW YORK

In February, Brother Richard, our Superior, accompanied by Brothers Leslie, Roger, James and Novice Brother David, attended the dedication of the Absalom Jones Priory of the Order of the Holy Cross, in New York City. After the Mass celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Harold Wright, all moved to the Undercroft of the Church of the Crucifixion for a reception. It was a time for meeting with old friends and with Religious of several Orders, who attended.

Several of the Brothers made a visit to the Visitation Convent at Riverdale, New York. Brother Leslie, accompanied on the organ by Brother Richard, sang some seasonal music for the Sisters who were assembled in the Chapel. On their return from the Convent, they were stopped by a woman who was being followed by a strange man. They drove her to her home and she explained that she felt in good hands when she saw the Habits of the Brothers. There was a mutual good feeling generated by their fortune in being where they were needed.

### MASSACHUSETTS

Brother Michael continues in his ministry to the nursing homes and in his assistance to Canon Middleton." He is planning to be "at home" in White Plains for the Palm Sunday week-end.

### OHIO

Brother Wilyam continues to work with the Sisters of the Transfiguration at Glendale as well as working with the youth of the area. He also assists at the Church of St- Simon-of Cyrene.

### CANDIDATE ACCEPTED

Brother Christian Williams, recently of the Third Order of the Society of Saint Paul, has been accepted to enter the Postulancy of the Brotherhood. All of the. Brothers welcome this newly accepted Postulant and pray that his life with the Gregorians will be perfect in the sight of God.

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### THE GREGORIAN BOOK OF MEMORY

The recently established, Gregorian Book of Memory, is a memorial to loved ones who have entered the life eternal. This fitting memorial to the Glory of God and on behalf of family and friends assures the Intercessions for a loved one. If you have a relative or friend you would like to have memorialized, please send your request to Brother Richard.

THOUGHTS ON THE DAY OF RESURRECTION OF THE VICAR OF ST. SWITHUN'S, SURREY.

'The Day of Resurrection, earth tell it out abroad.'

As I look out into the Churchyard, I see the happy crowd of early worshippers who have come to the Festival Celebration of the great Resurrection Eucharist, and my heart is filled with joy. New hats and highly polished boots on youngsters show the effects of the over-seeing eyes of parents. All are prepared for this remembrance of that great day in Christendom.

Then I think back to that glorious day, The Day of Resurrection. There was no crowd; almost no happiness; there was but fear and sorrow at loss. The Master was gone and a stranger sat there illuminated by a great light that surrounded him He told those who came that if they sought the Master that they would not find him. Where had he gone? Who rolled away the stone? Had the governor not sealed it against them? What should they do with the spices that they had brought to preserve him?

All of those questions surely must have run through the minds of the faithful who had come to pay homage to the Lord. Strangely, it was the women who were most prominent in that entourage--as small as it was. The magnitude of that Resurrection escaped them upon first looking into the tomb.

Now, as I prepare to Celebrate the Glorious Resurrection Feast, I think of how many have come to benefit from that earlier day. Saved by the sacrifice of the only one who "could unlock the gates of heaven and let us in." For as in Adam, all died, even so in Christ all are able to be alive. Risen from the dead. Something for scholars to ponder until the end of time. The Son of God risen from the dead. The final gesture of proof to those who were with him on earth. Yet there was a doubter, Thomas, who like us, did not fully comprehend that day. It was almost as though the authenticity of the Resurrection was being denied.

As we follow the Prayer of Consecration, we hear our Lord say, "do this in remembrance of me." And on this day we can with great joy, "do this;" recall the day when first it was said, "He is not here, he has risen from the dead,"

*O God, who hast given thine only Son to be born of a Virgin, who in his lifetime taught us much; who suffered the ignominious trial and cruel crucifixion; let us joyfully remember that day of thy Son's glorious Resurrection Grant, we beseech thee, that on each of our minds will ever be impressed that the sacrifice was Jo& each of us, individually. We ask this in the name of him who died and toze again to bring us salvation, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

H-A-P-P-Y E-A-S-T-E-R-T-I-D-E T-O A-L-L.

*THE VICAR. St. Swithun's, Surrey.*

GOD so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jesus Christ is Risen, today -- ALLELUIA!

*Richard, Leslie, Wilyam, Michael, James, Roger, David, Christian, & John.*

The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory.





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April 1978 Vol 2. No. 4

THE THOUGHTS ON THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW OF THE VICAR OF SAINT SWITHUN'S, SURREY.

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

In this summation of the Decalogue, Jesus used but fifty-three words to tell us the great meaning of the ten commandments given to Moses by God. The first and great commandment is the summary of the first three commandments in the Mosaic Law.

If we will but love God with heart, soul and mind, we will acknowledge that He is the Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them. We will not attempt to make an image of God nor will we adopt any other God to replace Him. If we love Him as we say, we will never use His name in vain.

We should remember that Jesus was a devout Jew who would have used the Hebrew translation of their call to prayer each time he was part of a service in the synagogue. He would have repeated the words, "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one." As it is written in the Gospel, he used these words when he first summarized the law.

In the old hymn, "Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult" we sing the words, "from each idol that would keep us" and in them the second Law of the Decalogue is placed before us as it was given to Moses. NO, idols! If we love God with heart, soul and mind, we could not take on anything to replace Him nor could we fall and worship an effigy as did those who fell before the golden calf.

The last part of the great commandment seems to be the one with which most of we moderns have grave difficulties. So often one hears the Lord our God's name being taken in vain. It thus becomes a curse rather than an honor. Who are we to call on God to damn something? If we use an expression without thought some may feel that it is part of the patois of a people but the use of such a phrase places one in dire straits.

In the Second commandment in Jesus' summary we have embodied the last seven of the commandments of the Decalogue. It should be quite obvious that any act that is not in conformity with these seven Laws is an offense against one's neighbours.

Love God and love your neighbour. This doctrine was lived by Jesus during his earthly ministry. He called on all of his followers so to live. We, who are his present day followers, are also called on by Jesus to live by this doctrine. If we believe that Jesus is the Christ, how can we disobey the Summary of the Law as he has given it to us?

O Lord, I pray that thou wilt give; my heart and mind and soul,  
The opportunity to love thee as should be my goal.  
I pray, that for my neighbour, I will observe thy Laws,  
And live my whole life as I should, bereft of human flaws.

May God have mercy upon you and write these Laws in your hearts.

"This is my body which is given for you; take and eat this in remembrance of me."

"This is my blood which is shed for you; drink this in remembrance of me."

LET US REMEMBER THE LORD IN THE FREQUENT PARTICIPATION IN THE EUCHARISTIC FEAST.

AMEN.

## NEWS NOTES

### BROTHER RICHARD SPEAKS

In a recent lecture, Brother Richard explained our Constitution and Rule as well as our method of working in the vineyard of the Lord. As he stated to the group, he hopes that others will learn of us through their efforts and that they will elect to support our activities through their contributions,

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### NOVITIATE RAPIDLY COMING TO CONCLUSION

Novice Brother David Joseph will soon complete his term as a Novice and reach the ultimate goal of our Postulants and Novices when he will make his vows of Profession. We ask that all who read this will pray for him.

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### WHEN YOU GET NEW VESTMENTS

When new vestments for Clergy or Altar are presented to your Church, do not just discard the old. Please send them to Brother John, BSG and we will see that they are placed service. Thank you.

000

PASS IT ON Please pass on this copy of THE SERVANT to a Parishioner or friend.

THE SERVANT

THE BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT GREGORY

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

82 Prospect

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. 10606

BROTHER RICHARD T. BIERNACKI

SUPERIOR

THE RIGHT REVEREND PAUL MOORE, JR.

VISITOR

SOLI DEO GLORIA

EDITORIAL OFFICE

BROTHER JOHN' E. NIDECKER,

642 CROCUS DRIVE,

ROCKVILLE, MD. 20850

May 1978

Vol. 2 No. 5

"Your life unfolds in a continuous succession of experiences and expectations. No two days are the same. No year leaves you unaltered."

This quotation is from the book, "Rule for a New Brother" which has been compiled by the Blessed Sacrament Fathers in Holland. We are fortunate in having it in our library.

There are so many "catch phrases" that have come into our modern lexicon, viz: "Today is the first day in the rest of your life", "Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that you and I together cannot handle." They say essentially the same thing, that we are dependent on a succession of days, yesterday---today---tomorrow.

Obviously, the most important is--TODAY. Yesterday cannot be altered since its expectations have been fulfilled and its experiences are now history. What of tomorrow, can we forecast fully what will occur? Only God has that knowledge. This same forecast for today is in the hands of God and we must live in full trust that he will do what is best for us. In the plan made for us, we will experience change, many new experiences and in some cases, there will be trial and in others joy. We must face these new and different experiences with an open mind for the changes and chances of this life are what make of each of us "new creations." True Christians find no problem with accepting these things which God ordains for us in our daily lives.

As we reflect on the scene of Ascension, we learn that the man Jesus was to go to his Father and that Jesus the Son of man--no longer to be physically present with us--would be with us henceforth and forevermore. That he would be with God, "to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory." If then, we seek that place which he has prepared for us, we must accept the ever changing and ever new experiences here on the earth so that we may attain the unchanging serenity of a heavenly home.

Br. Richard, BSG. Superior.

#### MONASTIC MEANDERINGS

On Sunday, May 7, 1978, Brother John was the preacher at the Eucharist at Saint Paul's Church in Lynnfield, Massachusetts. Later that day he assisted in the Institution of The Rev. Robin G. E. Murray as the Rector of the Parish. Bishop Coburn, Diocesan of Massachusetts, Officiated and Bishop Burgreen, Bishop to the Armed Forces was the preacher. In addition to his service as Subdeacon at the Festival Eucharist for the Feast of Pentecost, he also held a service for the residents of the Collingswood Nursing Home on May 14. Brother John will also assist at the Eucharists at Saint Stephen's Church in Whitehall, Pennsylvania, on June 4, 1978. The day is one of celebration for The Rev. Fred W. Trumbore on the Fiftieth Anniversary of his Ordination as a Deacon. Fr. Trumbore and Brother John worked together for a long time at Saint Clement's Church in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Brother Leslie Victor Morgan celebrated his sixth year of Profession on May 12, 1978.

THEY LISTEN BUT DO NOT HEAR! THEY READ BUT DO NOT UNDERSTAND!

A young man who was raising funds for charity, stood outside the charming edifice that is Saint Bartholomew's Church at Fiftieth Street and Park Avenue in New York. He had costumed himself in -the clothing of a mendicant of the Near East and held a begging bowl in his hand. In wailing tones, he cried out, "Send an Arab child to High School in Tel Aviv." This was during the time when tempers were flaring in the nation of Israel.

In thirty minutes, he had gathered in that bowl, almost thirty dollars. The money was gleaned from passers-by. No one remarked on his words, they just reached into a pocket and produced some coins to give to him. Perhaps this may be considered to be using a subterfuge to obtain money but it proved that, without doubt, people listen but do not hear. The money was turned over to a charity and he felt that he was justified in conducting his experiment as well as providing for the cause.

This man was so intrigued with his previous try, he decided to conduct another experiment to determine the reading and understanding levels of the general public. He made a sign which read, "Fight Pediculosis" and placed it in front of himself. He held out a slotted container to anyone who passed by so that they might give of their change. They did, in an ever flowing amount and in a short while the can was full. This time the subterfuge was that people donated their money for the purpose of fighting lousiness. None of them knew that they were fighting lice they just gave their money. The money again was of benefit to a charity and the man felt that he was successful in proving that, "THEY LISTEN BUT DO NOT HEAR! and THEY READ BUT DO NOT UNDERSTAND!"

Our reason for reporting these facts to you is that we hope that you will listen and hear as well as read and understand our appeal for your used vestments and your contributions to this cause. You may have closets or drawers filled with several sets of each color of Mass Vestments yet only one set can be used at one Mass. If we could but get the older sets, we could provide them for Churches or Chapels where they are needed. Perhaps you feel that you cannot dispose of old vestments since they have been given as memorials. Those for whose memory they were created can be memorialized in another Church, and will be used to embellish services rendered to our God. At the same time you may wish to send a small contribution which will be used to clean, repair and ship the vestments. Just think, your old but serviceable vestiture may be used in a Church in our nation or in some remote Parish in another part of the world.

If you feel inclined to help, please send your contributions of either vestments or money to:

Brother John, BSG.  
642 Crocus Drive  
Rockville, MD 20850

He will see that the distribution is made and that your Parish or individual contributors are given credit for this kindness.

Please: LISTEN AND HEAR!

READ AND UNDERSTAND!

.....

**A sad Saint is a sorry Saint---Rejoice in the Lord all ye lands.**

THE SERVANT

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EDITORIAL OFFICE

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June 1978 Vol. 2 No. 6



## THE SUPERIOR'S SANCTUM

For those of us who pray daily--and many times a day--the power of prayer is very real. For those who do not pray daily, it is difficult to understand that power. Yet, when anyone performs his daily tasks efficiently, that may actually be a prayer of thanks to God for the ability to do so. Prayer takes many forms and need not be a long paragraph but just the utterance of one word. The Holy Ejaculations, which have fallen into disuse, were designed as small prayers. We may hear an older person who is surprised, say, "Jesus, Mary and Joseph." When we do, the words seem irrelevant to the event and yet those four words represent a thanksgiving.

In the book, "Rule for a New Brother" we read:

"But even if you receive no sign, no word from Him, you still recognize Him. His very absence is full of the mystery of His greatness."

We cannot pray and expect immediate answers to those -prayers and often find opposing pressures. When they come, it indicates that more prayer is needed. For those who work in the world, getting away to a place of quiet is difficult and prayer is let go because of the lack of a private place to pray. In order to pray effectively, we do not need a special place nor liturgical appointments. If none of us knew the meaning of Calvary, would we choose such a place as our prayer corner?

A musician acquaintance of mine told me that she constantly prays for a perfect performance and that God never seems to answer her intention. Others have told me the same thing and offer that as an excuse for not saying their prayers. They are, in effect, saying that God does not answer their prayers as they would like him to answer them. Just as when we were children and our parents would not grant our every wish, so God does not grant every prayer we make as a petition to Him. He grants those things that are best for us.

The acceptance of God's will is an act of religion performed to meet our obligation to Him. It is through the will of God that we have air to breathe, food to eat, and the ability to perform our daily tasks. We accept those things so readily, why not His will in the answer to our prayers?

Jesus said, "Whatever you ask in my Name, He will give it to you." In this saying, Jesus did not give us carte blanche to ask things in His Name without the consideration that some things for which we ask may not be to our best ends. If we pray to have the world admire us, we ask merely to have satisfaction to an ego. That is neither edifying to us nor does a prayer of that kind bespeak any glory to God.

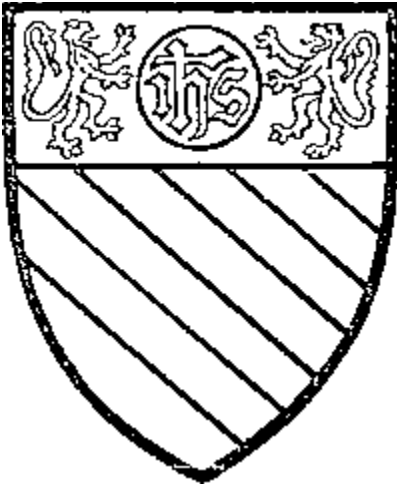
Prayer feeds the soul and we owe it to ourselves to keep that kind of nourishment in good supply. Several years ago, I saw a large poster advertisement for a bakery. On it was depicted a large loaf of bread broken in the middle. The legend under it was a single word  
"HEAVENLY"

I think of prayer as the bread of heaven as in the Welsh Hymn named Cum Rhonda. "Bread of heaven - feed me till I want no more."

The baker's bread may satisfy an immediate hunger but the fullness does not last. It may be very tasty and lack nourishment.' Why not get all of the benefits of the heavenly bread which satisfies today--tomorrow-and always.PRAY.

Brother Richard T. Biernacki, BSG Superior.

DAVID JOSEPH PELLETIER, BSG



The Brothers of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory pray in thanksgiving for the Profession of our Brother David Joseph Pelletier. We ask your prayers that his life in this Order may be to the glory of God. Our Visitor, The Right Reverend Paul Moore, Jr., has asked us to make you aware of his invitation to the ceremony of Profession.

Thank Christ, Jesus our Lord who has given me the strength and who has judged me faithful enough to call me into his service.

S. GREGORY, BISHOP OF ROME

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has made of all men brothers, that they should dwell together in unity and peace. In a further and special way, He calls men to an intense kind of Brotherhood, not to take them out of the world, but to keep them from evil, that in all things they may witness to the mystery of Love.

On Monday, June 19, 1978, at five *O'clock* in the afternoon, Christ Jesus will receive the Profession of Faith and Obedience of Novice Brother David Joseph Pelletier, by the providence of Saint Gregory the Great, Patron of the Brotherhood, and at the hands of the Visitor, The Right Reverend Paul Moore' Jr., Bishop of New York.

In the spirit of Christian joy, the Bishop invites you to attend the Solemn Mass of Profession at the High Altar of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, Amsterdam Avenue at 112th *Street*, New York City.

Please pray for us.

THOUGHTS OF THE VICAR OF SAINT SWITHUN'S, SURREY, ON A RECENT SUNDAY

Like dear, old Samuel Pepys, I am up betimes and wondering why I am. It must have been the dream which awakened me. Priests very infrequently dream of Acolytes but last night I went through a horrible circus on account of the young boys and grown men who serve this Parish in that marvelous office of Acolyte.

Dear God, please bless all those who in this transitory life have accepted the duty of serving at the Altar. They are true servants of thine and I ask that thou wilt endow them with special grace as they enter the Chancels in the world to do the bidding of their office and to serve the Priests who Celebrate the Eucharists. Lend them thy help to rise early and to serve without equivocation. This, I ask in the name of him who died that we might have eternal life; our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN

Oh, how violent were my thoughts as I dreamt of our boys last night. Jamie has sewn the top of my cassock so that I could not put it on. Roland stood grinning as he watched young Horace try to extricate himself from tied shoe latches. Alfred had emptied the cruets so that they were bare of their precious store of wine and water. To top it all off, Harry had removed his trousers before donning his cassock which had no buttons on it from mid-waist to the floor. All of these things occurred on a Sunday when we were to have a special Celebration of the Eucharist in thanksgiving for the most successful of operations performed on Mrs. Terwilliger. What a nightmare that was for this poor servant of God's who was trying his uttermost to do all of the right things that day.

Thanks be to God that I was wakened by my old dog who panted with great vigour as he scratched to get outside.

Now as I reflect on that dream, I am mightily thankful that none such as those incidents would ever have occurred. Our boys are the most devoted of youngsters and I am grateful that they have been chosen to serve here. It is my thought that I will one day be graced with the invitation to an Ordination in which Jamie will receive the Laying on of Hands to the Priesthood. Harry will obviously go into Her Majesty's Service while Roland and Alfred will enter the business community.

All of this is a reminder to me that I must soon present the awards Crosses for service to these good lads. Jamie has now achieved nine years and the others are all veterans of eight good years of service as Acolytes. We must make those awards before the Summer is upon us full force. This will provide our people with the realisation that our boys are proudly wearing the emblems of their service on each Sunday in the season.

May God bless all Acolytes, everywhere.

The Vicar.

HONOR YOUR ACOLYTES BY THANKING THEM FOR THE WORK THAT THEY DO TO MAKE THE SERVICES MORE MEANINGFUL AND BEAUTIFUL.

JUNE INTERCESSIONS

THE ILL Paul Woodfill, Charlotte Diamond, Joseph Leto, Karen Stevenson, Fannie SanFilippo

THE DEPARTED Cecilia Trenka, Clinton Wheeler

RELIGIOUS ORDERS

All who serve in the various Communities in Catholic Christendom that they may serve the Lord fervently, obediently and religiously.

Our special prayers are for:

Rev. Mother Virginia of All Saints Sisters of the Poor.

Sr. Mary Leonard Whipple of the Visitation of Holy Mary

Fr. Martin Davidson of the Oratory of the Good-Shepherd

Fr. Benjamin Priest of the Oratory of the Little Way.

THE CLERGY

All Bishops, Priests and Deacons of the Church with special prayers for:

MOST REV. JOHN M. ALLIN

RT. REV. PAUL MOORE, JR.

RT. REV. JOHN T. WALKER

RT. REV. HORACE W. B. DONEGAN

RT. REV. JOHN M. KRUMM

RT. REV. JOHN D. COBURN

RT. REV. PHILIP A. SMITH

RT. REV. WILLIAM CHOI

Rev. Elwyn D. Brown

Rev. Robert J. Vanderau, Jr.

Rev. J. Norman Hall

Rev. George L. Werner.

Rev. Frank L. Knight

Rev. Canon Edward D. West

Rev. Raleigh D. Hairston

Rev. Canon A. Pierce Middleton

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

For Saint Francis Boys' Homes, Frances Robinson, - Mary Williams, Terrence Smith, William Allen, Marge Cromwell, Br. Stanley, OSB, Mother Louise CT, Sr. Mary Luke CT, Fr. Fred W. Trumbore, Paul, The Rev. Barbara Schlachter

THANKSGIVINGS

For the Profession of Br. David Joseph, BSG.

For the gift of Choir Robes from Fr. McNutt, Rector of Trinity Church, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

For the gift of vestments from the Worker Sisters of the Holy Spirit.

To our God for the life in this Brotherhood which all of we Brothers share to His glory.

THE SERVANT

BE BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT GREGORY

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

82 Prospect

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. 10606

BROTHERT. BIERNACKI

SUPERIOR

THE RIGHT-REVEREND PAUL MOORE,

JR.

VISITOR

SOLI DEO GLORIA

July 1978 Vol. 2 No. 7

When reflecting on the growth of the Brotherhood and thinking back to 1969 when we founded this Religious Community and then looking at the status of it today, one recalls the words of Shakespeare as he called the works of God, "wondrous strange."

Founder conjures up the words founding and foundation as they apply to the beginning of an organization, or in our case, a Community. The word foundation appears in so many places. In music for the organ when the composer calls for "foundation stops"; the underpinning primary sounds are used to make the other voices of the instrument speak clearly. The hymnologist writes, "How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord." The Psalmist writes, "Thou didst fix the earth on its foundation so that it can never be shaken." The foundation which is laid before a building can be erected must be firm enough to withstand great weight.

So it is with whatever we do for God's glory. It must be well planned and be firm and strong. It must be able to bear the stress and weight of whatever is placed on it in the future. We have always prayed that the foundation of this Brotherhood would bear the stress and weight of the future and we thank God that it has borne up under the testing of growth. One of the most important issues before Religious Communities in this age is growth--not merely in numbers--but growth of spirit in the Holy Spirit. Some Communities are locked in to a particular apostolate and others grow in life within the world surrounding them.

As our Visitor said in his Sermon at the Profession Service on June 19, "The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory has been experimenting with living the religious life in the world." To experiment one must have firm foundations and must be able to measure the value of strengths and weaknesses as well as failures and successes. It is that firm foundation that permits us to experiment.

In a conversation with the newly Professed Brother, we were told how he felt changed but--that the foundation gained in his Novitiate would be of invaluable help to him in his Profession. We, all of us, are grateful for that kind of experience which provides us with the firm foundation required in Profession. As we welcome this new adult in our family, we have the concern that is attendant to greater numbers. Without the proper foundation--without Christ as the keystone--our vaultings would tumble around us.

As we looked out across the Great Choir at the Profession Service we were struck with the awesome responsibility we assumed on September 14, 1969 in the Chapel of the Monastery of the Visitation and betook the Vows that have bound us to a life of service to God. In thankfulness we prayed for the foundations that were firm in making us "servants of the servants of God."

In the little book, "The Rule for a New Brother", we read that we are an intense kind of brotherhood, a people whose King is the Lord, whose task is to serve and upbuild one another as members of one body." We also read that, "there are years of strength and years of weakness, years of certainty and years of doubt. It is all part of life, and it is worth the effort to live to the end and not give up before it is accomplished." Pray for us. Pray, also, that we will never be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified and to manfully fight under his banner. We shall always pray that we will be foundations of faith on which those we serve and those to whom we minister can depend.

Thomas Merton wrote, "Make ready for the Christ, whose smile like lightning sets free the song of everlasting glory, that now sleeps in your flesh like dynamite!" My Brothers, I

pray that you will "make ready for the Christ" that when he smiles on you the explosion of the dynamite of everlasting glory will grant you the hearing of that song.

Brother Richard, BSG Superior.

## MONASTIC MEANDERINGS

### DAVID'S DAY

The sun shone brightly as the morning skies awakened the world on June 19. Some may have called it a good omen but we Brothers all felt that God had granted His blessing on David's last day as a Novice. As the day moved forward, the warmth of the sun cheered all who were involved.

The anxiety of the Brothers was evident as we gathered in the Cathedral Close and wended our way to the Sacristy of the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York. Some new Habits appeared as we prepared for the Procession and it was then that we feasted our eyes on Brother Richard's Cope newly caparisoned with the shield of Saint Gregory. We prayed in thanksgiving for the dedication and artistry of Cecil Berges who created the shield for Brother Richard.

After Canon Edward N. West explained the formulary he had written for the Service of Profession, Bishop Paul Moore, Jr., our Visitor, joined us for the assembly of the Procession. It was noticed that Brother David was fully taken with the event and his shaking hands revealed the inner feeling he was experiencing,- on this great day of his Profession.

The Mass was truly ecumenical in context and tone. Rabbi Cole read the Old Testament Lesson in both Hebrew and English. Mrs. Patricia Marie Spille read the Epistle and the Rev. Paul Petroski, representing our Roman brethren, read the Gospel. The Homily of our Visitor was of special significance to the Brothers and our guests. His explanation of the Vows and their importance in the lives of Nuns and Brothers was very moving. The beauty of the music of the Mass was enhanced by the soli of Mark Jacoby and the voices of the Congregation which included Sisters from the Community of the Holy Spirit and the Order of Saint Helena and Brothers from the Society of Saint Francis. Brother David's mother and father and other relatives were present to hear David's Vows before the Bishop.

From the reading of the Litany, led by Brother Leslie, through the Vows and commitment of Brother David and the vesting of the newly Professed, the solemnity of the occasion was most impressive.

A reception followed the service and many friends of Brother David came to greet him there. We all ask God to bless our Brother in his work in the Church.

THOUGHTS ON PERSONAL PRAYER OF THE VICAR OF SAINT SWITHUN'S, SURREY.

Here in the privacy of my study, I think of the prayers I say each day and ask that God hear them and grant me His grace. Sometimes, I feel that they are best kept silent and others I feel that they must be said aloud. First I must ask God to forgive me any pride in these prayers for they are appeals from the heart of one who would serve him in a relentless way.

O God, I ask that thou wilt grant me a heart that is the fertile soil on which thy Word will fall; that it be the good ground on which the seed will take root and become the live plant of good and be fruitful. Let it not be that which is the hard path so that the birds of the air do not devour it and thus have me lose thy Word because of hardness of heart. Let it not be the rocky ground in which thy word cannot take root and from which I may have a failure to understand. Let it not be the thorny place where the thorns will rise up and choke off my hearing and doing the Word that thou hast given me. These things I ask in the Name of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN.

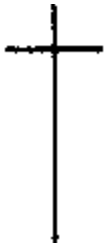
O Saviour, grant me the love divine all loves excelling that I may love all of my fellowmen with the kindness and joy that comes from such love. Grant that what I may do will not offend others as I try to have them understand that I merely try to help. Grant, Lord, that I may serve thee through that love and through the understanding that I would have of others. Make me an instrument of thy peace and love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Lord, help me as I try to help others to do thy will. Grant me the method of guidance in my pastoral calls that will bring thy truth to those whom I serve in this place. Grant that whatever service I render unto thee will have thy blessing and achieve that which thou wouldst have done for thy people. Let me ever enter the sanctuary in holiness and with pure intent. Let me not have vain evil and wandering thoughts but let me rest in purity of purpose as I offer the great Eucharist in thanksgiving. These things I ask in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. AMEN.

Lord make me humble in heart and mind, yet strong in purpose that thy designs for those with whom I come in contact will suffer no interruption. Grant that they may understand that what I do is with the prayers of one trying to achieve that purpose to which thou hast set me. This I ask in Jesus Name. AMEN

O Master, let me walk with thee that **thy will may be done** by me, this day. AMEN.





THE  
SERVANTS  
OF  
THE  
SERVANTS  
OF  
GOD

THE SERVANT

THE BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT GREGORY

St. Bartholomew's Church  
82 Prospect  
White Plains, N.Y. 10606

BROTHER RICHARD T. BIERNACKI, BSG.  
SUPERIOR

THE RIGHT REVEREND PAUL MOORE, JR.  
VISITOR

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Vol. 2 No. 8 August 1978

## THE SUPERIOR'S SANCTUM

### YOU CAN WORSHIP GOD.

You can worship God in the woods, but you don't. You can worship God in your camper, but you don't. You can worship God, in your boat, on the lake, but you don't.

Hebrews 10:25 calls out to us not to neglect our church services, as some people are prone to do, but to encourage and warn one another that the time of Christ's coming is drawing near. There are so many excuses made, by those who stay away from the church in the summer season. They range from, "I am on vacation," to "I spend so much time in church all year, that I just have to get away from it for a little while." God never takes a vacation nor does He try to get away. As Jesus said, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the earth."

In the summer, the prayer of Saint Chrysostom comes into sharp focus for there are only two or three gathered for Christ to come into the midst of them. Some churches consider the possibility of closing for a month and that surely must sadden our Savior. Fortunately, our churches have not adopted this unfortunate policy and they are open for those who desire to fulfill their obligations to God by coming to the Eucharist or to Morning Prayer. It is obvious to them and should be to us that the best time and place for us to worship God is on Sunday and in the church. For it is there that he has promised to be with us to hear our petitions and our praise. It is where we can obey his commandment to his people to be together. If we hear the voice of Christ as we should and if we contemplate on the share of our burdens we will find that our burden is light and his is the heavy end.

There were many times when our Lord was left alone. Even Simon Peter, at the time of trial, wandered away. When we churchmen do likewise, we fail our responsibility to the Holy One who never deserts us. As the Gospel Hymn proclaims, "He is only a prayer away." A person can go to heaven without learning, fame or wealth, without a great name, without friends, or without ten thousand other things--BUT--he can never go to heaven without Christ. Therefore., we should fulfill the small duty we have to our Lord by visiting his house once in each week.

As I pray that my worship may be acceptable to God, I say:

Almighty Father, let us pray in thanksgiving for the kingdom of heaven; let us worship with reverence and awe and pray for others in brotherly love. Grant that we may remember to welcome the stranger within our gates, that we may not turn away an angel who has come from thee. May we be 'Mindful of the prisoner, the widows and fatherless for they too are within the body of the kingdom. And may our footsteps be directed to the church wherein we may find the freedom that comes from thee as we hear thee once more say, "I will never forsake you." AMEN.

Brother Richard, Superior.

MAY THE SOUL OF PAUL, THE SERVANT OF GOD, REST IN PEACE IN HEAVEN. AMEN

## MONASTIC MEANDERINGS

### NEW APPOINTMENTS

Happiness reigns throughout the Brotherhood for the appointments made by our Brother-Superior. Brother Roger Hayes, BSG, is our new Assistant Superior and Brother Leslie Morgan, BSG, our new Administrative Assistant  
CONGRATULATIONS!

Our CHAPTER, on August 18 - 20, takes precedence over every other activity of an outside nature and all Brothers are busily engaged in preparation for the event.

Brother Christian enters the Novitiate at the Mass at Christ Church, Rockville, Maryland on the final day of CHAPTER, Sunday, August 20.

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### THE ASSISTANT SUPERIOR WRITES.

"Henceforth your worship and your service takes place in a Community of Brothers within the body of the Church. Common impulse will stimulate your interior which is so essential to your life as a Christian. From now on you are no longer alone. In all things you must take your Brothers into account."

These few sentences from the Rule of Taize' are very inspiring. This is especially true with the Brotherhood of Saint-Gregory. We Brothers do not live together and, in fact, some' of us are several hundred miles apart. Thus, we must work harder to make these thoughts more evident in our lives.

As we face the secular world in all of its many facets each day, we are constantly reminded that the world in which we live is not the ideal of Christianity. We pray for God's help in our struggle to resist temptation to sin and evil'. - It is with the realization that our Brothers are praying for us and that we are not alone that we obtain the courage to remain free from these pitfalls. In such unity of purpose we continue to follow the path of Jesus.

Brother Roger, BSG.

O God, who hast taken to thyself the Blessed' Virgin Mary, mother of thy incarnate Son: Grant that we, who have been redeemed by his blood, may share with her the glory of thine eternal kingdom; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

THOUGHTS OF THE VICAR OF SAINT SWITHUN'S, SURREY, ON THE SIN OF PRIDE.

Lord, make me humble, this I pray,  
As I go about my work today.  
Please make me realise my lot,  
Be satisfied with what I've got.  
Let me not think that what I've done,  
Is mine; but rather from God's Son.  
Let me not brag or boast or preen,  
Or think how great that I have been.  
Prevent me from the sin of pride,  
Of walking with a boastful stride.  
Grant that as I look up to the sky,  
I'll understand how small is "I".

As I read this little poem, I prayed for a very dear friend of mine who is so wrapped up in himself that he cannot see the evidence of God in his surroundings. His sin of pride is such that he feels that he is totally responsible for everything that he does. When he writes something or says something, he feels that it is so important that he must boast about it. It is so unfortunate that he is blind to what others are doing, since their efforts are secondary to his own.

Recently, he was accorded the honorary title of Assistant Hostler for the Surrey Horse Show and one would think that the whole Empire rested on the shoulders of that august nomenclature. The work that was entailed in the operation of the office was lost on him but the title was flaunted about with great announcement and assumption of dignity. What a pity, that floss and puff assume such importance at the granting of a title.

Woe betide those who might attempt to show him the light of his problem for they will be rewarded with his anger and disdain. For that reason, I call on God to teach him to be humble for we earthly beings cannot achieve the seeming impossible-task of making an impression on him.

What is an even more greivous situation is that this first of the seven deadly sins has led him into the destroying path of the other six. Pride has made him covetous, envious, angry and slothful. He also lusts for power and is gluttonous when it is given to him. One can imagine his prayers being filled with words such as, "look what I have done this day, Lord." How terribly tragic is that kind of prayer. The few but mighty words of Jesus as he summarized the law, are lost on him. The few but mighty words of that simple prayer taught to the apostles are words he may say but does not understand.

Lord, as I think these things and seek Thy help to right this evil problem; Grant that I will never be so confounded and keep before me the motto of Thy Saint, Gregory, Soli Deo Gloria, // to God alone the Glory.

The Vicar.



THE SERVANT

THE BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT GREGORY

St. Bartholomew's Church  
82 Prospect  
White Plains, N.Y. 10606

BROTHER RICHARD T. BIERNACKI, BSG.  
SUPERIOR

THE RIGHT REVEREND PAUL MOORE, JR.  
VISITOR

SOLI DEO GLORIA

September 1978 Vol. 2 No. 9

SO THAT YOU MAY KNOW .....

RICHARD THOMAS BIERNACKI, BSG, SUPERIOR OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT GREGORY.

Brother Richard was born on December 8, 1942, at Meriden, Connecticut. and early on moved with his family to Elmhurst, Long Island, New York.

He attended schools in Elmhurst through High School and continued his education at The Bernard Baruch School, The City College of New York,' and followed his higher education at Manhattanville College.

After completing his college courses, his love of church music led him to studies at The Pius X School of Liturgical Music at Purchase, New York. This was augmented by study of the Organ under Dr. Gordon Jones and Dr. Marilyn Mason in Master Classes. His conducting studies were under Dr. Peter Wilhously and Dr. Charles Schilling.

His musical studies provided him with background for part of his future life in that field and this led to composition of works to be used with the Payer Book Revisions. His compositions include:

The Jesus Joy Mass, Settings for the Eucharist  
Chants for Morning Prayer (Rite II)  
Motets, Voluntaries on the Hymns

Brother Richard's work in church music opened a new field to him and he has written and directed various musical extravaganza including:

A Twelfth Night Festival. a festival for the Epiphany The Life of Christ and You Are There, a portrayal of events in Christ's life from Annunciation to Pentecost.

In each of these productions, he was writer, director and manager of 'the production company.

Brother Richard has also taught a series on church music at various churches in the Diocese of New York and a seminar entitled, "Music and the New Prayer Book." This seminar traces the musical heritage of the Anglican Communion from Plainsong to the Present.

He has conducted and accompanied major choral works including the Faure Requiem, works of Mozart and Verdi as well as excerpts from the Bach, B-Minor Mass. He was the organist for the daily Eucharists at the General Convention at South Bend, Indiana and organist at the Episcopal Church Center.

His work in the Episcopal Church Center embraced Social Work Grants and assisting Canon Charles M. Guilbert in Prayer Book Revision. His parochial church work has included; Christian Education, Finance and many other duties.

Brother Richard's accomplishments in art and design are of invaluable help to him in his present secular occupation in floral design and arrangement.

*Brother Richard thanks God daily for the many gifts he has received, the greatest of which he counts as the founding of the Brotherhood and his leadership of it for the past ten years.*

LIVING

WITNESSING

WORKING

Where does the religious fit into the worship and liturgy of the church? How should the religious fulfill his or her ministry? The answers to my questions came to me from the book, "Liturgy and Christian Unity" by Romney P. Marshall, OSL, and Michael J. Taylor, SJ, and I would like to share them with you.

"Worship is liturgy and liturgy is worship, and both are bound up in the Christian life." Here is the key- - the Christian life. For the religious the Christian life is measured out in our worship and liturgy.

"Worship includes the routine of daily living, our jobs, our relations with neighbors, fellow workers, and our attitudes toward nations and peoples." Never did I dream that worship included so much. Everything that we do can be an act of worship. If we accept this definition of worship, we must also accept the definition of liturgy as, "the work of the people", or the way that we respond to God.

We Brothers of Saint Gregory call ourselves, "The servants of the Servants of God" and therefore must consider our vocation a response to God's call. If we lose the participation of one Brother, are we not like the body which loses a limb? The unity is broken, and the vital force is impaired. Thus it becomes necessary to keep all Brothers together by our common bond, through vows, prayers, and more importantly, in frequent participation in the Eucharist.

We, like those in the early church, have found that to find meaning in worship, we must put the Eucharistic worship at the center of our lives.

This, I realize is difficult since many churches continue to use Morning Prayer as the principal service on Sundays. Thank God, this is undergoing change. More and more we see the church turning to the past for knowledge. In the ancient church, the people gathered around the supper table, but this was only a prelude to the spiritual communion with Christ in the Eucharist which followed.

We are the church, we who love and serve Christ, must, if we love him, make our objective in worship- not argument, but persuasion; not denunciation, but proclamation of the Gospel of love and mercy.

The religious today, has taken his rightful place alongside the priest as a co-worker in salvation, a minister of the Gospel.

There are three ways in which a religious may fulfill his ministry:

By living in union with Christ, sharing the priestly office in work, suffering and sharing in the Eucharistic sacrifice.

By witnessing to truth, boldly proclaiming the Word of God and preaching to others through our example.

By working for the kingdom of God, paying homage to Christ our king.

By word and action, we take our rightful place and fulfill the words of our Patron, Saint Gregory, "The Servants of the Servants of God."

*Brother Christian, BSG.*

*Lord, let me witness in each day,  
And work in me the will to pray.  
To always of myself to give,  
This way, Lord, is my wont to live.*



ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING AUGUST 18-20, 1978 CHRIST CHURCH ROCKVILLE, MD.

Opening remarks by the Superior



Ft: Brs. Leslie, Richard Thomas, James, Roger, David Joseph. Bk: Michael, Christian, Wilyam David and John.



A moment of relaxation with our Provincial Chaplain, Fr. Vanderau

Following Mass on Sunday



Novice-Brother Christian



Deliberations at the Chapter Meeting



The Brotherhood of St. Gregory, October, 1978  
The Servant VOL.2 NO.10

OCTOBER, 1978.

For many of you, our readers, the names you see listed month by month are not associated with the Brothers, since some have never seen them! We hope that from this page of photographs from our Annual Chapter, you will now be able to match the faces with the names! These pictures show us at various times during the three-day weekend spent in Rockville, Maryland. Our Postulant, Br. Matthew Joseph, is not pictured since he was admitted after this time.

Below are listed the Brothers and their Mission Assignments. If you are in any of these areas and have a few minutes, call the Churches listed and we will be most happy to meet you and spend some time.

As always, we pray for all of you and are anxious to have your suggestions as to how we may be of service to the Church. Please do let us know if we can be of service to you or your Church or Organization. Please pray for us.

Br. Richard Thomas Biernacki, BSG  
Superior  
St. Bartholomew's Church  
82 Prospect Street  
White Plains, N. Y. 10606

Br. Leslie Victor Morgan, BSG  
Administrative Assistant  
St. Bartholomew's Church  
White Plains, N. Y.

Br. John E. Nidecker, BSG  
Christ Church Rockville, Md.

Br. James E. Teets, BSG  
Church of the Mediator Bronx, N. Y.

Br. Christian Williams, BSG  
Grace Church Manchester, N. H.

Br. Roger Hayes, BSG  
Assistant Superior  
Church of the Mediator Bronx, N. Y.

Br. Wilyam David Smith, BSG  
St. Simon of Cyrene  
Lincoln Heights, Ohio

Br. Michael Delimolino, BSG  
St. James Church Great Barrington, Mass.

Br. David Joseph Pelletier, BSG  
Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine New York, N. Y.

Br. Matthew Joseph Belanger, BSG  
Grace Church Manchester, N. H.

## THOUGHTS ON LETTER WRITING OF THE VICAR OF SAINT SWITHUN'S, SURREY.

Many people love to write letters. So many of them, that at times, the Editors of newspapers have a problem with them. Some are good and some bad. Some are nice and others nasty. Some are answered and others not. Some bear questions and some offer varied and sundry kinds of advice. Some of which is appreciated and most of which is not.

There once was a very prolific writer who wrote some long and very poignant letters. He also wrote some short and pithy letters that have been quoted by people for more than a thousand years.

One of them was a love letter. Not the ordinary love letter that might be of the kind that a swain might write to his lady love but a letter so filled with love that we read it today when -two lovers are united in the sight of God in Holy Matrimony,

It was written to a group of people which had formed a church in the city of Corinth. That city was a pesthole of sin and licentiousness and those who gathered there in the Church were being led astray by such living. The writer felt such love for mankind that he was moved to tell them how love was able to conquer all of their faults.

He wrote that despite many attributes one who has not love is nothing. He also illustrated that when we fall 'into the trap of common faults we have no love in us. He who is impatient cannot love. He who is unkind has no love in him. A jealous person does not love but is merely so possessive that love falls away and possession replaces it. A rude person does not love and I am sure that one who is rude breeds a lack of love on the part of the one on whom that rudeness is exercised.

The arrogant person by her very arrogance denies herself the love of others. Her very haughtiness places her in jeopardy with her friends and relatives.

All of us abhor boastfulness, yet we experience it in our lives with other people. When that person boasts of his accomplishments, he continues on that path until his hearers seek ways of avoiding all contact with him.

Recently, I received a letter from a man who is quite troubled and who, unfortunately, does not understand that he is troubled. His conceit is so evident and he cannot understand that his self-pride has blinded him to love. He insists on his own way; feels that his gifts, not God's, allow him to be irritable and resentful. He sees no abilities in others and that he knows all things.

As I read his letter, I could not help but go back and read the letter from that very prolific writer of long ago. How comforting it was to me and how readily came the answer to my letter writer.

My answer was but one sentence, "Please read the thirteenth Chapter of First Corinthians and take it to heart."

My letter, like prophecies, tongues and knowledge will pass away but the message of Saint Paul will endure forever. Even the animals we have for pets understand love to the point where they cleave to us as we go about. What child does not resent haired and cling to love of parent or friend?

If all people could be imbued with the true spirit of love we could have the peace we seek in our relationships with others. We could also have that peace among nations which we crave.

We have seen the love of God in that he gave his own Son to the end that all who believe in him might have everlasting life.

May God grant to each of you his love that you might pass it on to all who are in your life and acquaintance.

The Vicar

Surrey, October 1978.

OCTOBER INTERCESSIONS

FOR THE ILL: John Whitaker Patricia Ann Spille' Shawn Hughs Ida Bisogna  
Lillian Brown John Sappington

FOR THOSE IN NEED: John Timothy David Matthew

THE CLERGY: ALL BISHOPS, PRIESTS & DEACONS with special prayers for:

MOST REV. JOHN M. ALLIN	MOST REV. DONALD COGGIN
RT. REV. JOHN T. WALKER	RT. REV. PAUL MOORE, JR.
RT. REV. JOHN M. KRUMM	RT. REV. HORACE W. B. DONEGAN
RT. REV. PHILIP A. SMITH	RT. REV. JOHN D. COBURN
RT. REV. WILLIAM C. CHOI	
REV. ELWYN D. BROWN	REV. J. NORMAN HALL
REV. ROBERT J. VANDERAU, JR.	REV. GEORGE L. WERNER
REV. FRANK L. KNIGHT	REV. RALEIGH D. HAIRSTON
REV. SAMUEL E. BENSON	REV. CANON A. PIERCE MIDDLETON
REV. WILLIAM J. ACCLES	

RELIGIOUS ORDERS: Pray for all who have committed themselves to the Service to God through the Vows they have taken, especially:

REV. MOTHER VIRGINIA	SR. MARY LEONARD WHIPPLE
REV. MOTHER MARGARET HELENA, CSJB	FR. BENJAMIN R. PRIEST
FR. MARTIN ZABALA	FR. MARTIN P. DAVIDSON
BR. ANDREW RANK, SSP	BR. RICHARD T. BIERNACKI, BSG

SPECIAL INTENTIONS:

For The International Ecumenical Congress of Religious Orders (Male) to be held at Loyola, Spain in August, 1979.

For the Diocese of Busan, Korea and for the funding of the Bishop and the Clergy of the Diocese in their work.

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MONASTIC MEANDERINGS

Brother Christian has gone to Oregon in an act of mercy and will be residing there for the next month or two. He will be on Mission while there and we ask God's blessing on him as he travels and works in Oregon.

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REQUIESCAT IN PACEM: POPE JOHN PAUL I THE APOSTLE OF HUMANKINDNESS.

The Servant VOL. 2 NO. 11 NOVEMBER, 1978  
SO THAT YOU MAY KNOW ABOUT

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF BROTHER JOHN E. NIDECKER, BSG., OGS

Brother John was born in Philadelphia, Pa., on March 30, 1913. He attended the public schools there and studied with LaSalle Extension University. He has pursued a program of continuing education with tutors and in a reading course which he still maintains.

He has had a long career in business which began with a coastwise shipping company and has worked in various positions at Sun Oil Company. He was a manager of a pipeline company and spent the major portion of his life in business with Cities Service Company where he held posts in sales, administration, advertising, education and management. His present secular occupation is Consultant in Washington, DC.

Brother John's interest in politics covered the period from 1956 to 1975, when he retired from his Commission of Special Assistant to the President of the United States. He is well known on Capitol Hill where he numbers many Senators and Congressmen among his friends. While he was with the government, he traveled extensively in Europe and Asia for and with the President.

Brother John has always been active in the Episcopal Church although he came from a family of a Lutheran background. At one time there were seven Lutheran Pastors who were related to him who served in America and Switzerland. He was first Licensed as a Layreader by Bishop Garland of Pennsylvania in 1929, and has continued in that Office ever since. His subsequent Licenses were issued by the Bishops of Bethlehem, Long Island, Newark, New York and Washington. He has been a Companion in the Oratory of the Good Shepherd for several years and was Life-Professed in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory on the Feast of Christ the King in 1976.

On the occasion of his 45th year as a Layreader, he preached a sermon at Christ Church, Rockville, MD, in which he chronicled his life as an Anglican. At that time, he received congratulatory letters from the Presiding Bishop, the present Bishops of the Dioceses in which he served and from the President of the United States. A Member of the 93rd Congress caused the sermon and the letters to be spread in the Congressional Record. Bishop Gressele of Bethlehem, in his letter, noted that Brother John's service had exceeded that of many Priests of the Church.

On Advent Sunday, this year, Brother John will begin his 50th year as a Layreader and thus his Golden Jubilee Year. He is grateful to God for having been able to perform this service and prays that he may continue to do so in his Life-Profession in the Brotherhood. An early recognition of his Jubilee has come from the Diocese of Busan, Korea, when he was made an Honorary Member of that Diocese-by Bishop Choi and the Standing Committee.

Brother John's interest in the written word has served him well in the past and at the present time. He is a former correspondent of the "Leatherneck" the magazine of the U. S. Marines; was Editor of "The Compass" at Saint Bartholomew's Church in New York; was Editor of "The Angelus" the parish publication of Christ Church in Rockville, and he is currently Editor of "The Servant" which he founded two years ago. He writes poetry and is pleased that some of his poems grace the walls of Members of Congress, and are in the memory books of Presidents as well as Bishops, Priests and Deacons.

Brother John is Assistant at Christ Church, Rockville where he teaches, writes, helps with administration, is a Sacristan and assists at the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church. He has been a supply Officiant at the Episcopal Church Home in Washington and he preaches at other Churches on call. Fr. Elwyn D. Brown, Rector, and Fr. Robert J. Vanderau, Jr., at Christ Church have stated, "In our belief, Brother John is truly a 'servant of the servants of God.'" In his spare time? Brother John does gourmet cooking, is a lyricist, works with Cerebral Palsy, M.S., and patriotic organizations from which he has received many citations.



SOME THOUGHTS ON AN ADVENT OF THE VICAR OF SAINT SWITHUN'S, SURREY.

The Season of Advent is described as the penitential period just before Christmas. But to us, as it was to early Christians, it bears with it a joyful anticipation. Early Christians anticipated that the Lord would return, and soon. We anticipate that the Lord will return but do not put a time frame around that coming. We seek the joyful remembrance of the Birth of Christ at this season and prepare ourselves for that event.

The penitential characteristic of Advent should us in our preparations for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. Thus it is that the four Collects of the Season remind us of our needs for penance and provide us with warnings to forsake our sins. We ask God to stir up his power to help us overcome sin, and to help us purify ourselves that we may be sinless as we face the Lord. My prayer is that you will all diligently observe these requests and make them a part *of* your daily lives so that you will be ready to meet Jesus.

The anticipatory characteristic of Advent has us looking forward to the coming event of Christmas. Advent is also the integral part of the word adventure and we surely embark on a great adventure as we relive the Church Year. We adore with Mary and Joseph, we walk with the Christ in his youth and we are with him throughout his ministry. What an adventure it is to share with Christ his trial and death upon the cross. Then comes the joy and adventure that takes place after the Resurrection.

This year, I am looking forward to Advent as the beginning of an adventure. The Church has graciously granted me a Sabbatical Year which starts on Advent Sunday. As I begin this Sabbatical, I think of the words of the Collect for the first day of Advent wherein we say, "put upon us the armor of light", and hope that there will be some illuminating study that I can some day bring back to all *of you*. Naturally, mingled with the joy of my anticipation of the coming *of my* travels, is the sadness that I must leave you and the joys you have given me in the past two years I have been writing this page. There is a kind of satisfaction one receives from those who read what you have written and praise it, but thereupon is the basis for the sin of pride. The collects wisely help us to cast off the works of darkness and I must obey that admonition and not revel in that praise.

As I begin this Sabbatical adventure, I ask for your prayers that I may really put on the armor of light and learn many things. Be assured that I will miss each one of you as I wend my way through the world. May God bless you all and keep you in the protection of his love.

May God's love be with each of you,  
And keep you in protection.  
Let not the worldly things we do,  
Cause any disaffection.  
May penance shake off sin and shame,  
In this great Advent Season.  
May looking forward to the Christ,  
Bring life to all your reason.  
You will be with me in my prayers,  
Wherever I may be.  
Tis thus I ask that your daily prayers,  
Will have a place for me.

The Vicar, Surrey November, 1978.

NOVEMBER INTERCESSIONS

FOR THE ILL                    JOHN WHITAKER    PATRICIA MARIE SPILLE'  
                                  ARCHIE TRAINOR    HERBERT STEIN

FOR THOSE IN NEED                    JOHN                    TIMOTHY

FOR THE DEPARTED            MARGUERITE PELLETIER    MERCEDES RESTO

FOR THE CLERGY            ALL BISHOPS, PRIESTS AND DEACONS, ESPECIALLY:

MOST REV. JOHN M. ALLIN	MOST REV. DONALD COGGIN
RT. REV. PAUL MOORE, JR.	RT. REV. JOHN T. WALKER
RT. REV. JOHN D. COBURN	RT. REV. JOHN M. KRUMM
RT. REV. HORACE W. B. DONEGAN	RT. REV. PHILIP A. SMITH
RT. REV. WILLIAM C. CHOI	
Rev. Samuel E. Benson	Rev. Frank L. Knight
Rev. Elwyn D. Brown	Rev. Canon A. Pierce Middleton
Rev. Raleigh D. Hairston	Very Rev. James P. Morton
Rev. J. Norman Hall	Rev. George L. Werner

Provincial Chaplain Rev. Robert J. Vanderau, Jr.

Rev. William J. Accles

FOR ALL IN RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY:

Rev. Mother Virginia	Rev. Mother Margaret Helena, CSJB
Rev. Mother Mary Christobel, CHS	Sr. Mary Leonard Whipple
Br. Richard T. Biernacki, BSG	Fr. Martin P. Davidson, OGS
Fr. Benjamin R. Priest, SLW	Rt. Rev. Benedict Reid, OSB
Br. Andrew Rank, SSP	Fr. Martin de Zabala

SPECIAL INTENTIONS FOR:

Pope John Paul, II as he begins his leadership of the Roman Catholic Church.

The International Ecumenical Congress at Loyola, Spain in August 1979.

The Diocese of Busan, Korea.

The Ordination of The Rev. Rachel Birnbaum to the Priesthood.

THANKSGIVINGS FOR:

The recovery of Brother David Joseph and the well-being of Shawn Hughes.

The coming Golden Jubilee of Brother John, BSG.

Thanks be to God for his holy Word, Thanks be, that Jesus Christ is Lord.



THE SUPERIOR'S SANCTUM

When one thinks of the beauty and simplicity of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, arealization comes immediately that crass commercialism has replaced that beauty and that simplicity. The music of the Christmas Carols blare out in stores and on streets and no one is mindful of the words of the lyrics that bespeak the Christmas story. The Christ Child has been replaced by mechanical Santas and displays and the Advent season is spent in an orgy of shopping as the people lose the real meaning of the Birth of Christ.

As I thought these things, and contemplated the differences between the first Christmas and the modern Christmas, I remembered a poem that illustrates that difference in its message.

On Christmas Eve they filled the house with fifty guests all told,  
(0 little Lord of Christmas, were you left out in the cold?)

They ate and sang, played cards and danced, til early morning light,  
(0 little Lord of Christmas, did they think of you that night?)

Next morning there were presents, on a glittering Christmas tree,  
(0 little Lord of Christmas, was there any gift for thee?)

The dinner was a Roman feast, and how the guests did eat,  
(0 little Lord of Christmas, were you hungry in the street?)

The came the tea, a movie, and at night a late review,  
(0 little Lord of Christmas, what had these to do with you?)

By midnight all were cross and tired, and tumbled into bed,  
(0 little Lord of Christmas, did they think that you were dead?)

They all awoke with headaches, had no joy in work or play,  
(0 little Lord of Christmas, did they mark your Birth that day?)

The love, the joy, were good, no doubt; the rest a pagan spree,  
(0 little Lord of Christmas, let us keep the day with thee!)  
Henry Hallam Tweedy.

May the joy and the blessings of this Holy Season be with you all, wherever you may be. Let us tell it out to everyone that there is still time to keep the day with Jesus, the child of Christmas --- the Lord of all.

Richard Thomas Biernacki, BSG Superior.

THE VICAR OF SURREY, ON SABBATICAL, SENDS GREETINGS.

Now that I am on my journey, my thoughts remain with all of you at Saint Swithun's. It is a kind of via dolorosa since the mingling of the joy of my sabbatical is mixt with the sorrow of not being with you is ever present. To all, my greeting for the Christmastide.

Mary, praying in the cave,  
Joseph trying to be brave.  
Mary, gentle and so mild,  
Joseph praying for a child.  
Jesus, born to us on earth,  
Mary, joyful in that birth.  
Angels voices rising sing,  
Hailing God's own Son, their King  
Now, at this new Christmastide,  
May God with you all abide.  
Bring to all, great Christmas cheer,  
To last, for everyone, all year.

The Vicar.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE BROTHERS

WE GATHER TOGETHER

As we gather together at this Christmastide with our families and our friends, let us include Jesus in that ingathering. He is the reason for all of the joy and gladness that abounds in this season.

God, in his infinite wisdom, through the announcement of an angel, called the shepherds to come and see the Holy Child. The honor given to those humble shepherds was greater than any we will experience. They were the first family to see our Lord.

As we gather-in to share with God that memorable night in which the Savior was born, we share it with our neighbors, families and friends. Let us be sure to share it with Jesus.

Joy to all,  
*Brother Leslie Victor, BSG.*

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My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, this year, let us also celebrate the renewal of the Body of Christ on earth, his Holy Church, and renew our faith and dedication as we make a committment to serve his Gospel. As we begin the Church Year, let us strive to more diligently obey the Lord's Summary of the Law.

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Soli Deo Gloria,  
*Brother James, BSG.*

Blessings to all at Christmastide:

May God, who so loved mankind that he sent his only Son Jesus Christ to us, that we might be saved, grant us peace, grace and love on this Christmas Day and the strength to keep our faith until we go to the Father.

Yours, in Christ,  
*Brother Michael, BSG.*

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The time of year has come again when we celebrate the anniversary of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we celebrate, let us reflect upon the seriousness of the occasion. Our heavenly Father gave us the greatest gift possible, his only Son, that we might be saved. We must therefore give of ourselves in every way, on every occasion, to show our thanks however insignificant this may seem by comparison. Let us especially pray for peace in the Middle East, Ireland, Africa, the Far East and elsewhere in the world. We will find it easy to do if we will but include the last verse of the hymn, "Veni Emanuel"; in our daily prayers.

"O come desire of nations, bind  
In one, the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid thou, our sad divisions cease,  
And be, thyself, our King of Peace."

I pray that peace, joy, hope and love, that came to us on that first Christmas, will be with you now and always.

*David Joseph, BSG*

o o o

To all who dwell in Christendom, Greetings:

GOD GRANT THEE:

Comfort in thy home on thy journey Courage in thy duty Happiness in thy leisure Patience  
in thine adversity Success in thy ventures.

Christmas Greetings and all good wishes for the New Year.

*William David, BSG*

o o o

"JOY TO THE WORLD THE LORD IS COME."

Merry Christmas to one and to all. May the joy that the Christ Child brings to all of us at this season, stay with us and be with us throughout the year, as a reminder that through him we are saved.

*Roger, BSG*

Assistant Superior

o o o

NATIVITATUM

Came to us a Holy Child,  
Born of Mary, Virgin mild.  
Born of man, with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmnauel.

*Br. John, BSG*

DECEMBER INTERCESSIONS

FOR THE ILL                      Wood van Valkenburgh      Patricia Spille'  
   Ida Bisogno                      Joseph Evanish  
   Dominik Vitale                 Archie Trainor  
   Ann

FOR THOSE IN NEED                Timothy                              John

FOR THE DEPARTED                Dorothy Austin

FOR THE CLERGY                    ALL BISHOPS, PRIESTS AND DEACONS, ESPECIALLY:

MOST REV. JOHN M. ALLIN	MOST REV. DONALD COGGIN
RT. REV. JOHN T. WALKER	RT. REV. PAUL MOORE, JR.
RT. REV. JOHN M. KRUMM	RT. REV. JOHN D. COBURN
RT. REV. PHILIP A. SMITH	RT. REV. HORACE W. B. DONEGAN
	RT. REV. WILLIAM C. CHOI
Rev. Samuel E. Benson	Rev. Frank L. Knight
Rev. Elwyn D. Brown	Rev. Canon A. Pierce Middleton
Rev. J. Norman Hall	Rev. Canon Edwin West
Rev. George L. Werner	Rev. Raleigh D. Hairston
Provincial Chaplain Rev. Robert J. Vanderau, Jr.	
Rev. William J. Accles	

FOR ALL IN RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY:

Rev. Mother Virginia	Rev. Mother Margaret Helena
Rev Mother Mary Christobel	Sr. Mary Leonard Whipple
Br. Richard T. Biernacki	Fr. Martin Davidson
Fr. Benjamin R. Priest	Rt. Rev. Benedict Reid
Br. Andrew Rank	Fr. Martin de Zabala

THE INTERNATIONAL ECUMENICAL CONGRESS OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS FOR:

The Diocese of Busan, Korea, the Bishop, The Clergy and the Sisters.  
Brother John's Golden Jubilee Year  
Linkin

THANKSGIVINGS FOR:

The Ordinations of Frs. J. W. Canty, III and W. Mark Richardson  
THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

THE LAST WORD.

Brother John resigns as the Editor of THE SERVANT. Brother John has accepted the position of American Representative of the International Congress of Religious Orders to be held at Loyola, Spain. He is also acting as a representative of Bishop William C. Choi.

In the language of editors ----- X X X.