

HOPE ROOTED IN A SIGN: THE STAR STILL SHINES

Our hope in God's renewing purpose for His people and His world is confirmed in a sign: "Behold a young woman shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel". That son has become the focal point of history. Time hinges on his birth. The shadow of that star -- the sign -- is still over human life today and it cannot be escaped.

Our hope is the fruit of looking at a sign given in tangible human form -- the Infant born of a young woman. If we only hope for what we can see however, where is the true meaning of hope? Hope always sees more than has yet been realized, so hope waits in patience. Advent then, is a time of hope -- and Christmas is the fulfillment of that hope.

The fulfilling of our hope then is in this wondrous birth. This word came flesh to his own, that is, to those whose destiny and heritage it was to become the people of God. Still, not all of them could receive him, but to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. It is an adoption, says Paul. We who struggle so to establish our true identities find ourselves to be the sons and daughters of God through Christ.

The hope evaporates unless again and again -- every day, every week -- it is rooted in the reality of Jesus Christ, born of Mary, crucified by Pontius Pilate, and on the third day raised from the dead by the power of God.

Look to the sign given.

Brother Richard Thomas, BSG Superior White Plains, New York

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St. Luke's Hudson Street : Br. Tobias-Stanislas is presented to the Superior prior to his examination and Admission.



The Superior and Br. Tobias-Stanislas after his Admission as a Postulant.

SOLI DEO GLORIA



Some scenes from the recent "doings" of The Brotherhood



The Brotherhood "Tag Sale Raffle" -Nov. 22nd. L.-R.- Brs. Stephen-Joseph, James, Andrew and the Superior: Cecil Berges (seated) assisting with the Sale. It was huge success thanks to many hands and willing workers

"THE WINDOW IN THE WALL"

By R. A. Knox

When last you went to Communion, what were the dispositions of your heart as the bell rang in the Sanctuary? Were you waiting for him like the shepherds of Bethlehem; were you keeping watch, as they were, over your thoughts, as they over their flocks, so that you were ready for his coming? Or was your heart like the wayside inn, too full of other guests to give a thought to his miraculous birth? When we make our preparation for Communion, there should be a silence as of midnight in our hearts; not a feverish activity of aspirations and petitions, but an interior silence that banishes from the mind the busy echoes of its daily preoccupations; those plans we are forming, those grudges we are nursing, those anxieties we were harbouring, those fears we were encouraging -- well, perhaps it is too much to ask that we should banish them altogether, but they should be hushed, as men's footsteps are hushed outside the door of a sick-room. It is in the silence of the heart that we shall hear that wisper, This is My Body, and know that Christ is born. But if our Lord's Presence in the Holy Eucharist means a birth, it also means a marriage; the moment at which we receive the Blessed Sacrament is the moment at which he plights his love to us in a supreme manner, making us one with himself. Just in that moment, we want to be all for him, my Beloved for me, and I for him; that is the good part surely, which shall not be taken from us.

Peace and Grace be with you all.

Submitted by:

Brother William Francis, BSG

COMMUNITY NOTES

New York: Many of the New York area Brothers joined with Fr. Knight and Br. James at a Solemn Evensong of Thanksgiving upon the 125th Anniversary of their parish, The Church of the Mediator, Bronx, N.Y. It was a pleasure to participate in this event with the Rt. Rev'd J. Stuart Wetmore, Senior Suffragan Bishop of New York and long-time friend of the Order, and to celebrate with our many friends at "the Mediator". Br. Leslie Victor did his usual fine job in singing the Litany, while Brs. Jason-Jude, Anthony Francis, Stephen Joseph, John-Peter, William Francis and Tobias Stanislas, together with Bill Bunting (our newest postulant-prospective) carried torches in the Procession. Fr. Knight officiated and Br. James directed, as Master of Ceremonies. Br. Tobias-Stanislas has been working at preparing the grant list for the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief and he drew the map of Africa for the Advent/Epiphany East Africa Appeal. He also played Ancient Instruments for a production of the Coventry Nativity Play at St. Luke's, Hudson Street, N.Y.C. He will also perform like music for the Twelfth Night Festival at St. Bartholomew's Church, White Plains, N.Y. on Jan. 4, 1981, under Br. Richard Thomas' direction. Br. Richard Thomas, Superior, conducted the Hudson River Choral Society, in a Holiday Concert at the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers, N.Y. on Dec. 13, 1980. Br. Leslie Victor was Bass Soloist.

FOR THE ILL ALYCE MAURER ALFRED GEORGE PARKES FOR THE DEPARTED KLARA HACKENBERG VIRGIL FOX ROBERT A. HIPP KATHLEEN EISNER REV'D WILLIAM GRAY NANCY FOR THE CLERGY, All Bishops, Priests and especially MOST REVD JOHN M. ALLIN MOST REV'D ROBERT A. K. RUNCIE RT. REV'D HORACE W. B. DONEGAN RT. REV'D PHILIP A. SMITH RT. REV'D PAUL MOORE, JR., Visitor RT. REV'D ALEXANDER D. STEWART RT. REV'D MATTHEW P. BIGLIARDI RT. RT. REV'D JOHN T. WALKER REV'D WILLIAM G. BLACK Rev'd Stuart K. Frane Rev'd Richard L. May Rev'd Randolph L. Frew Rev'd Wayland E. Melton Rev'd Henry N. Fukui Rev'd Robert R. Parks Rev'd J. Norman Hall Rev'd Robert Pollard, III Rev'd Errol Harvey Rev'd Rev'd Robert J. Vanderau, Jr. Philip G. Houghton Rev'd Rev'd Richard C. Wayne Frank L. Knight Rev'd Edgar F. Wells, Jr. Rev'd Ledlie I. Laughlin, Jr. Rev'd Canon Edward N. West FOR THE RELIGIOUS ORDERS, especially The Visitation Nuns The Sacramentine Nuns The Church Army Companions of the Holy Saviour The Third Order (TSF) Congregation of the Servants of Christ SPECIAL INTENTIONS FOR: The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk, England. the Rev'd Samuel Benson. Brother Roger, BSG. Brother James, BSG, upon his appointment as Assistant Superior of the Order. the anniversary of the Life Profession of Brother Wilyam David, BSG. Brother Tobias Stanislas, BSG, as he is Admitted to the Postulancy of the Order. the Rev'd Stuart K. Frane, newly-appointed Provincial Chaplain of the Order for Province VIII. the birthdays of Brothers Richard Thomas and Jason Jude, BSG. Brother Martin, propOSCK. the birthday of Noel Knight. William E. Bunting, Edward Robinson, Peter Schellin, William Brown and Wilmer Paul Shanahan. the birthday of Br. Anthony-Francis, BSG THANKSGIVINGS FOR:

The Birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who came down to us that we might rise with Him to Life Everlasting.