



"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him":

There is one questions which all of us face at sometime in our lives as Christians -"Can I succeed as a Christian? Both those of us who have chosen to enter into a closer tie with God, through a Religious Order face the same question -- only more intensely. If we count on our own strength to take us through -- we can almost count on failure. If we rely on the grace and strength of Christ -- we can be successful.

Entering an Order at the first time is always met with some fear and questioning. And then, as in the case of Brothers Andrew and Thomas Joseph, the questions arise again when they prepare for the second stage of the journey -- the time of being a Novice. And, it is for this reason that the Postulancy and Novitiate exist as a time of questioning and searching. All of this time -- indeed the whole of our lives as Religious is a waiting on the Holy Spirit. In Second Corinthians we find a key phrase: "My Grace is sufficient for thee". The word sufficient implies there is enough Grace and then some to spare.

When we pray about our accomplishments and our failures, how much is a product of our own wisdom and effort? Both the Bible and our experiences teach us that "God makes His sun to rise on the good and the evil -- and sends rain on the just and the unjust." All that we have, we owe to God!

Through the testing times of Postulancy and Novitiate we are constantly tapped on the shoulder by the Holy Spirit. When we go through these times we all try to keep in mind that we are doing this for God -- as the Brotherhood says -- To God Alone The Glory.

As Christians, we have a source of strength not enjoyed by everyone. And, as Christians in a Religious Order we have this strength, magnified a hundred times over, because we draw on a family -- whether in a common household or in the world.

By doing all we do in the name of our Christ, we are receptors of the Holy Spirit. The Christian is the agent through which the Holy Spirit does his work. Electricity can do wonders, but it must flow through conductors. We are conductors of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has given to us for USAGE not STORAGE. When we take these various steps in the Religious Life, we pledge ourselves to USAGE. And when we begin to use the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our deeds, we will draw on the Love of Christ as one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit as promised to us in Galatians 5, verses 22 and 23. The Holy Spirit will produce the fruit of love in the genuine Christian. It is the nature of birds to sing and they will sing. It is the nature of the genuine Christian to love and love they will because the Love of Christ controls us, as promised in scripture.

When you enter an Order: when you make those promises to follow and live the Rule, to keep the precepts -- to observe the traditions, you then consecrate yourself to God. You as the Religious to the consecrating to God -- God through the Holy Spirit does the sanctifying. On Mt. Carmel, Elijah consecrated the offering -- but God sanctified the offering -- answering with fire. When the Holy Spirit sanctifies us, a life of holiness will naturally follow.

If you do nothing else as a Brother -- open your life to the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit comes, He grants power for Service. Jesus promised his disciples "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you". The heart cry of every Religious and indeed every Christian is this cry for Power in the Holy Spirit. But the power to do all for Christ and to live for Him -- to accept Him as the director of your life must have purpose. And the purpose is to witness for Christ and serve Him.

Once a group of clergymen were discussing whether to have D. L. Moody the famous fundamentalist preacher address them. One very unimpressed minister asked: "Does D. L. Moody have a monopoly on the Holy Spirit? Another answered quickly: No, but the Holy Spirit does seem to have a monopoly in Mr. Moody!

It ought to be your prayer and mine, Brothers and friends -- and our purpose -- for the Holy Spirit to have a monopoly on our lives

Brother Richard Thomas, BSG  
Superior -- White Plains, N.Y.

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JANUARY + 1981

Br. James has been appointed Assistant Superior. Br. Leslie continues as Administrative Assistant ... Artwork appearing in recent issues of THE SERVANT is the work of Br. Tobias Stanislas. Br. Tobias is performing in

Brs. William Francis and Stephen Joseph continue studies at the Institute of Theology, NYC ... Br. Stephen Joseph is on the Cable T.V. Staff of Trinity Church, Wall Street .... Br. Jason Jude is Coordinator of the newly begun New York Vestment Exchange ... Br. Christian continues as Coordinator for New Hampshire and surrounding areas .... On January 3, 1981 Brs. Thomas Joseph and Andrew were received as Novices and Br. William (Bunting) was Admitted as a Postulant (see opposite page) Thanks to Jeanne Brimigion who hosted the reception following ... Br. Michael is now "On Mission" to St. Stephen's Church, Pittsfield, Mass .... The New York-New Jersey area brothers attended the Mid-Hudson Religious Orders Mid-Winter Gathering at St. Helena's Convent, Vails Gate, NY ... Br. Leslie Victor sang three Spirituals as part of the program ... Br. John continues as full-time Parish Administrator for the Parish of St. Anne, Damascus, Md. ... Br. Anthony Francis is working with the Protestant Chaplaincy program at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in White Plains, N.Y. in cooperation with Grace Church .... Br. Thomas

Diocese of Southwestern Ohio at Bethesda Hospital and is also assisting as a residential Chaplain at Children's Hospital, Cincinnati ... Several of the New York-New Jersey Area Brothers participated in the Twelfth Night Festival at St. Bartholomew's Church, White Plains, N.Y. on January 4, 1981..... WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE BROTHERHOOD AS WORK IN THE VINEYARDS INCREASES

#### THE APPEAL FOR MISSION

Through our Appeal For Mission we ask your support for the work of the Order. Everyone is very aware of the "spiraling inflation" today and it affects us at least as much as it does you. But our Brotherhood Vestment Exchange is receiving more and more requests and our Intercession List is being sent to an ever-expanding readership through THE SERVANT (900 per month to date). The costs involved rise constantly and we must look to you for help.

Along with this issue you will find a self-addressed envelope for your gift. Please be as generous as you can. Of course, all donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be provided upon request.

May our Lords' blessing be upon you now and always!

FOLLOWING IS A PHOTO ACCOUNT OF THE RECEPTION OF NOVICES AND THE ADMISSION OF A POSTULANT, AT ST, BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., - JANUARY 3, 1981



*The new Postulant, Br. William with the Superior, following his admission*



*Asking God's Blessing upon the Novices and Postulant, with the sprinkling of Blest*



*The New Novices, Br. Andrew (l) and Thomas Joseph (r) with the Superior*



*Asking the blessing on the Incense, symbol of our prayers for service being lifted up to God.*

BROTHER CRISPIN, OSA\*

Dear Brothers in Christ:

Unfortunately, we do not know each other since you are at one end of the spectrum and I at the other. We have heard so many nice things about you, I felt that I would like to write and tell you something of us. Our Superior would probably have a fit if he knew that I was being the scribe for our Order since he thinks of me as being Loki the mischievous.

Brother Springfoot (his name is really Albert) has been dying to know to whom I am writing and I've told him it is a widow in the local Parish Church who is a young, ambitious, flirt of a kind, of behind the hands reputation. He knows that I have been to her house to tea but doesn't know that I was one of fifty there. No doubt the dear Rev'd Brother Superior will learn of my typing before Matins in the morning. The reason I call him Springfoot (a name he hates) is that he walks as though he is about to bounce off the earth.

A very kind old gentleman gave me a copy of your publication and I felt that there should be a kinship among us for we are all serving God in some way. Mine is the kind of service that I feel that God wonders about but I try to make Him laugh as much as possible for we both share the same amusement at some of His creatures. You must know that God laughs at we humans quite often. By the way, we have no such publication but I'd love to begin one.

We have a house of fifteen Brothers but all of us go out into the vineyard for service to local Churches and organizations. When at home we all are assigned specific duties and mine is often the same as KP in the military. Mostly that is for the reason that my idea of being a Brother is not to walk hands folded and sour in the face, but laugh as Jesus did when he told Philip to feed the five thousand. Can't you just imagine poor Philip having a tizzy when he saw that crowd? Jesus knew exactly what was to happen but his friend was at a total loss.

All of the Brothers are younger than I but they all think that I act like a child at times. That feeling is mine too, for most of my work is amongst the small ones up to college age. The little ones are priceless in the things that they say and do. Last week one who is about five years old brought me a stone which he insisted was the egg of a dinosaur. Some of the congregation gasped, others laughed especially when I held it up for all to see a genuine egg of a prehistoric monster.

Have you wondered about "OSA"? Well it is the Order of Saint Anselm and is dedicated to work among God's people no matter where or under what circumstances. We have a rule similar to yours and we sometimes travel far afield to do our work. At home, we use the Breviary and have a lector at meals. They never let me do that for I keep interposing jokes into the readings.

From time to time I shall write and tell you some of my experiences and hope you will write to me.

Yours in Christ,

Crispin, OSA

A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING

FOR

THE WITNESS AND WORK

OF

THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES OF THE DIOCESE

OF

NEW YORK PAST AND PRESENT

SOLEMN EVENSONG

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 1981

AT

FOUR O'CLOCK P.M.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE DIVINE

AMSTERDAM AVENUE AT 110TH. STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y.

The Community of Saint Mary  
The Order of the Holy Cross  
The Society of Saint Francis  
The Community of Saint John Baptist  
The Community of the Holy Spirit  
The Society of Saint Margaret

The Poor Clares of Reparation  
The Sisterhood of the Holy Nativity  
The Order of Saint Helena  
The Teachers of the Children of God  
The Society of Saint John the Evangelist  
The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory

## A LENTEN MEDITATION

When you fast, be not as the hypocrites, of sad countenance, for they disfigure their face, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily, I say unto you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head, and wash your face; that you appear not to men to fast, but unto your Father which is in secret: and your Father which sees in secret will reward you openly. LAY NOT UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES UPON EARTH, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where

thieves break through and steal; BUT LAY UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO.

As creatures of this earthly life, there is little doubt that each of us has had the occasion to confess taking on the role of a hypocrite. Our Lord tells us through his servant Matthew, of our reward for showing forth insincere piety...we are promised that the only benefit reaped for such works is that which might be gained on earth by feeling that we've "fooled" those persons around us. This certainly does not apply solely to fasting!! We must, particularly at this time of remembering Jesus' sufferings, keep watch on our inner-most relationship with the Father, which sees in secret.

We are not called upon to demonstrate to others great outpourings of lamentation; we are not called upon to give credence to the works of others, or to follow in their footsteps. We are, however, called upon to do some spiritual "housecleaning"... "anoint your head..." and "wash your face..." or in modern terms: "rid our minds of earthly concerns" and "prepare ourselves, our souls and bodies as living sacrifices to the Heavenly Father.".....that you do not appear to men to be sincere, but unto your Father which is able to see your secrets.."

Our minds, our bodies and our souls must be prepared ... our lives must be put in order, so that we can be receptive to the benefits offered us during this season. We are told, very clearly, that the treasures of this Earth (in whatever form they might be manifest) are of a commodity which does not allow room for the Father, nor are they capable of reserving us a space in the world to come. We are not offered the option of collecting a few treasures upon Earth and a few treasures in Heaven.

Each of us can be spiritually motivated through words of praise bestowed upon us by a thoughtful earthly superior...but, cannot our spiritual well-being be more uplifted with the knowledge that our Father in Heaven sees even the most secret acts of piety offered in His Name?

LET US PRAY: Almighty God, who hatest nothing that Thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; create and make 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. AMEN.

Br. Nicholas, BSG  
Portland, Oregon

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