



TO SEE HOPE FULFILLED, POLISH YOUR

Man knows something is really true when it makes a difference in his life on a daily basis: he discovers "truth through experience." It is hard to talk of faith and hope in God's promise to those who insist on visible proof, hard to convince them that our lives have been changed by what we have seen. Yet, as Richard of Chichester reminds us, to see Christ more clearly is to love Him more dearly and to follow Him more nearly, day by day. The presence of God in our daily lives changes us. The hope that God will make His creation new is confirmed finally for us when it becomes a lived reality, when we become "His people, whose lives are grounded in the Grace of God, poured out in Jesus Christ.

Few people who saw the star of Bethlehem perceived that its gleaming would enlighten more than Israel, bringing spiritual benefits to the whole world. Some did not even see any light. Second Isaiah tells us that the chosen one, called before his birth to be the light, will spend his strength only to be despised and rejected, but will find new strength even in rejection. As we pass through the forty days of Lent, we can come to see Jesus newly, to find our Lord and Savior emerging as a force in our lives stronger than ever before.

Lent asks of us vision and revision. It is time for us to see that all we really need to lead us through the dark portals of our lives is the light of Christ. Our hope of Easter is manifested in our belief that all will turn out right because we have Christ with us. Through a Lenten discipline of faith, prayer, service, and discipleship, Christians come to know themselves as persons whose hope cannot be more than temporarily clouded. At Easter our vision is cleared, our hope is fulfilled, and we are again "new creations." Though the light is there for all who will accept it, to claim it we must be touched by the spirit that touched Jesus; to see hope takes the insight of faith.

If it is hard for you to see cause for hope, polish your glasses.

Richard Thomas, BSG  
Superior

Who are we, we children of God? Lent offers us the challenge and cross of finding out, especially if we focus less on what we decide to leave behind Ash Wednesday than on what we cannot escape bringing to Good Friday. The question of identity envelops the season of Lent. Christ in the wilderness had to find out what it meant to be the dearly beloved Son; his temptations were all prefaced by "If you be the Son of God . . . ." What being children of God means to us changes as our understanding of it deepens, yet the temptations to take pride in the powers given us or to ask our Father to do our will still continue, just as they continued for Christ, who while he hung dying heard "If you be the Son of God, come down from the cross." God's Son showed the fullness of his humanity as well as his divinity when he refused to do so.

When we shift the emphasis of our Lenten discipline from what we can give up to what we can give, we discover things about our own humanity. We find that it is easier to forgo coffee or cigarettes, torturous though this may be, than to go out to buy groceries for a shut-in when we are exhausted after a long day's work, or to listen patiently while a teen-ager struggles to find words for what troubles him when we are sure we know both question and answer. We find it even harder, because more humbling and demanding, to give of ourselves to God not by rushing out to do or proclaim something, but by being still and opening ourselves to whatever may come into the center of that stillness, our assent to being known and to knowing ourselves.

We, fully human children of God, bring to the foot of the cross our recognition of our need--our desire--for the beloved Son not to come down: he is there because of us. Lent asks us to look into ourselves from the perspective of the cross and to behold the man who hangs upon it as a loving God's response to the unloveliness we have seen within us, then to notice that other sons of God, our brothers, are also in pain and that our hands, blessedly, are not nailed. To reach out in love helps us to know ourselves part of the Love which does not leave us alone in our desert places, but makes the wilderness in our hearts burst into wild flower.

Marion, A friend of the Order

'And Peter opened his mouth and said "Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him." (Acts 10 34b-35).

As I reflect upon these words from the Acts of the Apostles and their implications both on a personal and corporate level, I cannot help but marvel at the benevolence and love which God extends to His creation. God manifested himself in the person of Jesus Christ. This same Jesus, on a lonely hill called Calvary, made a full perfect and sufficient sacrifice of himself for the sins of the world. God showed no partiality even to His own son, and it is because of our Lord's death that we the church are blessed to commemorate the resurrection event once again.

One may ask the twofold question: What is right and acceptable to God? The twofold answer is found in the Gospel of Saint Mark. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. The second is you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus so loved his father that he gave up his life.

Therefore, let us each reflect on our own lives and resolve to use the two great commandments as a basis for our life in the world. We may never be asked to make the sacrifice that our Lord did but as Christians we are expected to fight the good fight. The Easter season provides us with an ideal time to start anew.

God Bless

Brother Stephen Joseph,  
BSG Jersey City, New

# COMMUNITY NOTES

MARCH: Br. James, Assistant Superior, has been in Washington, D.C., visiting with Brs. John and Tobias Stanislas. While there, he and Br. Tobias have been attending Mass at St. James' Church on Capitol Hill and Fr. Downing (the Rector) and his parishioners have made them feel quite welcome and at home. Br. James has also visited St. Paul's Parish and he and Br. John joined with Fr. Daughtry, his clergy and congregation for a wonderful Candlemas Service and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (the parish's Patronal Feast). The Rt. Rev'd William C. Wantland, Bishop of Eau Claire, delivered an inspiring sermon and also presided at the service. Our brothers were warmly received and attended the reception following. MARYLAND: Br. John will be moving on to other work as the parish of ST. ANNE'S, Damascus welcomes a new Rector on May 1. Br. John is also leading a seminar on "The Bible for today's Church". He has joined the Washington Episcopal Clergy Association and will attend a Conference on the Liturgy, led by the Rev'd Br. Aidan Kavanagh, OSB, a Roman Priest who was Ecumenical Consultant to the Standing Liturgical Commission for the Prayer Book - 1979. He will also preach at the Lenten Service, Church of the Good Shepherd, Jacksonville, Fla. on March 25. All of the brothers continue in the various works of the Order. Br. Richard Thomas, BSG Superior, will be the Organist for the Service of Thanksgiving for Religious Order in the Diocese of New York, March 29, and will direct the choir as well as play the Preludes and Postlude. Please pray for us as we seek to do the Lord's work.

INTERCESSION

FOR THE

BROTHER RICHARD THOMAS, BSG  
BROTHER ANTHONY FRANCIS, BSG

ALFRED GEORGE PARKES  
BROTHER WILLIAM, BSG

LAVINIA WHALEY

FOR THE DEPARTED

THEODORE ROBINSON

FOR THE CLERGY, All Bishops, Priests and Deacons,

MOST R EV' D JOHN M. ALLIN  
RT. REV'D PAUL MOORE, JR. (Visitor)  
RT. REV'D MATTHEW P. BIGLIARDI  
RT. REV'D WILLIAM G. BLACK  
RT. REV'D JOHN B. COBURN

MOST REV'D ROBERT A. K. RUNCIE  
RT. REV'D HORACE W. B. DONEGAN  
RT. REV'D PHILIP A. SMITH  
RT. REV'D ALEXANDER D. STEWART  
RT. REV'D JOHN T. WALKER

Rev'd Stuart K. Frane  
Rev'd Randolph L. Frew  
Rev'd Henry N. Fukui  
Rev'd Raleigh D. Hairston  
Rev'd J. Norman Hall  
Rev'd Errol Harvey  
Rev'd Philip G. Houghton  
Rev'd Frank L. Knight  
Rev'd Ledlie I. Laughlin, Jr.  
Rev'd Richard L. May

Rev'd Wayland E. Melton  
Rev'd Robert R. Parks  
Rev'd Thomas F. Pike  
Rev'd Robert Pollard, III  
Rev'd Thomas R. Schulze  
Rev'd Robert J. Vanderau, Jr.  
Rev'd Richard C. Wayne  
Rev'd Edgar F. Wells, Jr.  
Rev'd Canon Edward N. West  
Rev'd Andrew F. Wissemann

FOR THE RELIGIOUS ORDERS,

The Visitation Nuns  
Order of Poor Clares  
Order of Saint Anne

The Sacramentine Nuns  
Order of the Reconciliation  
Order of Saint Benedict

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk, England.  
Brothers Wilyam David, Roger, and Stephen, BSG.  
Brother James, BSG  
Brother Leslie Victor, BSG Brother Tobias Stanislas, BSG  
the birthdays of Brothers, John, Michael, Kevin James, John Peter and  
William, BSG

Brother Martin, SCK  
Christian W. Flohr, III  
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Leto, upon the birth of  
their first child

THANKSGIVINGS

the life and ministry of our Patron Saint Gregory, the Great. Feast Day March 12th.