



"I have always trusted in the Savior; I have nothing else to carry to Him, I go to him in confidence." *Venerable Mother Mary de Sales Chappuis*

This quotation taken from the writings of this holy nun, a revered member of the Order of the Visitation (R.C.), brings to mind vividly, the word "trust." In these times, with every kind of legal battle raging around us, trust is an often misused word. We use it to indicate that someone's confidence can be relied on - that they will not let us down. The joke phrase "In God We Trust - All Others Pay Cash" has been seen many times in shops over the cash register. I sometimes wonder how many storekeepers really believe it - and really trust God?

In the complete abandonment which one must have to be a contemplative in an Order such as the Visitation Nuns, Mother Chappuis did indeed trust the Savior. With the Holy Rule of Poverty, she literally has nothing else to give Him but her trust. That kind of trust is the one necessary ingredient missing in the Church today.

For those of us who are not contemplatives in the sense of living in the cloister, the facts of life are all around us in newspapers, on radio and on television. When anything goes wrong, we first blame God. "Why me? What have I done to deserve this? Nothing seems to be going right!" The questions and the statement are the result of complete lack of trust.

As a musician interested in all forms of liturgical expression, I often tune in to one of the local "gospel" stations. At a section named "Prayer Time", I am amazed at the kinds of requests poured out upon God. "Pray for a friend who is not saved". Pray for the daughter of a listener who does not know the Savior". Loss of a job, too much drink, being "born again". What troubles me is the way this seemingly endless list is read off every day. What needs to be stated here is that our Baptism (the first and only one) we agreed, through our sponsors, to trust in God's directions for our lives. Suppose for a moment that these requests (or the time taken up making them) were converted into a positive action directed toward the problem? I am sure that these troubled people would feel a lot better and begin to make strides in solving the problems. The Lord will do what is best for us, if we will just bear in mind a saying of Dr. Robert Schuller - "God's delays are NOT God's denials."

Trust leads to confidence and we can go to God with confidence, once we begin to trust Him! Let us take on an attitude of trust - complete trust, for whatever we are doing will be better done, better followed through and better accomplished when we trust in God's eternal plan for us. We are all part of that plan and no power can change it.

"Faith is seeing the will of God unfold itself in mysterious ways."

Trust is the better part of that faith!

Br. Richard Thomas, BSG  
Superior

# COMMUNITY NOTES

OREGON: On Ash Wednesday Br. Kevin James visited the shut-ins of St. Mark's Parish, Portland, in order to deliver the Imposition of Ashes to them. MARYLAND Br. John and Fr. Fukui (Provincial Chaplain of Province III) are currently preparing for the Palm Sunday Masses at St. Anne's Church, and Brs. James and Tobias Stanislas will be on hand to help out as their guests for both services. NEW YORK (White Plains): As this column is being written our Superior is in preparation for his Visitation to Portland, Oregon, where he will receive the First Profession of 'Annual Vows of our Novice-Br. Nicholas. While in the area, our Superior plans to spend time conferring with our new Director of Novices, Br. Kevin James; our Provincial Chaplain of Province VIII, Fr. Frane; and with the Rt. Rev'd Matthew Bigliardi, the Bishop of Oregon. (Manhattan) All of our New York/New Jersey area brothers are looking forward with great expectation to meeting the new Archbishop of Canterbury! His Grace, the Most Rev'd Robert A. K. Runcie will be making his first Visitation to "the Colonies, " and will preach and preside at Solemn Evensong at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on Sunday afternoon, May 10. Everyone is welcome!

## GOD'S KINGDOM IS LOVE

"The Kingdom of God is like this:..." With these words Jesus sought to teach all of those who would hear Him what His Advent meant to their lives. The key word here is "teach." He did not come into this world to dictate to God's people or to lay the foundation for additional rules and regulations, as the prophets had done. And His message was intended to be simple and easy for the masses to understand.

The teaching of Jesus pointed to one fact: The Kingdom of God was at hand, made manifest through His own impending Sacrifice. He showed them, by using examples from their everyday experiences (parables), how to fully comprehend the true essence of the Holy Scriptures, which they had known in the Temple at Jerusalem and in their local synagogues all of their lives. Consequently, many saw Him as a great rabbi (teacher) from the very beginning of His public ministry.

In order for the people to appreciate the Gift which He was about to give them, Jesus had to show them that He was Himself the very fulfillment of the Scriptures. And, when He was questioned by a Pharisaic doctor of the Law concerning the Commandments of Moses, He answered in a way that made perfectly understandable what had become very complicated over the centuries: "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'" (Deut. 6:4-6) This is the First and Great Commandment. And the Second is like it: 'You must love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.' (Lev. 19:18) The Law and the Prophets are based upon these two Commandments." (Mat. 22:37-40) Of itself, this little collection of Scriptures was nothing new to the people, but it was Jesus' intent that they should perceive these familiar ideas in a new light: the concept of the living Kingdom of God.

Therefore the people were being prepared to see that the Kingdom of God was to be created within each and every one of them. His Great Sacrifice on the Cross accomplished the one perfect Atonement for the sins of all people everywhere, and His Resurrection after three days in the Tomb was the perfect and understandable example that Everlasting Life, life beyond the grave, was attainable in reality; God had now promised Life Everlasting to those who would accept His Son through faith.

The Kingdom of God is here with us today, and is exemplified by love. "God loved His Creation (us) so much that He gave His only Son that we might have Life Everlasting." (John 3:16) And even as much as God's Gift of Life is just that - a gift; so too does His Kingdom exist in the love we freely give to others. This is very clear, not complicated or difficult to understand. GOD IS LOVE, and the Christian dwells in His Kingdom by sharing that love. Those who would see the Kingdom as something yet to come or as something in another plane of existence are entirely missing the point. After all, Jesus taught the people that the Kingdom of God was right there among them (meaning He Himself), and that after His Resurrection the Kingdom would always be with them. This concept is further borne out by Saint John the Evangelist: he who lives in love is living in God, and God in him." (1 John 4:16)

By sharing our love with others God loves us the more, for we are showing forth His Kingdom, alive within each one of us, to the world. God's love is not something to accumulate and retain; it is here to be used - given away! The more we give of our love to His people, whether individually or collectively, that much more will we receive from Him. For love is not only the essence of God, it is truly the Christian expression of life lived in His Kingdom.

INTERCESSIONS

FOR THE ILL

RONALD REAGAN  
THOMAS DELAHANTY  
LAVINIA WHALEY  
PIERCE LAMARRE

JAMES S. BRADY  
MARTIN DIAMOND  
MARION PERRET  
EDWARD SALFANO

TIMOTHY MCCARTHY

FOR THE DEPARTED

ELIOT JESSAMY  
  
JOSEPH HARNEY  
ERIC BEHAR

MARTHA FRANCES BAER  
SISTER IRENE  
TRIMBLEY, CSC  
SARAH TORNABENE

FOR THE CLERGY, All Bishops, Priests and Deacons, especially

RT. REV'D JOHN M. ALLIN  
RT. REV'D PAUL MOORE, JR. (Visitor)  
RT. REV'D MATHEW 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 Wayland E. Melton

Rev'd Stuart K. Frane

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 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

FOR THE RELIGIOUS ORDERS,

The Visitation Nuns  
Saint Barnabas Brotherhood  
Sisterhood of Saint John the Divine

The Sacramentine Nuns  
Sisters of Charity  
Order of Saint Helena

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk England.  
Brother Nicholas as he makes his First Profession of Vows to the Order.  
Brother James, BSG  
Brother Leslie Victor, BSG Brother Jason Jude, BSG Brother Tobias Stanislas, BSG the anniversary of the Life Profession of Brother Leslie Victor, BSG. the birthdays of Brothers, James, Nicholas, and William Francis, BSG. Brother Charles Judson Aelred Glidden, OSB as he makes his Perpetual Vows to the Order of Saint Benedict.  
Brother Martin, SCK  
Edward Robinson, Jerry Moize, and Gene B. Shawn Mack.  
Father Ledlie I. Laughlin, Jr., and the congregation of the Church of Saint Luke's in the Field, New York City, as they recover from a devastating fire and move forward to the Glory of God.  
Jeanne Brimigion