



LET'S STIR UP OUR NEIGHBORS!

"Are you serious?", any church member might ask. What we want is less stirring up, whether by swinging teenagers or disco music or by welcoming some minority group into our midst. The writer of the New Testament letter to the Hebrew Christians, after pleading for faithful worship of God and for keeping a grip on what we believe (Hebrews 10:19-23), asks us to do some thinking about how we may "stir up" one another to love and good works. This is love's specialty: to think of one another's needs and possibilities and to encourage one another to love and active goodness (See the New English Bible translation of verse 24).

As we think of how we may encourage one another into Christlike love and translate love into good deeds, let us first begin by attending church regularly! In the New Testament church, some withdrew from fellowship and the public worship of God. The New Testament writer is sure this is a dangerous thing. If a man breaks fellowship with the church, he is on his way to denying the faith.

Why go to church? There are four basic reasons:

- 1) We should go to church to meet God. (Matthew 18:20) Worship is keeping our appointment with the living God.
- 2) We should go to church to listen to God. God speaks through Scripture - and through the proclamation of Christ by the word that has been written and spoken. "Speak Lord; for thy servant heareth" (I Samuel 3:9 KJV).
- 3) We also go to church to receive God. As we open our lives to God's spirit we receive through sacrament and sermon; prayer and praise, His grace of forgiveness, direction, support, joy and love (Isaiah 6:1-8).
- 4) The final reason we go to church is most important as we give ourselves to God. We go to church as a sacrifice - the giving up of ourselves (see Romans 12:1 RSV). ". . . your spiritual worship." Spiritual gifts and material gifts are offered and are acceptable, but only as they are tokens of our self-giving.

"O Lord our God, without whom we can do nothing, be with us we pray, in our worship of Thee. Guide us by thy Holy Spirit, that we say and sing and do whatever may bring praise and service to Thee. Through Jesus Christ our

"HE TOUCHED ME"

My brothers and sisters, as of July 27, 1981, I have-been a part of The Brotherhood of St. Gregory for a full year. In that short year our Lord has touched my life in so many ways that I can only say "Praise God for revealing Himself to me!"

The journey hasn't been easy: the struggles and the endurance which the Brothers must go through is only a preparation for a deeper and closer walk with our Lord. I pray continually for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to work in my life, so that I may be well prepared and worthy enough to make my First Profession of Vows in several months to come. When the struggles become more difficult, when loneliness sets in, when personal problems creep in and all seems not right, it's then that all of a sudden "He touches me" and I remember that God chose me to be His personal servant here on earth, to show others the Christ of love, forgiveness and understanding through me - through us as Religious Brothers.

But before this happens, we must do some self-dieing and become aware of who we are and why we are Religious Brothers. It is then that the change occurs; when we learn to trust. And the only thing that becomes uppermost in our lives is our service to God, because through trust we know without a shadow of a doubt that He'll take care of us. Then we will know we are not of this world, but are only journeying through it in order to spread the Gospel of the Risen Christ.

Open all the doors and windows of your soul to the Lord. Don't keep any rooms locked or closed off to Him - let Jesus take over. Lift yourself up to Him as a gift; surrender your life and your heart to His holy Will.

So in closing, my brothers and sisters, remember that God chose you as His representative, and each of us will be constantly watched and judged as we continue our journey. Let us pray continually that your sacrifices and mine will be acceptable to Him.

And remember also to watch and to pray for our Lord's coming, for no one knows the day or the hour when it will occur.

Br. Thomas Joseph, BSG

Cincinnati, Ohio

WANTED:

For use in the Rites of the Order, we very much need a thurible and an aspersorium with aspergillum. (If beggars can be choosers, we would prefer a four chain thurible). Willing to pay a modest price plus shipping and postage!

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SPECIAL INTENTIONS FOR:

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk, England.

Brother James, BSG

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Brothers Edward Peter and Brendan, BSG, upon their Admission to the Postulancy of the Order.

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Brother Martin, SCK

the Rev'd Clark W. Trafton, OHC, upon his election as Superior of The Order of the Holy Cross.

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Margaret, William, Ricky, Terry, Jeff, Don, Kurt, Wilbur, Tom, Chuck, Mark and Jamie.

THANKSGIVINGS FOR:

the guidance of the Holy Spirit in each of our lives and works, and for uncountable prayers answered.