



LENT - A TIME FOR PRAYER

In a certain city, where a church stood open for prayer, it was observed that a certain man would enter, kneel for the briefest of moments and leave. One day, the priest met him, and asked, "When you kneel to pray so briefly, what do you say?" "When I come in here at noon, I simply say, 'Jesus, this is Jimmy. '"

It is a great delusion to think that the times of prayer ought to differ from other times; we are obliged to adhere to God by actions as well as by prayer in the season of prayer. Brother Lawrence said, "I made this my business as much all the day long as at the appointed times of prayer; even at the height of my business, I drove away from my mind everything that was capable of interrupting my thought of God. "

For Brother Lawrence as for us, our set times of prayer should be only a continuation of the same exercise -- union with God in all we do from day to day. All we do, especially in service to others, is a form of prayer. Pray then, that all we do will be an offering to God, a work begun, continued and ended in him.

-- Richard Thomas, BSG Superior



y brothers and sisters,

Traditionally Lent has been a time of prayer and meditation, of preparation for new membership in the Church, a time to reaffirm our commitment to God and his Church, a time to remember our Lord's Passion, his last night.

Picture the scene of the agony. The garden of Gethsemane. This garden was probably owned by one of our Lord's friends, and Jesus was accustomed to spend his nights in prayer there. The name, which signifies "oil press" reminds us of the spreading olive trees that furnished the oil for the lamps in the temple. The Paschal moon sheds a flood of light broken by the branches of the trees, and flecking the ground with great patches of black and silver. In the shadow is Jesus, "withdrawn from his disciples about a stone's cast." These words have sometimes been translated "He tore himself away from them" to signify the violent act of his will which Jesus had to make to enter upon his agony. He prays, "Father, if you will, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but your will be done.

Why all this agony? Was it caused by fear of physical pain? Was Jesus less brave than the martyrs, who went singing to their agony? No, he was agonizing over sin, our sin. If we don't appreciate his agony, then we don't recognize the horror of sin, that horror which increases with holiness.

Our Lord has opened the way and made it easy for us. He has agonized and died to save us from sin, that we may receive the power to take up our cross and follow in his footsteps, that we may not be tempted above our ability to endure.

As we meditate on the Passion, let us remember our ingratitude, our uncharity, our hatred of our brother, our selfishness, and let us hasten to make an act of contrition: and if we truly repent, we will want to pray as our Lord did, "Your will, not my will, be done."

--Andrew, BS G

New York, New York

Br. Andrew, who made his first Profession of Vows in January, is stationed at the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, New York; he is a member of the Saint Vincent's Guild, for men who serve at the Altar and officiate at the Daily Office. He is also a member of the board for the Mission House where Asian refugees are resettled and given orientation for their new lives in America.

THE APPEAL FOR MISSION

Many, many thanks to those of you who so generously responded to our Appeal of last December. But to date the results still fall short of the amount needed to obtain a micro-computer to update and control our large and ever-growing mailing list. Therefore we again ask your help in this worthwhile effort, which becomes all the more costly with the government's raising of the bulk-postage rates for non-profit organizations. Again, thank you for your past generosity; and may God bless you all.



FEASTS IN LENT March 12th is the feast of Saint Gregory the Great, patron of the Brotherhood, and this year the Order is instituting in honor of this day a Lesser Chapter, over the weekend from March 12th through the 14th. This will be a time for the Brothers and Companions to gather for quiet prayer and meditation, for learning and spiritual growth: to be better fitted to carry out the many and varied works they are called upon to do in the service of God and his Church. The other major feast in Lent is the Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary, that most sublime yet human creature whose act of obedience made possible the form redemption took. No honor is too great for her, and we do well to praise this daughter of Eve whose humility so exalted human nature.



- To Saint Gregory -
"Wisdom dwells in the heart..."
Prov. 14:33
You knew that Vanity's retreat
Would leave within your heart
For Wisdom a most glorious seat,
A dwelling-place for Art.

INTERCESSIONS

For the ill:

Patricia Marie Spille Dorothy Smith William Smith

Flora Davidson

Br. Matthew Joseph, BSG

For the departed: Ed Genge

John Horgan

Sr. Mary Imelda Barker, OSS Laurence Bernstein

For the Clergy, especially:

The Most Rev'd Robert A. K. Runcie

The Rt. Rev' d Horace W. B. Donegan Visitor
Emeritus

The Rt. Revd John M. Allin

The Rt. Rev'd Paul Moore, Jr. Visitor and
Protector

and for the Clergy of Province II, and the Brothers of the Order who serve there:

The Rev' d Thomas F. Pike Chaplain Emeritus

The Revd J. Norman Hall

The Rev' d Ledlie I. Laughlin, Jr.

The Rev'd Robert R. Parks

The Revd Edgar F. Wells, Jr.

The Rev' d Frank L. Knight Provincial Chaplain

The Rev'd Errol A. Harvey

The Rev' d Richard L. May

The Rev' d Robert Pollard III

The Revd Canon Edward N. West

Brothers Richard Thomas, James, Leslie Victor,

Jason Jude, Anthony Francis, John Peter,

William Francis, Stephen, Andrew, Tobias Stanislas, William and Edward Peter

For the Religious Communities, especially:

The Sacramentine Nuns

The Visitation Nuns

The Order of Saint Benedict

The Congregation of the Servants
of Christ

and all Benedictine Orders

The Order of Reconciliation

The Teachers of the Children of God The Oratory

of the Good Shepherd

Order of Agape & Reconciliation The Community

of the Sisters of the Church

Special intentions for:

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk, England

The Companions and Friends of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory

The Lesser Chapter of the Brotherhood

The Canterbury Club

The UCW World Day of Prayer for Peace (March 5)

Barbara, Terry and Michelle

Jerry Moize

Thanksgiving for:

The birthdays of Brs. John, Michael, Kevin James, John Peter and William The Life and Works of our
Patron, Blessed Gregory the Great

The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary The work and service which the Lord has
provided to us all