



REVERSE CREATION --- AUTHOR UNKNOWN

In the end, man destroyed the heaven that was called earth.

The earth had been beautiful until the spirit of man moved over it and destroyed all things.

And man said, "Let there be darkness !" And there was darkness.

And man lived in the darkness; so he called the darkness "security."

And he divided himself into races and religions and classes of society.

And there was no evening and no morning on the seventh day before the end.

And man said, "Let there be a strong government to control us in our darkness; let there be armies to control our bodies, so that we may learn to kill one another neatly and efficiently in our darkness." And there was no evening and no morning on the sixth day before the end.

And man said, "Let there be rockets and bombs to kill faster and easier; let there be gas chambers and furnaces to be more thorough."

And there was no evening and no morning on the fifth day before the end.

And man said, "Let there be drugs and other forms of escape, for there is this constant annoyance -- reality -- which is disturbing our comfort. And there was no evening and no morning on the fourth day before the end.

And man said, "Let there be divisions among the nations, so that we may know who is our common enemy."

And there was no evening and no morning on the third day before the end.

And finally man said, "Let us create God in our image; let some other god compete with us.

Let us say that God thinks as we think, hates as we hate, and kills as we kill."

And there was no morning and no evening on the second day before the end.

And on the last day, there was a great noise on the face of the earth.

Fire consumed the beautiful globe, and there was .silence.

The blackened earth now rested,
to worship the one true God.

And God saw all that man had done,
and in the silence over the smoldering ruins,
he wept.

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MISSION -- INVOLVEMENT & COMMITMENT

Missions, like relationships, are to be reckoned with. Teenagers, when the first fragile attempts at relationships start, are cautioned, "Just don't get too serious." Intimacy, like mission, is volatile stuff. So too, missions can be perilous. On Mission Impossible we hear the phrase: "Should you decide to accept this mission, the Secretary will disavow any knowledge of your actions." Mission to any cause, dangerous or comfortable, can leave scars - permanent scars.

For those of us in the Religious Life, these scars are the proof of our vows. They are the evidence that we are really involved in God's work. There is nothing more serious -- more present and intimate than this: "Eat my flesh and drink my blood, and so abide in me. " This is getting close. Very close !

For some who attempt to be real servants of Christ, it is too close. It takes too much of their own being. It takes too much of their flesh and blood to serve fully.

For instance, mission in today's world can focus on no more worthy goal than feeding the hungry. To illustrate, take the word BREAD.

B - to be in the world - to be where the "action" is - to be a part of the solution to the problems besetting those around us.

R - Relinquish our own desires - relinquish our own problems and use our time and energy to achieve feeding the hungry,

E - Educate those around us in the real meaning of mission. Raise the consciousness of our parishes - our Orders - our Church by our witness.

A - Ask God what he will have us do - wait on him and accept his ways. Take the hard path God gives rather than our own one of comfort and ease.

D.- And finally dedicate all we do in our mission to God's glory alone. Since God gives us the mission to grow we must dedicate all to his glory.

We need to get serious about the adversities of people all around us. God was serious about his world -- he sent his only Son. Christ is serious about us.

In Isaiah 50:4-10 we read: "With face set like a flint, the servant obeys the call and message of God in spite of adversities." True to her or his mission and sure of vindications, the servant "relies upon God."

Confronted with a crucified God who just won't let himself be denied in power-establishment terms, those who truly hear the call to mission are faced with a costly response. Three things are required - "deny self, take up your cross, follow me."

--Richard Thomas, BSG Superior

The cover article was submitted by Br. Kevin James, BSG, who serves at St. Mark's Church, Portland Oregon.

Message about Nicodemus

A special "thank you" from the Brotherhood to those of you who so generously contributed to our computer fund.

The computer has arrived, and we have begun the work of entering our mailing list into his memory. He has been nicknamed "Nicodemus" in honor of the scribe of that name.

COMMUNITY NOTES

New York NY: Br. John Peter preached his second sermon in St. James' Chapel of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine.

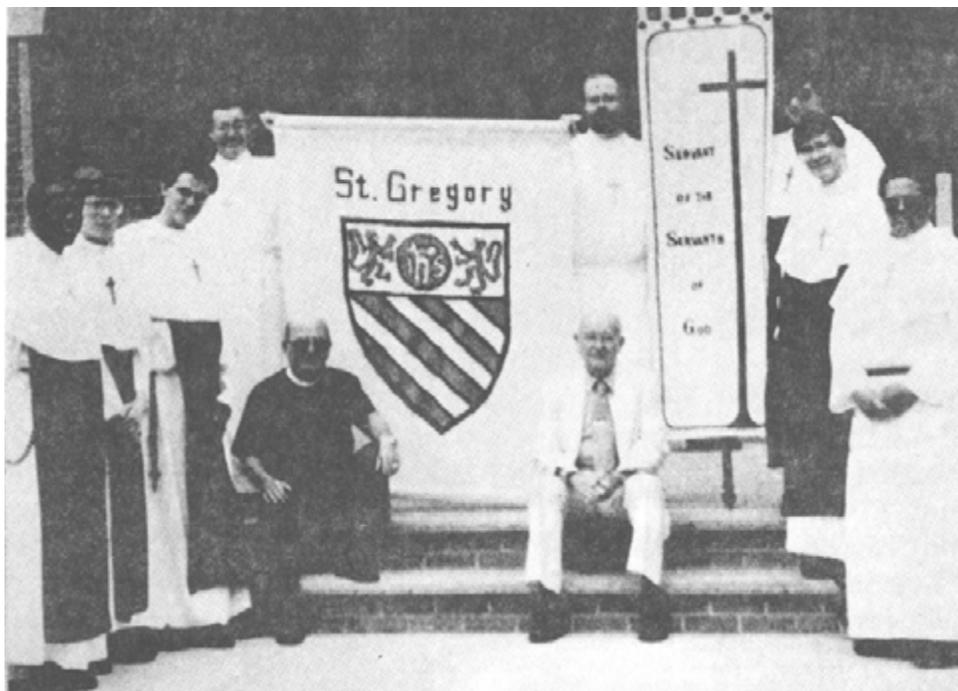
Bronx NY: Br. William preached at St. Andrew's Church on the meaning and nature of the Sacrament of Baptism, as part of a Eucharist at which several young people were "joined together to the head, which is Christ." Br. William's mission at St. Andrew's includes acting as a Baptismal Instructor, to parents, godparents and candidates for Baptism.

Br. Stephen preached a sermon on the role of the lay minister in the life of the contemporary Church, at the Church of the Good Shepherd. At the same service, Br. William Francis gave a talk on the vocation and mission of the Brotherhood of St. Gregory. The Rev'd Richard Ruedger, Rector of the parish and long-time friend of the Brotherhood, is seen at the right with Br. Stephen.



White Plains NY: At a Solemn Vespers service on Sunday July 18th, Charles Kramer and Peter Skye were admitted to the Postulancy of the Brotherhood. Below are Brs. James (Assistant Superior) and Richard Thomas (Superior) standing behind our new Brothers Charles and Peter.

Parsippany NJ: The Brothers turned out in force for a lovely day as guests of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church. Some time ago we supplied the parish with the design of St. Gregory's coat-of-arms, in order for them to execute a processional banner for their use. To return the favor, the Brotherhood was invited to a Sunday morning Eucharist in our joint Patron's honor, at which Br. James was invited to preach on the Order's mission of parochial ministry. The Brothers were then presented with two lovely banners, seen in the photograph below, and invited to a luncheon with the congregation. It was a marvelous time for fellowship and witness. We hope to continue the fellowship under the sponsorship of our Patron, Gregory the Great, and in order to do this, Brs. Stephen and Charles will visit the parish regularly.



Seated are the Rector, the Rev'd John C. Owens, and Mr. Thomas M. Day, one of the founding members of the parish, and the one responsible for the execution of these striking crewel-work banners. Standing (1 to r) are Brs. John Peter, Stephen, Andrew, Charles, Peter, William Francis, James and Edward Peter.

OCTOBER INTERCESSIONS

For the ill:

Edith DeMardin Patrick O'Brien

For those who serve the Church, especially:

The Most Revd Robert A. K. Runcie

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

Visitor Emeritus

The Rt. Rev'd John M. Allin

The Rt. Rev'd Paul Moore, Jr.

Visitor and Protector

The Brothers of Province I, and those with whom they serve:

Michael, Christian, Matthew Joseph, Luke Anthony, Brendan and Roy The Rt. Rev' d John B. Coburn

The Rt. Rev'd Alexander D. Stewart

The Rev'd Samuel G. Henderson III

The Rev'd Thomas R. Schulze

Canon W. Bruce Wirtz

The Rt. Rev'd Philip A. Smith

The Rt. Rev'd Frederick B. Wolf

The Rev'd William Hurst

The Rev'd Richard C. Wayne The Rev'd

The Religious Orders:

The Sacramentine Nuns

The Society of St. Francis

The Friars of the Atonement

The Oblates of St. Jude

The Visitation Nuns

The Community of St. Francis

The Order of Friars Minor

The Order of St. Luke

Special intentions for:

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk England Martin, SCK

Philip Francis, MCC

Donald Ray Drummonds

The Church of St. Luke in the Fields

Scott Lee Jacobson

Thanksgiving for:

The Anniversary of the Life Profession of Br. Michael, BSG (Oct. 12th)

The life and work of St. Francis of Assisi

The Companions and Friends of the Brotherhood