



Jesus said to his disciples: "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task: and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming; if he comes unexpectedly he must not find you asleep. Stay awake!" (Mark 13:33-37)

Once again we find ourselves in the Advent Season and the theme of Advent is: Watch! Wait! Be prepared! We know when the Season of Advent comes up because we have a church calendar that tells us so. But there is an Advent that will come for all of us, and we have no clock, time table or calendar that will tell us when this Advent will arrive and end. This is the Advent which each person will experience during his or her own lifetime in preparation for Christ's calling them to him through death and finally through resurrection. The Last Day and the end of the world will come for each of us, and we will depart this present life. Bearing this in mind, each of us should guard against being led astray and failing to keep watch, otherwise the day of the Lord's return may take us by surprise. If the last day of our life finds us unprepared, then we shall be unprepared for Christ.

Let us, as Christians, constantly remind each other to be ready for Christ's coming. Let us never fail to keep up the watch. Let us never let the oil in our lamps run dry as we watch for Christ. So during this Season of Advent I give you, fellow Christians, this warning:

Christ is coming!
Keep up the watch! Be prepared

--Roy, BSG Boston MA

Brother Roy is a novice in the Brotherhood, and is missioned at St. Stephen's Church, an inner-city parish in Boston. Brother puts his organizational skills to good use for the parish by being Clerk of the Parish Council. He also serves in the Sunday School nursery, and is involved in fundraising for the parish.

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THE TREES OF OUR FAITH

The tree of prayer --must be a new attempt to climb high. We must not be content with observing our usual heaven-hiding forms. We must investigate every branch of the tree of prayer -- climb through the limbs of personal petition, on to intercessory prayer, above to prayers of confession and thanksgiving. We must visit within the branches of morning, noon and evening prayers, spoken and silent prayers.

The tree of worship -_-how many limbs of its stately form have we known? On the tree of worship, awaiting our visit, are the limbs of public worship, private worship, family worship, morning warship, evening worship -- worship in stately cathedrals and simple chapels, worship under the stars and by the waters. We can worship in simplicity and we can worship in great and complicated liturgical fashion. We can participate, lead and observe. But if we seek long to know the tree of worship, our eyes may see the blessed sights Zacchaeus saw.

Finally, the tree of Dedication - seems to reach over and intertwine with the branches of the other trees. For once the lowest branches of the tree of dedication are grasped, one finds he is also suddenly moving about the branches of the other trees. There is no more important tree than the tree of dedication, and if we but grasp the lower branches we are well on the journey to a strong faith.

--Richard Thomas, BSG Superior

COMMUNITY NOTES



New Orleans LA: A proposed change in the Canons of the Church regarding the Religious Life brought Br. Superior, the Assistant Superior and Br. Andrew to General Convention for six days, prior to the beginning of our own General Chapter. With the help of our good friend, the Rev'd Canon James R. Gundrum (who is also Executive Officer of General Convention), we were able to secure wonderful accommodations as guests at the New Orleans Novitiate of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, a Roman Catholic teaching Order.

The Canon revision, which was being presented by Bishop William C. R. Sheridan (No. Indiana) as Chairman of the House of Bishops Committee on Religious Orders, would enable the Church to recognize and encourage the growth of the Vowed Life, both in traditional and in contemporary expressions. It was certainly an exciting six days, and the opportunities to see old and new friends and to witness to the Church in action were worth the time, effort and expense. Our Brothers had to return home before the motion proposing the revision was brought up in the House of Bishops, but in the end it passed unopposed through both Houses. The Bishops rose to sing the Doxology after the revision passed their House.

Seattle WA: Anyone regularly following these pages over the past year or so must by now be referring to our Br. William as "Br. Geographicus, the very mendicant Gregorian friar!" And recently Brother has been on the road again: on August 8th he represented the Brotherhood at St. Paul's Church for the first service of the new rector, the Rev'd Peter C. Moore. (Brother was the guest of Mr. & Mrs. Jim Rowland, the parents of the Rev'd Richard M. Rowland, one of our Provincial Chaplains emeriti.) The following Sunday, August 15th, found Brother at St. George's parish in Maple Valley WA, where he was answering his standing invitation to preach, extended by the Rev'd Kenneth E. Anderson. This tour of the West Coast is an annual event for Br. William, and he now travels as far south as San Francisco.

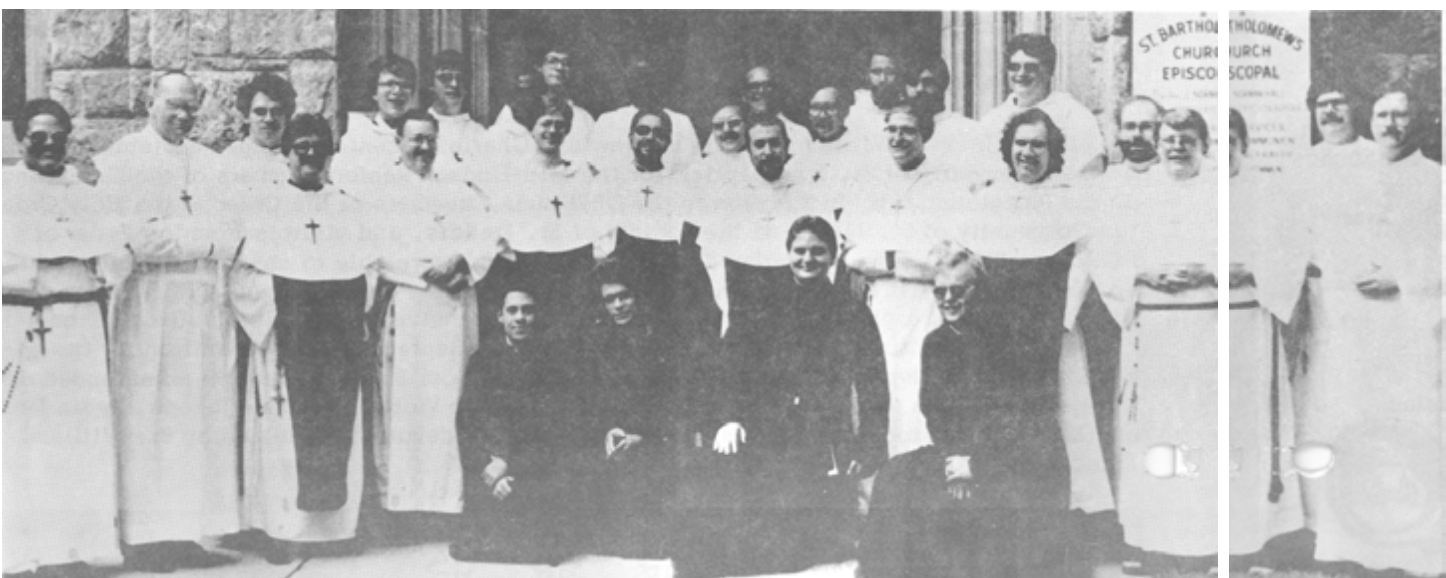
Washington DC: Br. John has just been accepted as one of the participants in the Diocesan Leadership Development Program -- '84, for a two-year study tour. We know he will bring the same tireless energy to this task as he has to so many others in the past.

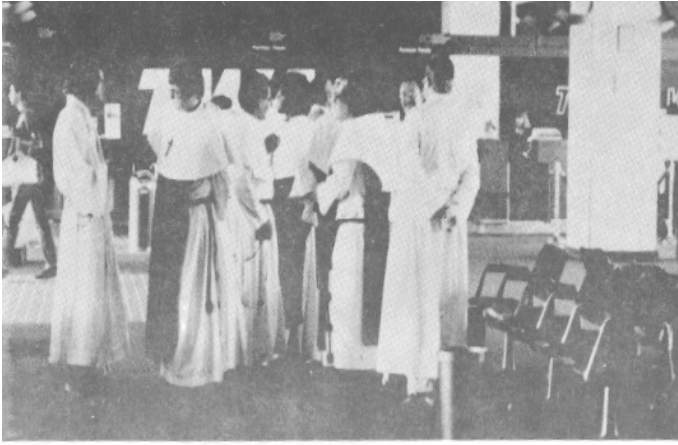
Mendham NJ: Brs. William Francis, Andrew and Charles recently attended a picnic hosted by the Community of St. John Baptist' for the Mid-Hudson Region members of the Conference on the Religious Life. In addition to the CSJB nuns, members of the Order of the Holy Cross, the Community of St. Mary and the Society of St. Francis, and visitors from the Order of Preachers (RC) and the Brotherhood of Jesus (Lutheran) were able to share in the fellowship of those bound by life in Religion. The day began with tea and continued with Vespers in the main chapel, a picnic dinner and a tour of the extensive gardens and grounds of the convent. A grand time was had by all! . . . In early September, in preparation for the upcoming General Chapter of the Brotherhood, several of our Brothers went on an extended retreat at the CSJB's St. Marguerite's House. Brs. Leslie Victor, Matthew Joseph, Kevin James and Edward Peter took part in this week-long period of devotion organized by Br. William Francis.

GENERAL CHAPTER 1982

General Chapter this year was particularly rewarding for all concerned. It was a time of fellowship, prayer and growth as we celebrated the thirteenth anniversary of our foundation. At the bottom of the page is a photograph of the assembled Brotherhood, standing before St. Bartholomew's Church, our "headquarters."

Other pictures from the Chapter Weekend: Friday night the Brothers arrive from all over the country for an informal get-together at the Superior's residence; the Brothers spend some time chatting with members of the parish; the Superior presides over the Chapter Meeting; Cecil Berges, Dorcas Tornabene and Marion Pierce, three Companions of the Brotherhood, bring the elements to the altar during the Chapter Festival Eucharist, which was celebrated by the Rev'd Frank L. Knight, Provincial Chaplain of Province II; the Superior congratulates Br. James after having received his Life Vows of Profession; Br. William makes his First Vows; and last of all, the Brothers go out to LaGuardia to see off some of our 'family' as they return to their homes and parishes across the country. At the same Chapter Eucharist, Br. Roy was received as a Novice, and Edward Munro of Rockville MD, Paul Halsey of Hastings NE and Vincent Andrew Oswalt of Edmond OK were admitted to the Postulancy. The Superior also announced the presentation of seven new "Friends of the Brotherhood": Sister Angela, WSHS, the Rt. Rev'd Charles Thomas Gaskell, the Rt. Rev'd William C. R. Sheridan, the Rev'd Canon James R. Gundrum, Emanuel Bologna (who once again served as organist for the Eucharist), John Colon (our tried and true crucifer), and Marion Perret, through whose good offices the Vatican has supplied us with a First Class Relic of our Patron, Holy lather Gregory, which rested on the altar throughout the service.







More news of Chapter:

Other Companions and Friends present at the Festival Eucharist were the Rev'd David G. Henritz, OSL, who acted as epistler, the Rev'd Edward C. Goetz, who was gospeler, and who had celebrated the Saturday 'conventual' Eucharist for the Brotherhood, Dorothy Smith, who acted as usher, and the Most Revd George T. Koerner. We are gratified that so many of our extended 'family' were able to be at this service.

The Brotherhood of St. Gregory has grown to become one of the largest Communities in the Church, and with that growth has come an increasing sense of our call and means to serve. God give us strength to persevere to do his will!

MORE COMMUNITY NOTES

Manchester NH: Several of our Brothers were able to gather for a late-Summer quiet day in preparation for General Chapter, hosted by Br. Christian. Also present were Brs. Leslie Victor, Matthew Joseph, Luke Anthony, William Francis, Andrew and Roy. The Revd Thomas R. Schulze celebrated the Eucharist for the Brothers. Also attending was Companion Titus Blade Steele of Newburyport MA.

White Plains NY: As part of the deliberations of Chapter this year, Br. Luke Anthony of North Easton MA was named Novice Master by the Superior. Congratulations and Godspeed in your new work.

A PARABLE FOR ADVENT

"Any tree that doesn't bear fruit will be cut down and cast into the fire." (Matthew 7:19)

Once there was a tree that grew in the midst of a wood. And this tree was useless: it bore no flowers nor fruit, its leaves were a sickly green and offered no shade, birds would not nest in its branches. It was, all in all, a very unsatisfactory tree, an embarrassment to the forest. Indeed, the other trees found it such an embarrassment that eventually they moved away, leaving this poor excuse for a tree in the midst of a barren waste. And so it stayed for years.

And one dark and freezing night, in deep midwinter, there came to that place a man who was lost, perishing with cold. He was starving and almost frozen through, and he fell exhausted against this same tree. Now the tree, whose roots had never been of really highest quality, gave way and fell to the ground against the rocks. And the man was on the point of cursing the tree for failing to give him support and comfort in which to die, when he realized that he might make a fire of the tree for warmth. And he broke the tree's branches (which had never been particularly strong) and built a fire. And the warmth of that fire saved that man's life, and its light was seen by those who searched for him, and the lost was found. That we may offer what we can, however small, however poor, may God grant. Amen.

"Any tree that gives no other good will be used, at least, for firewood." --Tobias Stanislas Bronx NY

NOVEMBER INTERCESSIONS

For the ill:

Richard Bentley

Patricia Flynn Peate

For those who serve the Church, especially:

The Most Rev'd Robert A. K. Runcie

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

Visitor Emeritus

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

Richard Thomas

Leslie Victor

Anthony Francis

William Francis

Andrew

William

Charles

The Rev'd Frank L. Knight, Provincial Chaplain The Rev'd David Allen Garcia

The Rev'd J. Norman Hall The Rev'd Errol A. Harvey

The Rev'd H. B. Lederhouse

The Rev'd Robert R. Parks

The Rev'd Donald R. Shearer

The Rev'd Canon Edward N. West

Other Religious:

The Sacramentine Nuns

The All Saints Sisters of the Poor

The Servants of Christ the King

For the Special intentions of:

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk England

Janie Boykin

Gino & Mary Petruzzi

The Friends and Companions of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory

In thanksgiving for:

The passage of the new Canon on the Religious Life The Life Profession of Br. James

The First Profession of Br. William

The Reception into the Novitiate of Br. Roy

The Admission to the Postulancy of Brs. Edward, Paul and Vincent Andrew

The Anniversary of the Life Profession of Br. John

The Birthday of Br. Andrew (Nov. 25th)

For the departed:

Nathan Koch

Dorothy Leblang Koch

Shirley Schellas

Howard Krippner Thaddeus David, BSG

Peter, BSG

Edith DeMartin Florence Thompson

The Rt. Rev'd John M. Allin

The Rt. Rev'd Paul Moore, Jr.

Visitor and Protector

James

Jason Jude

John Peter

Stephen

Tobias Stanislas

Edward Peter

Peter

The Rev'd Ledlie I. Laughlin, Jr.

The Rev'd Richard L. May

The Rev'd Thomas F. Pike

The Rev'd Edgar F. Wells, Jr.

The Rev'd Bruce M. Williams

The Visitation Nuns

The Order of St. Helena

Taize

Margo & Richard Soto