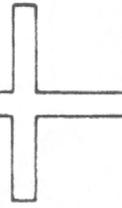


CHRISTMAS

The Servant

A Publication of The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory



Just what was it that happened that night so long ago when Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem? What was happening besides the simple birth of another baby? What was the significance of that truly awesome event? We say in the Apostles' Creed:

"I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. "

So then, this wasn't just another baby and just another birth on just another night. This indeed was the night when God became man. God took on the flesh of man in his birth. He, the second Person of the Trinity, God the Son, because of his great love for mankind, took man's nature in the womb of the Virgin Mary of her substance.

In the teaching of the Church this is called the Incarnation. And it all was accomplished by a miracle. Mary, the mother of God, was a virgin both before and after the birth of Jesus.

Jesus was conceived by the direct action of God, the Holy Spirit. There was no human father involved. Thus, Jesus Christ alone of all the human race was born of but one human parent. He therefore escaped all the effects of original sin and was born perfect man.

By this action however, God did not cease to be perfect God also, but added the pure human nature to his divine nature. Thus we rightfully say our Lord possesses two natures, those being: the nature of God and the nature of man united in one divine person, whole and without confusion and that being for all time.

What happened that night so long ago when Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem? Absolutely the greatest event in all the world, for Jesus Christ - true God and true man - came to dwell among us, as our Savior, our Lord and our God.

This then is the night in our Church's cycle of time when we again recall that great event of the birth of Jesus Christ. We usually do this by celebrating a glorious midnight Mass with all the majesty, beauty and honor befitting a new-born king.

Joy ,to the world, the Lord has come!

Grace, peace, love, and a blessed Christmas to you all.

--Augustine James, BSG Omaha Nebraska

Volume VI, Number 12

DECEMBER 1982

THE SERVANT is published monthly by the Brotherhood of St. Gregory, Inc. , a Religious Community for men within the Anglican Communion. Kindly address all inquiries to: The Brotherhood of St. Gregory, St. Bartholomew's Church, 82 Prospect Street, White Plains, New York 10606, U. S.



A WORD IS BORN

Is there a word that would adequately sum up the significance of Christ's birth, one word that would add up all that Christ means? "Love" might be the word, but here in the manger we see a new kind of love that the world had never seen before. This new love demanded a new word. When Christ was born a new word also had to be born.

This love is a personalized love. Christmas is not a love in general but a love in particular. It is true "God so loved the world" in the sense that his love is generally for all. On Christmas we find God's love becoming specific, personal, individual. Here in this manger-child is God's love.

This love of God's in Christ is a free love. God loves us of his own accord. A man cannot buy this love. He cannot secure a token of it even for all the money in the world. God's love is beyond price and he loves us because he is love. It is his nature, his very being. At Christmas, one of the most fundamental questions of his life is answered: "How does God feel toward us?" The answer is love.

This love of God is an undeserved love. How could we, as sinners, ever deserve this pure, free love of God; He knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows all our sins and shortcomings. Because of this, St. Paul shouts, "Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!" The unspeakable gift became articulate on Christmas, in terms of love.

Our gratitude for God's love is expressed in our love to our fellow man. We cannot love God except through others -- and when we love others, we love God. The second commandment is "Love thy neighbor as thyself." It is a follow-up of the first command.

Love-- a new word is born again at Christmas.

--Richard Thomas, BSG Superior

DECEMBER INTERCESSIONS

For the departed: Angelina Boucher
Carolyn Nichols
Betty Schellenbach

The Rev'd Rene M. R. E. Bozarth, SSP
Sr. Elizabeth Marian, CSJB
Carmella Tedeschi

the Brothers of Provinces III, V, VI, VII and VIII:

John, Kevin James, Thomas Joseph, Thaddeus David, Augustine James, Edward, Paul and Vincent Andrew
and those with whom they serve:

The Rt. Rev'd Matthew P. Bigliardi
The Rt. Rev'd Gerald N. McAllister
The Rt. Rev'd John T. Walker
The Rev'd Henry N. Fukui, Provincial Chaplain
The Rev' d David Thomas Andrews
The Rev' d Elwyn D. Brown
The Revd Wayland E. Melton
The Rev' d Richard M. Rowland
The Rev'd Robert J. Vanderau, Jr.

The Rt. Rev'd William G. Black
The Rt. Rev'd Charlie F. McNutt
The Rt. Rev'd James Daniel Warner

The Very Rev' d John P. Bartholomew
The Rev' d Stuart K. Frane
The Rev'd Patrick H. Reardon
The Rev' d Thomas F. Ryan
The Rev'd Frank S. Walinski

and for other Religious:

Sacramentine Nuns
Society of St. John the Evangelist
Sisterhood of St. John the Divine

Visitation Nuns
Oblates of the Incarnate Word
Sisterhood of the Holy Nativity (in their
Centennial year)

Special intentions for:

The Companions and Friends of the Brotherhood
The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk England
Louise Dobson
Leo Collins
Rickey D. Edwards

Martin, SCK
Stephen, BSG

Thanksgiving for:

The Life Profession of Vows by Sr. Mary Lynne, CSJB
The birthdays of Brs. Richard Thomas (Dec. 8th), Jason Jude (Dec. 16th) and Roy (Dec. 19th)
The Institution of the Rev'd Donald R. Shearer as Rector of All Saints' Church, Orange NJ
The loving support of the Very Rev'd John P. Bartholomew, the Rev'd Fr. Karl E. Marsh, Elinor Bartholomew, and the Vestry of St. Mark's, Hastings NE
The twentieth anniversary of the Ordination of the Rev'd Frank L. Knight, Provincial Chaplain (II) to the Sacred Priesthood
The Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

For the ill: Joseph Belanger

The Most Rev'd George T. Koerner

For those who serve the Church, especially:

The Most Rev'd Robert A. K. Runcie
The Rt. Revd Horace W. B. Donegan
Visitor Emeritus

—
The Rt. Rev'd John M. Allin
The Rt. Rev'd Paul Moore, Jr.
Visitor and Protector



We would like to take this opportunity to announce the names of several new Companions to the Brotherhood of St. Gregory. They are: Mr. Jeff Emmett of Tullahoma TN; Mr. Grosvenor Calkins, Jr. of Newton MA; Mr. Kent P. Lomison of Oakland IA; and Messrs. Timothy James Peters, Robert J. Ponec and James R. P. Pierson, all of Omaha NE. Welcome to all of you !

Companions are men or women, eighteen years of age or older, who are confirmed members of the Episcopal Church or other Church of the Anglican Communion. They follow a simple rule of devotion and service, and aid the Brotherhood in its works and prayer-life in both temporal and spiritual ways.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Companions should speak to a Brother of the Community, or write to the Director of Companions, Br. Anthony Francis, BSG, 122 Windsor Terrace, Yonkers NY 10701. He will provide you with further information and an application.

We urge all who feel themselves so called, to enter into this strengthening of a life of prayer and service, stabilized by a Rule and partaking of the commonality of worship and mission made possible by a sense of community.

THE APPEAL FOR MISSION

As the Brotherhood of St. Gregory grows, so does its need for assistance from the widespread community of friends and supporters which have been of so much help in the past.

We ask your continued help in our work of service to the needs of the Church. Your contribution, which may be sent to us in the envelope provided, will assist us in carrying out our varied missions of teaching, service and prayer.

Your contributions are tax-deductible, and a receipt will be provided to you if you so request. Again, many thanks for your support in the past.

May God bless you and keep you always in his care. Amen.

(The stained glass representation of St. Gregory the Great on the following page is from the north transept window of the Church of the Mediator, Bronx NY. It was executed by the Kempe Studios, London England.)



*The Brotherhood of
Saint Gregory*

*wishes you a joyous
Christmas.*

