

The Brotherhood

of Saint Gregory

The Servant

THE SERVANT is published monthly by the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, a Religious Community of the Episcopal Church. Kindly address all inquiries to: The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, Saint Bartholomew's Church, 82 Prospect Street, White Plains, NY 10606.

Volume IX
Number 2
February 1985

83

What Is Hope?

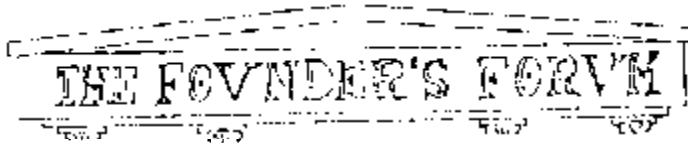
The dictionary tells us that hope is "a feeling that what is wanted will happen." How does this definition relate to us as Christians? In what should we be placing our hope and how should that hope be manifested in our lives?

Peter tells us in his first Epistle that our faith and hope should be in God, the same God who has been revealed in Christ as a saving God who is loving and forgiving. Through Christ we have seen that God can bring good out of evil and life out of death. For this reason we have faith that the love of God has the power to transform, and that it can be trusted. As Christians it should be clear that our hope should lie with God.

Having determined that we should put our hope in God, how should that hope be manifested in our lives and in the world? We must realize that God, as seen in the Good News of the New Testament, is working in the world to fulfill the purpose of his creation: the establishment of that creation as the good thing it was always intended to be. As Christians, we should be able to see the injustice and suffering in the world without giving in to despair and cynicism. We must realize that these things are not the will or the work of God, but are the results of the sins of men and women. We must be prepared to liberate the gospel from its otherworldliness, from the idea that only at some future date in some future world will the gospel be fulfilled. Christian doctrine bears witness to a gospel of freedom, a gospel of the present as well as of the future. The Good News gives us freedom to love, freedom from self-centeredness, and freedom to have solidarity with the poor and despised of the world. This freedom will be manifested in the joyful way in which we serve God and humanity. It will be expressed in self-restraint and limitation in our use of the natural resources of the earth. We will have the realization that we do not have the right to unlimited possession and consumption of wealth, nor the mandate to oppress and control others.

So, as Christians, we answer the question, "What is hope?" in this way: Hope is having faith in God and in his gospel of freedom. Hope is using our lives to help make his creation what it was intended to be, to join in solidarity with the poor and oppressed of the world. Hope is working and striving toward the will of God, given to us through Jesus, that the kingdom of God may be at hand. Our hope should not be thought of as only in the future; as Christians our hope is also now.

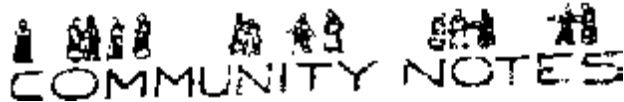
Br. Edward Munro is a professed brother serving in Bowie, MD. He recently received a Certificate in a first seminar course in Industrial Chaplaincy.



The Transforming Touch

The Christian world remembers the upper room, the table with cup and bread, the fellowship and fear of discovery, and *the supper* itself which became a sacrament. All this needs no comment. Consider, though, how whatever Jesus touched was transformed. He touched a Roman coin and taught *the* world the proper way to distribute loyalties. He touched the sick and healed them. He touched bread and wine and made them sacraments. Like the power and ministry of silence, consider the power of the act of reaching out to touch. Consider too all the unrecorded acts of Jesus: all the nameless seekers who reached their hands toward his and found help and strength. His touch, so human, was a gesture of the divine. How much this sad world needs that healing and transforming touch! Jesus wished to share that with all his friends. They and we can ask of him no more blessed gift.

Richard Thomas
8ieroaekl. BSG
Superior General



Washington DC: Brs. Stephen Storen, Edward Munro and Novice Br. Thomas Martin Little paid a call on Br. John Nidecker, who is currently recovering from major surgery. He remains in our prayers especially in this critical time recovery. The brothers then attended a Service of Thanksgiving in honor of the life and ministry of Bishop Sooford, at the Washington Cathedral.

Boston MA: Br. Laurence Andrew Keller and Novice Br. Bernard Fessenden represented the Brotherhood at the first profession of vows of Sister Jennifer Anne of the Sisters of St. Margaret. They had a delightful time, and were able to talk with representatives of several religious communities, both Episcopal and Roman Catholic....
....The two brothers joined Brs. Luke Anthony Nowicki

Mount Vernon VA: Novice Br. **Thomas Martin Little** has become very involved in his new parish here.. He is working with the rector, the Rev. R. L. Stinson, who is active in industrial chaplaincy.

Pasadena CA: Br. **Tobias Stanislas Haller** attended a two-day consultation on Hispanic Ministry in the Episcopal Church, at the invitation of the Rev. Herbert Arrunategui, national Hispanic officer. The consultation focused on the difficulties in this ministry, as well as the unique opportunities it provides for service to the homeless and the stranger.

Madison WI: Br. **Luke Anthony Nowicki** had a very pleasant visit with Novice Br. Bernard Francis LaReau. Br. Bernard Francis has been very busy in the diocese, working on the drafting committee for the third year of "Share Your Faith."

New York NY: This year's annual Advent Retreat for the brothers of Province II was hosted by Postulant **John Francis Jones** at St. George's Church. As always, the day was one for reflection and recollection, and those attending heard fine meditations by Brs. **William Francis Jones** and **Stephen Storen**, along with Novice Br. **Joseph Thomas Irvin** (a guest from Province I!) and Postulant Earl Christian.



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest Companion, the Rev. Canon George C. Stacey, of Milwaukee WI. Companions follow a simple Rule of prayer and devotion, and offer support to the Brotherhood in its varied works and

Br. Luke Anthony Nowicki, BSG
Director of Companions
10 Park Street #10 C
North Easton MA 02356.

Following Christ into the Future

I remember being a small boy traveling with my parents while on vacation. My father was in a particular hurry to get to a place where we had never been. He was driving on a road which we had never seen, although we had vacationed in that area for many years. My mother kept asking him if he knew where we were. My father said that while he was not sure exactly where we were, he thought that if we took the road to the left, we would come out on the highway some place near our destination.

-more-

Needless to say, we took the road and stayed on it even after the pavement turned to dirt. We still continued until we ended the trek in the back yard of a rather disgruntled farmer!

This story has given us many laughs over the years. It gave us a valuable lesson besides. Most often, when I am not sure where I am, I will ask directions! But even this is not foolproof.

First, we must decide that the person giving directions is one whom we can trust. Second, we must be sure we understand the directions. Third, we must be sure we follow these directions.

Isn't that like the Journey on which Christ has invited us to Join him? Isn't this the person whose directions I wish to follow? the person who will be my guide? who will give me the right directions? Will I not be attentive to him, and understand and ponder his words? And must I not use all my strength and commitment to follow these directions, once given?

What better guide to our Heavenly Father than his only Son? Aren't we more likely to follow the directions of the person who knows the area? Isn't the son of the proprietor more likely to get us to his father's shop, than someone who has only heard of it?

Not only is Christ waiting for us to ask him to help us, he has even extended an invitation to us: "Pick up your cross, come, and follow me." What better guide than one who is willing to walk the Journey through with us? to walk the way before us?

Christ has not only taught us the way to salvation, he has also made an example of his life that we might have the way shown to us. Knowing the frailties of our human nature, Christ knew that **we** would waver in our commitment. But he even gave us the example of how to handle these frailties: when he fell under the weight of his cross, he showed us the manner in which we should follow him, to get up and continue again.

So let us get up, pick up our crosses, and trust that Christ will help us to carry them, as he was helped by Simon. Let us trust in the directions that he has given us, and no longer fear to follow him into the future, into death, and beyond death to life everlasting.

Novice Br. Bernard Fessenden is on mission to the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Boston. He is a nurse who specializes in addiction treatment, and staffs a medical van for the indigent at St. John's.

FEBRUARY INTERCESSIONS

Kalendar

- 2. The Community of the Sisters of the Church
- 10. The Teachers of the Children of God
- 13. The Rev. Richard B. Lambert
- 20. The Order of Reconciliation
- 21. The Rev. Richard L. Payne
The Rev. Emmett Jarrett
- 27. Br. Paul Halsey, BSG
The Rt. Rev. Charlie F. McNutt
- 28. The Order of Agape and Reconciliation

For the ill:

Ruth Leverich	Br. John Nidecker, BSG
MaryLou Smolczynski	The Rev. Canon William Weitzel
Kathleen Kehoe	Thomas Carodiskey
Elizabeth Wetherill	Iona Duer
Tiffany Irvin	Mildred C. Ross

For the departed:

Charlotte B. Morgan	Joseph Bingaman
The Rev. Francis Fitz-Hugh	The Rev. George C. Collard
Mildred Schaaf	The Rev. Frank Keeton
Dora Allin	Alexander Greaves

Special Intentions for:

The Rev. E. A. St. John	Philip Clark
The Visitation Nuns	The Sacramentine Nuns
Brs. Anthony Francis Tornabene, John Peter Clark, and Paul Halsey	
Charlotte Michael Anthony	Traci Gordon
Melissa Cynthia	Sandy Jeffrey Lee-Bell
Dean Bartholomew and Elinor	Connie Hutchins
The Mission in Bangladesh of Drs. Tom and Sharon Kuhn, and Walter and Sarah Honaman -- may God bless their work there	
Carl Sorg Donovan Bowley	Evelyn Haller
The First Vows of Profession of Sister Jennifer Anne, SSM	
The Ordination of the Rev. Charles P. Pridemore to the presbyterate	
The Marriages of:	
Joseph and Marilyn Gibbons	Michael and Harriet Sexton
Royal and Debora Craig	Robert and Tami Wise

