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Walking With Jesus

Many people think being a Christian and walking with Jesus are the same thing; but to me they are very different. Some Christians accept the saving grace of Christ but go no further. Walking with Jesus means so much more. I now live a far distance from my father --I am still his son, but we can't walk together. So Christians can be children of God, and still not choose to walk with him.

When a child goes on a walk with a parent there are three ways to walk. If we walk behind we are safest -- following the footsteps set before us and avoiding the pitfalls on the path. If we charge ahead we make our own path, and if it turns out to be dangerous, the parent will have to try to catch up and protect us. If we walk side by side we will still see the pitfalls and avoid them, but we can also discuss the path and crossroads before us. We can be guided away from too dangerous a path, but helped to take on and succeed in a challenging one. If we start this walk, by salvation, the road lies before us --all God asks is that we stay in his will every day and go with him. We don't need to know the ultimate goal, we only need to accompany him.

The apostle Paul, as he wrote in the Second Letter to Timothy, was blessed by knowing the goal for his life. He had accomplished what God had set for him to do. He had run the race and finished the course.

If we will stay in God's will, doing day by day what is set for us to do, we will not die until that course is finished. In order for us to be taken from this world we must either complete God's will for our life, or choose to operate outside of his will.

All walks are not the same. I believe I have been called to walk on the path of a religious brother. That doesn't make my path any better or worse than anyone else's, just different. It isn't important which path we are on -- only that the path we take is the one meant for us, rather than trying to force ourselves onto another's path.

Pray for guidance, for a daily walk with Christ, and for the realization of the blessings we enjoy from God at every moment.

Novice Brother Thomas Martin Little is a gunnery sergeant in the U. S. Marine Corps, working in computer fields. He assists the rector of St. James', Mt. Vernon, Virginia, in many capacities, and is specially charged with welcoming newcomers to the parish.

THE FOVNDER'S FORVM

The Eucharist -- Why Bread and Wine?

It seems that there are no two substances that better serve their purpose than bread and wine. As bread is made of many ingredients and wine is made from many grapes, so we are the many parts that make up the Body of Christ.

Thinking about these two substances -- both of them fruit of the soil and work of human hands -- it is interesting to note the suffering they endure to become the final product. Wheat has to pass through the trials of cold weather, be ground in a mill and subjected to tremendous heat before it can become bread. Grapes must-be subjected to the wine-press and have their life squeezed out of them to become wine. Parallels to Gethsemane and Calvary, these two elements symbolize the passion and suffering of our own salvation - - for unless we die to ourselves, we cannot live in Christ.

There are no two substances which have been more widely used as nourishment than bread and wine. In presenting these elements at the altar we are bringing ourselves. When we take the bread and wine into ourselves and they become part of us, at the same time Jesus takes us and makes us one with him, in and through his Body and Blood.

Richard Thomas Biernacki, BSG
Superior General

C O M M U N I T Y N O T E S

MANHATTAN, NY: On the Feast of St. Alban (June 22nd) the Diocese of New York completed a year-long commemoration of its bicentennial with a Eucharist concelebrated by the Rt. Rev'd Paul Moore, Jr., Bishop of New York, and Bishops J. Stuart Wetmore and Jose A. Ramos. Religious communities which are currently serving or have served the diocese in the past were the guests of honor, and nine orders were represented in choir. The Superior General was pleased to head the Brotherhood's delegation, accompanied by Drs. James Teets, John Peter Clark, Tobias Stanislas Haller, William Bunting and Novice Br. John Francis Jones.

Novice Br. John Francis' wife, Maryellen, represented our Companions, together with their son and daughter. At the close of the service Bishop Moore dedicated and blessed a time capsule recently placed in the cathedral's south nave wall, in which many artifacts reflecting the life of the Church in this diocese, including a biographical sketch of the Brotherhood and our Rule, are sealed. The capsule will be opened at a similar service held on this date in the year 2085 (four of our brothers will be attentively watching these proceedings from their 'box seats' in the cathedral's columbarium!). Following the service a picnic was held on the Great South Lawn and there was ample time for sharing food and fellowship with the clergy, religious and many friends in attendance.

BRONX NY: Novice Br. Earl Christian is coach for the St. Andrew's (Castle Hill) Junior Basketball Team. He's proud to report their victory (66 to 34) over a local Baptist congregation's team. He enjoys working with the young people, and claims that the secret is in treating them like young people. He hopes to develop softball and girls' basketball teams as well.

ANAHEIM CA: The General Convention will have two of the Brotherhood's members on tap -- the Superior General will be working in his capacity as secretary to the executive officer of the General Convention; Br. Tobias Stanislas will be in the Church Center "Communication" booth. We will report in the November issue on any happenings of interest to our readers. Should you be at the Convention, do stop by to visit with us.

LONDON, ENGLAND: Br. Tobias Stanislas' June article, "The [Imaginary] Letter of Paul to the Church at Durham," was published by the Church Times, the weekly Church of England newspaper.

BROTHER

HEALER

ENABLER

PROCLAIMER



BRONX NY: Manhattan College was the site for this year's National Assembly of Religious Brothers annual conference and meeting. Many of the members of the Brotherhood are members of this almost entirely Roman Catholic organization, and we are grateful for the privilege this gives us: being on the cutting edge of ecumenism. We are grateful for all that our Roman brothers have taught us, and know that they value us as well.

This year's theme was "Brother --Healer, Enabler, Proclaimer." Various events, meditations, reports, worship and workshops centered on these inter-related themes. The opening keynote address was by Sister Clare Fitzgerald, SSND, of the Vatican Commission for the

Study of Religious Life in the U.S. We were very moved by her address, for so much of what she had to ^{say}, while applied by her to the Roman Catholic Church in particular, was of immediate and heartfelt relevance to us as well. It was very moving to hear Sr. Clare use many of the same images, sources and arguments which we had put forth in our own Special Report on the religious life (the August issue of *The Servant*). The triple facets of the original charism of the community, the adaptation of the ministry of the community to the changed circumstances of the world, and the radical reliance on the Gospel -- first articulated by Pope Paul VI only twenty years ago -- are the foundations upon which renewal of the religious life must be built up.

Equally interesting were the presentations by Sr. Anna Polcino, SCMM, former president of the National Guild of Catholic Psychiatrists, and Br. Leonard A. Voegtle, FMS, an expert in canon law. Brs. Richard Thomas, William Francis Jones, and Tobias Stanislas were able to attend almost all of the conference. Several other brothers were able to Join them for the closing awards on Saturday evening, at which three NARB members were honored with awards for their work as Healer (Br. Cosmas Herlihy, OSF), Enabler (Br. Loughlan Sofield, ST), and Proclaimer (Br. William Barrett, OFM).

The warmth and loving support of this all too brief weekend will not be forgotten. It was a time of healing, enabling and proclamation. We pray that we may always be filled with the spirit we experienced among our brothers in Christ.



Br. Richard Thomas



"O, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity."

