



WORSHIP

PREPARED, SEEKING AND DETERMINED

Many times some of the feelings we have concerning worship can be intensified and improved, given some obvious actions on our part.

It would make a tremendous difference if we first *come prepared*. There are few people who really take the time to prepare for worship. Those of us involved in the conduct of worship are often guilty of this : the sanctuary party, the musicians, the acolytes - in a hurry, making last minute preparations or no preparation at all. As we enter upon the moment, think about God and say a prayer for those who will offer their best in the time ahead. Pray for the preacher; pray for the organist - pray for the congregation.

We should come *seeking*. The services of the church should never become a matter of habit. They should never be a burden of duty or a hallmark of respectability. They should never be the satisfying of a

convention. Rather, they should be a deliberate attempt to come out of the world to find contact with God. One of the great secrets of success in the business of life is to know what we want, when we are going to do a thing; and when we come to church we should want God.

We should come *determined*. Those who come to church only to get, will in the end get nothing. We should come determined to give our interest, our prayer, our devotion, our sympathy. The success of any gathering, the happiness of any party, is always dependent on the people who are prepared to give themselves to the fellowship of the occasion.

When we come to church, we ought to come prepared. We should come seeking. We should come determined to give all of ourselves.

Richard Thomas Biernacki, BSG
Superior General

Thought for peacemakers :

More than a million dollars a minute are spent to feed the military machine by the United States and the Soviet Union alone. Ten hours of such spending would instead feed the world; a mere four hours of that spending could eradicate malaria from the face of the earth. The price of just one modern fighter plane could inoculate three million children against major childhood diseases. The price of one nuclear submarine with its missiles . . . would provide 100,000 working years of nursing care for the elderly. The money spent on worldwide armaments would buy 600,000 schools, or homes for 30 million, 30,000 fully equipped hospitals, or 210,000 factories, or an irrigation system to provide food for a billion people. In a world sick with violence, the words of Jesus spoken to one woman echo with relevance for all humanity: "Go in peace, and be healed of your disease." (Mark 5: 34)

- - *Dr. Randolph Nugent,*
General Secretary,
United Methodist Board of Global Ministries

Setting the Record Straight

In a strongly worded letter, the Brotherhood has been taken to task by a California-based group for not accurately representing the response we have received to our *Special Report* on the religious life in the Episcopal Church.

Of the scores of responses and comments we received, only three were negative. Two of these (including one from the group mentioned above) were highly critical of the tone of the *Report*, which they saw as "divisive" and "back-biting." We did not include these particular comments among our "Responses to the *Special Report*" in the November *Servant* for three reasons: 1) We were concerned with matters of content, not style. 2) The intent of the *Special Report* was provocative and prophetic, which entails a certain risk of being offensive -- as we pointed out in the preamble to the *Report* itself -- and we feel that several of the responses we included did reflect this emotional reaction and concern. 3) The report did not in fact turn out to have a divisive result, though that had been a possibility. We saw little point in reporting on an unrealized foreboding.

The third letter offered specific criticisms of ideas which the writer perceived to have been expressed in the *Special Report*. However, the *Special Report* did not, as this reader saw it, suggest that the traditional religious should give up their vows. What was intended as an *apologia* for the Brotherhood's understanding **of its own members' vows** was misinterpreted as an attack upon the traditional vows as **they are understood in other communities**. We contacted the author directly, in addition to contacting all of the communities in order to reassure them on this point before the General Convention meeting.

The California group also states that the *Special Report* is full of factual inaccuracies and faulty reasoning, but does not give specifics. This surprised us, since the members of the group did not point out any factual errors either in their first letter or in person when we met them at Convention.

However, in rereading the *Special Report*, we have come upon a few errors ourselves, and would like to take this opportunity to correct them.

In the first paragraph on page 2, the last part of the third sentence should read: ". . . the Roman Catholic Church includes the term 'religious' under the 'consecrated life.'" The next, to the last line should read, ". . . religious orders and secular institutes are now called Institutes of consecrated life."

On page 5, the last sentence of the third paragraph should read, "It was at that time that the two traditional religious communities to apply for recognition were founded,"

The fourth sentence of the third paragraph on page 6 should read, "Under the Roman canons the Brotherhood would not be a "society of apostolic life." Roman Catholic religious and secular Institutes and societies of apostolic life require their members to be unmarried.

These are the only factual errors of which we are aware. We hope that this has allayed the suspicions of any who believe that we would distort facts for our own end. We are far from infallible, but are interested only in the truth.

Here and there with the Brotherhood..
COMMUNITY NOTES

NEW ORLEANS LA : Br. Tobias Stanislas Haller was recorder for "A Time for Under-standing" -- a colloquium dealing with the problems of Central America, and the possibilities for the Episcopal Church to minister in this potentially explosive region. The colloquium was sponsored by the National Hispanic Officer, the Rev. Dr. Herbert Arrunategui. Participants covered the widest possible representation of the Episcopal Church, both in the United States and from the Central Ameri- can dioceses. Br. Tobias Stanislas is in the process of producing a first draft of the report on the colloquium's findings.

NEW YORK NY : Br. John Peter Clark represented the Brotherhood at two Manhattan events this winter past: the AIDS Memorial service at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and the Institution of the Rev. Chester Lovell Talton as seventh rector of St. Philip's Church.

WHITE PLAINS NY: The theme of last Advent's Province II Quiet Day was, "Whose birthday is it, anyway?" The day was structured around meditations by the Superior General, Novice Br. Earl Christian, and Postulant George Keith, together with the daily offices, and the eucharist, celebrated for us by the Rev. William D. Dearnaley (News Director for the Episcopal Church Center). Brothers from the Province, and several Companions and friends attended.

BRONX NY : Several area brothers were able to attend the first profession of vows of Br. David Lied] in the Roman Catholic Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Penance, which has a friary in the South Bronx. We pray for David, as he joins the heralds of the great King, and rejoice with him in this new commitment.

YONKERS NY: Br, Anthony Francis Torna - bene's parish, St. Paul's, welcomed the Advent season with a festival procession of lessons and carols, in which Br. Tobias Stanislas was invited to take part. The officiant was the Rev. Edward Tickner, and the music was directed by William Hearst, the parish organist.

After Isaiah 58

**Fasting is not not eating,
but sharing with the hungry.**

**Poverty is not not having,
but sharing with the poor.**

**Chastity is not not coupling,
but loving all in Christ.**

**-And obedience is not not willing,
but willing as God wills.**

New Brochure Available

A new brochure describing the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory and its work is available to all requesting one. Send requests to our "home office" at Saint Bartholomew's Church.

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