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J e s u s , t h e D o o r

I am the door; anyone who comes into the fold through me shall be safe. He shall go in and out and shall find pasturage. —John 10:9

As a young boy I remember once entering a contraption called "The Maze" at a local carnival fun house. Upon going into a tunnel-like passage, I came into a room full of doors and mirrors. Momentarily, panic gripped me. How would I exit : which door?

the early 60s I came to New York for the first time on my way to visit the Franciscan Friars at Little Portion, Mount Sinai, Long Island. I was told at the bus terminal that I had to locate the Long Island Railroad in order to get where I was going. I entered this underground maze beneath the city of New York to search for the gate to the railroad. Again panic struck, as my eyes darted about in all directions, seeing only a multitude of passageways going this way and that—and I wondered again: which door?

Even today, I still get a momentary feeling of panic deep inside as I'm told at O'Hare International Airport that I must go to Gate 22A on Concourse B, when that's nowhere near where I am presently standing. Looking in all directions, searching the blank expressions of countless others who are anxiously seeking their proper gate, I again wonder : which door?

John the Evangelist was more fortunate. He had found the door. He knew the way. He knew that the way was through Jesus.

John knew for certain that this was true because Jesus himself had told him, "I am the door; whoever enters through me will be safe." Jesus not only had said, "I am the door," but also that he was "the Good Shepherd," who would lay down his life for his sheep. John knew that what Jesus said was true, because he knew who Jesus was : the Son of God, and he had given his solemn assurance : "Amen. Amen."—verily, truly, solemnly— "I AM the door."

How reassuring these words are for us today. They strengthen us to seek, to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is the Good Shepherd, he is the door: he is the way, the truth and life.

Br. Augustine James Baird has been at St. Martin of Tours Church, Omaha, Nebraska, for 16 years. He has served as a member of the vestry, as senior warden, and as treasurer. He is presently cantor and chief cook for parish suppers. He also conducts retreats, and lectures on contemporary religious life in the Episcopal Church. He is acting consultant for The American Indian Center of Omaha, as a fund raiser, and assists with Transitions to Freedom of Dubuque, Iowa, an ex-offender rehabilitation program.

Foundations for Helping Others The Joy of the Master

We hear a great deal today about helping others : we shelter the homeless; we feed the hungry; we clothe those who are in need. And all of these actions are based on the joy that Jesus found in similar situations. Jesus found great joy in his family in Nazareth. There must have been a lot of laughter and *happiness* in that house.

He also found much joy and enjoyment in a good meal. Some of the greatest lessons he taught were given at the breaking of the bread and sharing the cup with friends around the dinner table.

The friendship we offer others is also founded in and patterned after Jesus' concern for his friends. He spent many happy hours with Mary, Martha and Lazarus in Bethany, taking time out from his busy ministry.

One of the most significant acts we can perform, patterned after Jesus' own example, is to find joy in helping those who have fallen stand on their own to live again and find new life. His beautiful parable about a father's love that forgives and welcomes home a penitent son closes with the preparations for a meal and a dance to celebrate the homecoming.

Each time we help those in need clothe the needy, feed the hungry and house the homeless we follow the great example of him whose life was marked by these same actions. We have a precedent—we have but to act and follow his lead. Therein is joy, and life.

Richard Thomas Biernacki
Superior General

Here and there with the Brotherhood...

COMMUNITY NOTES

Browning Special Guest at Lesser Chapter

This year's annual Lesser Chapter of the Brotherhood was held in New York City from March 7—9, and brothers from across the country came to share in the fellowship of this family reunion. This year the Superior General had a surprise up his habit sleeve, which the brothers were not to know about until Saturday afternoon.

Saturday was to be a time of togetherness and prayer. The entire day was spent at the Church of St. Luke in the Fields, Greenwich Village, and the rites of the Brotherhood took place during the Offices and Eucharist of the day. At Morning Prayer three postulants were received



Michael David Elvestrom is admitted to the postulancy of the Brotherhood.

into the novitiate of the community : brothers Matthew Staples (Church of the Advent, Boston MA), Randal Anthony Elliott (St. James, Milwaukee WI) and George Keith (Calvary/St. George, New York NY). At the same service Michael David Elvestrom (St. Stephen's, Harrisburg IL) was admitted to the postulancy of the community. At the Noonday Office, the following brothers renewed their annual vows of profession : Thomas Joseph Ross (St. Michael and All Angels, Cincinnati OH), Tobias Stanislas Haller (St. Luke in the Fields, New York NY), Thaddeus David Williams (St. Matthew's, Sunbury PA), Augustine James Baird (St. Martin of Tours, Omaha NE), Edward Munro (St. Luke's, Annapolis MD) and Bernard Fessenden (St. John the Evangelist, Boston MA).

The early afternoon was spent in fellow—ship and preparation for the main service of the convocation : a votive Eucharist of St. Gregory the Great with the first profession of vows of Brothers John Francis Jones (Christ Church, Suffern NY) and Earl Christian (St. Andrew's, Bronx NY). The special surprise guest for this



Br. Earl Christian making his first vows of profession to the Superior General.

service was the Most Rev. Edmond L. Browning , Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, who was accompanied by his chaplain, the Rev. Richard S. O.

Chang. Also participating in the service were the Rev. Ledlie I. Laughlin, Jr. (rector of St. Luke's), celebrant; the Rev. Glenn B. Chalmers (vicar of Grace Church, Elizabeth NJ), deacon; Mr. Frank L. Tedeschi (publications director at the Episcopal Church Center), subdeacon; and the Rev. David G. Henritzky, OSL (minister of the United Methodist Church), preacher.



The newly professed brothers are girded with the knotted cinctures which symbolize profession to the Rule of the Brotherhood.

Following the service a reception was _ held for the newly professed brothers at the Episcopal Church Center, where Bishop Browning was also honored with a surprise "anticipated" birthday celebration.



"Our favorite Primate" receives a special birthday gift— a mitred gorilla!



The Presiding Bishop samples some of Companion Delphy Irvin's dessert, which has come to be known as "sin."

Bishop Browning chats with Br. Anthony Francis and his wife Susan.

The Brother in Our Midst

When Bernie first approached me with the idea of joining the Brotherhood of St. Gregory, I must admit to a certain feeling of disquietude, for I had no idea of what he was getting into. One of those "far out" esoteric groups, perhaps? And we were already talking about the possibility of the diaconate for Bernie. I thought I'd never get him off his knees or out where the "action is." Not to worry. God does indeed open up possibilities to us if we'll only just look.

As we explored the Brotherhood and its life and expectations it became clear that here was a kind of life and vocation which made a lot of sense for Bernie, and probably would for a lot of other people too. It's a way of living a disciplined life through a Rule and a community, under authority, but still functioning in the world in whatever ministry God has given. In Bernie's case, his ministry is teaching, and I can't help but think that the children in his charge benefit enormously from the life of prayer and discipline, reading the Daily Offices, and studying that is his routine through obedience to the community. He may never mention a word about it to his kids, but it must surely add a crucial dimension.

What about the diaconate? Well, the Brotherhood seems to be tailored far better to Bernie's talents and faith-journey, and it leads me to wonder how many others might find this yet another option as they look at God's continual beckoning along the Way. Ordination is not, after all, the only other choice if one wishes to pursue something to enhance his/her ministries in the world. Think about it.

As a parish, we're delighted to have one of the brothers among us. It helps us too, to continually look at our own ministries as he moves among us in his distinctive garb (worn only at church functions—a word to the timid). His vows of service and obedience are a great comfort to his rector, who knows that when needed he'll say "yes." (It also means being careful about how much is asked!) And we can see him growing in spiritual depth.

So give it some thought. God knows, it may be for you.

—The Rev. Lynde E. May IV Rector St. Luke's, Madison WI in the Milwaukee Churchman, March 1986