

The Brotherhood  
of Saint Gregory  
**The Servant**

July 1986

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Our Hundredth Issue

This marks the one hundredth issue in the publication history of The Servant, a history which began in January of 1977, when Br. John E. Nidecker produced the first issue of a newsletter for the community on an offset machine in a parish office in Rockville, Maryland. That first issue went to fewer than two hundred individuals. The mailing list for The Servant now numbers nearly two thousand. In addition to the domestic mailing list, a special quarterly digest of The Servant goes to foreign and overseas readers.

Over the years the format of the Brotherhood's newsletter has changed. Pictured above are some of the changes this little publication has gone through. The Servant has been fairly good about maintaining its monthly status, though a few issues were combined (which accounts for the arrival at issue one hundred this month). Long time readers will remember "The Superior's Sanctum" (now called "The Founder's Forum"); and the pleasant rambles with "The Vicar of St. Swithin's, Surrey" (a certain brother's alter ego); more recent columns include "Companions' Corner," "The Vesting Drawer" and "Ecumenical Notes."

The Servant is a major ministry of the Brotherhood. Many members of the community have had a hand in the production of the newsletter. Editors have included: first, Br. John, then Br. James E. Teets, Br. Richard Thomas Biernacki, and the current editor, Br. Tobias Stanislas Haller. Nearly all the articles and features are written by members of the community, and we invite "taddling" for use in other publications and parish newsletters (the most recent was a Spanish translation of a "Founder's Forum" in a Buenos Aires parish!). The monthly gathering to paste on labels and bundle the various coded groups for the post office has been a time of fellowship and hard work for the brethren of Province II.

Thanks to you, our readers, for your continued support of our ministry. Here's to another hundred issues!

## Founder's Forum

### God Never Gives Up

In the book The Color Purple one of the characters tells us that she rarely finds God in church and that she finds a lot of people there searching for him and waiting for him to arrive. Well—I don't feel the same way at all; I like to think that God is always there and never gives up on us. In this age when so much around us is falling apart (or seems to be) and there is so much need and hunger in the world, God does have his hands full—but I know he cares about this fragile world and that he never gives up.

There are several illustrations we can use :

- Sheep wander from the fold and become preoccupied by things in front of them and rarely look up to see where they are going.
- People (including those under vows! ) forget the bitter lessons from the past and stumble blindly into new problems.
- People are "lost" through no fault of their own but through the neglect of others.

God seeks. God is an activist, involved in his world. If **we** search our minds carefully enough, we will see that what happens is God's quest. We see, from the study of Jesus' life, that one "new" teaching was "seeking God." This is perhaps the most important element of that teaching.

We know that no matter how many people populate the world, God places great value on each soul. How many times do we find the word "one" in the parables of Jesus? One is enough for his love and all are not too many. Each one is precious.

God never gives up. Theologians call this "prevenient grace"—which means that God is always running before us; meeting up with us at unsuspecting moments. When people think they have found God, it is often discovered that it was God who actually was waiting for them.

Jesus over and over uses the word "until." "The shepherd searched "until" he found the lost sheep. The woman searched the house "until" she found the lost coin. Does "until" mean that God never gives up on any human soul and that the search is endless? I say yes. God never gives up.

Richard Thomas Biernacki, BSG  
Superior General

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### Chalice Returned to Mission

Boston MA : Because of upcoming renovations to the Cathedral of St. Paul, Brs. Christian Williams and Laurence Andrew Keller were asked to clean out the diocesan altar guild room. Over the years, boxes of unused vestments, altar hangings, robes and other liturgical ware had collected in this room. While going through the boxes, Br. Christian came across a silver and gold chalice with semiprecious stones set in the **base** in the form of a cross. Br. Laurence Andrew noted an inscription, "St. Stephen's Church, Boston —A Thank Offering." The two called Br. Roy, who serves at St. Stephen's Mission, and told him about the chalice, which, it developed, had been lost and forgotten for many years. With the permission of the diocesan altar guild, the three brothers presented the chalice to the vicar of St. Stephen's, the Rev. Richard Lampert, who thanked the brothers for the restoration of this memorial to its rightful place.