



December 1986 #105

Founder's Forum

Joy to the World

*Sing to the LORD a new song ,
for he has done marvelous things . -
- Psalm 98*

There are striking similarities in thought and expression between the Magnificat and the 98th Psalm. The Psalms which celebrate the kingship of Yahweh are called "Coronation Psalms." In these hymns of praise, Yahweh is portrayed as King of Israel. Israel constantly remembered that no matter who sat on the temporal throne, Yahweh, the LORD, was the true king.

So too, Mary proclaims her hymn in celebration of the kingship of God when she says , " My soul proclaims the greatness of the LORD; my spirit rejoices in God my savior . " And we too sing our hymn in celebrating God's kingship over the universe, 'Joy to the world, the Lord has come; let earth receive her king . "

I continue to wonder about this marvel of God becoming human. He who is great became small; he who is powerful became weak; he who is rich became poor, he who is divine became human .

Should not our attitude be one of gratitude ---• gratitude to the God who gave us salvation through his Son? In becoming our brother , he called us to serve and follow him as servants of his servants . We can then sing our song with new verses, in celebration of the Christ Child's advent in another way:

Joy to the world in our vow of poverty; joy to the world in our vow of chastity; joy to the world in our vow of obedience; that by our life and worship we may glorify God .

May God's love given in the Christ Child be a light to all humanity, and peace to each of you. □

Br. Thomas Joseph Ross Cincinnati OH

God's Great Gift

The gift God gives to us with the birth of Jesus is an unparalleled gift. This gift has no counterpart in history -- no equal . This is true for several reasons

No other religion has a risen savior . Jesus Christ left nothing behind but an empty tomb and disciples faithful to his teaching .

No other religion has a perfect Lord. Other "saviors" have blemishes; they have sin and they have imperfections. None were found or seen in Jesus.

No other religion has a loving God who seeks out those who would serve him. The God of Christianity seeks and keeps on seeking.

And finally, no other religion provides a living personality who helps meet the needs of every day; who cares enough about the nitty-gritty struggles of life and is willing to lift the sinner out of the pit.

Thanks be to God for this gift, not given through merit or standing or status — but given to everyone in this, the season of gift-giving. — RTB □



Here and there with the Brotherhood .. .

COMMUNITY NOTES

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND: Br . Laurence Andrew Keller, provincial of Province I, attended the consecration of the Rt. Rev . Richard Holloway as Bishop of Edinburgh .

CAMBRIDGE: Mk Brs. Christian Williams , Roy Tobin, Laurence Andrew, Donovan Aidan Bowley and novice Matthew Staples attended the Noble Lectures given Archbishop of Canterbury Robert A . K. Runcie , as part of the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the founding of Harvard.

SUFFERN NY: Br. William Bunting, provincial of Province II, spent a delightful week-end with Br . John Francis Jones, his wife Maryellen, and daughter Faith. He was invited by the rector of Christ Church of Ramapo to be guest preacher . Br . William then joined Br. John Francis, Maryellen and Faith on the CROP Walk to Combat Hunger .

NEW YORK NY: Novice Br . George Keith's sermon for the Last Sunday after Pentecost appears in this quarter's *Selected Sermons* . Br . George is currently working on a project for the Church Hymnal Corporation -- the compilation of data for the *Episcopal Clerical Directory* . +++ Br. Tobias Stanislas Haller took part in a seminar at the National Council of Churches on the theological implications of computer technology . He joined Dr . Paul E. G rosjean and Dr . William F . Fore on a panel which responded to keynote speaker Dr . David Lochhead, of the Vancouver School of Theology . +++ Br. James E. Teets had an unexpected opportunity to spend a few hours with a Nigerian bishop , his wife and his diocesan secretary of education. The Rt. Rev. Benjamin C. Nwankiti , Bishop of Owerri, and his party were passing through New York on their way to Springfield IL (the two dioceses enjoy a Companion relationship) and Br. James, in his new position with the World Mission unit at the Episcopal Church Center, was asked to escort the three travelers from Kennedy to LaGuardia airports. During the time between flights, there was time for a pleasant exchange of views and experiences within the Church .

HARRISBURG IL While touring the Diocese of Springfield with Bishop Donald Hultstrand, Bishop Nwankiti met another of our friars, novice Br. Michael David Elvestrom. St. Stephen's, Harrisburg, was one of the stops

to be made on the diocesan tour , and Br . Michael David was happy to be a part of the welcoming service , along with many of the local clergy and parishioners.

CLEVELAND OH: Br. Richard Thomas Biernacki served as deputy registrar for the consecration of the Rt . Rev. Arthur Williams as suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Ohio . Br . Thomas Joseph Ross made the diagonal trip from Cincinnati to attend, and had a great time seeing the Superior General at work in this capacity . There was a moment of panic when Br . Richard Thomas thought some sealing wax was permanently stuck to a beautiful oak table , but God provides -- this time in the form of a sharp butcher knife -- and all worked out well. □



As we noted in our last issue, the Superior General has appointed Br . Joseph Thomas Irvin as director of Companions . His address is:

5 Sycamore Road
Niantic CT 06357

If you are a Companion, and have not yet heard from him, then that means that for some reason you did not appear on the current roster . Please contact him at the address above right away , in order to be reinstated.

If you are not a Companion, but are interested in finding out more about becoming one , please write to him for information. □

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