

According to legend, John the Beloved Disciple was present at the falling asleep of the Blessed Mother of God

I've felt such pain before, but had the grace
to find that every pain I felt was turned
to joy. The first time was
 when Joseph learned
I was with child, before we wed. His face
was hard with anger, but his eyes were sad.
What could I say? It hurt me too, to see
that pain. But next day, Joseph came to me
and joyously retold the dream he'd had.

Love conquers pain. I know;
 I've felt the grief
of watching my own son die on the cross.
You know, John; you were there,
 and felt that loss.
But when he rose,
 the Sabbath's pain seemed brief.
Love conquered even death.
 I've known that Love.
And though I die, I'll live with him above.

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Br. Michael David Elvestrom is a liturgical artist who has provided vestments, icons and other works for many parishes and chapels. This icon is in St. Stephen's Church, Harrisburg IL. o



Icon by Br. Michael David Elvestrom, after Our Lady of Vladimir

The United Methodist Church has launched a program named "Catch the Spirit." Through the ministry of our Presiding Bishop, the Episcopal Church is involved in a similar process — and in my work at the Episcopal Church Center, I am involved in that process. It is exciting to witness those involved in the many facets of this church working on imperatives which will help focus our mission.

I would like to make some suggestions which may assist all of us, you and I, in furthering this. Ours is an exciting church; defined along broad lines with room for everyone. That's what makes this church ready for the challenge of mission and ministry. Do you discourage or encourage? When a course of action is defined, do you look for all the difficulties which make it impossible or **do you see** the possibilities which make it worth trying? Are you one who sits and considers or one who gets up to march?

Turf protection is part of the lives of many **people: do** you count your blessings and cherish the chance for new expressions of ministry or **do** you sit back and count what you believe you have lost? Do you look at a particular opportunity as a blessing, a new creation of the Holy Spirit? Do you regard a crisis as an opportunity to make all things new or do you hold onto the former in disdain for the latter? Do you look for something to criticize or do you look for something to praise?

Seeing the vision; seeing the opportunities for mission and ministry; discerning the will of the Spirit takes courage to let go of the old. "Behold, I make all things new." "All things means exactly that; *all things* -- you, me, the Church — the world. Catch the Spirit -- **see** the vision. It's yours and mine — reach for it. +

-- RTB

An Invitation to General Chapter

You are cordially invited to attend the General Chapter Festival Eucharist of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, to be held in the Friary Chapel at Graymoor, in Garrison, New York, on Saturday the 15th of August, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

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At this service,
Brother William E. Bunting
is to make his life profession of vows,
and Brother Michael David Elvestrom
is to make his first profession of annual vows.

o Beloved, remember us in prayer. o