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# HE SERVANT



**# 160**

*Epiphany / Lent 1996*

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### *The Servant*

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Published quarterly. Address all inquiries concerning this publication to the Editor.  
Superior General, Richard Thomas Biernacki Editor, Tobias Stanislas Haller*

I often read sections of Rene Bozarth's *The Single Eye*. In his chapter "The Opus Mundi" (The Work of the World), he makes the point that the church's work at all times and in all places has been preaching, teaching, and healing. It is interesting to note that, while this community was founded around church music and liturgical arts, we have come to be involved in all three key areas.

Preaching has become the shining talent of some of the brothers and sisters. Who would have imagined that, in a few short years, the Brotherhood would have so many deacons? Who would have imagined that one of the first sisters would be a priest and chaplain?

**PREACHING**

**TAKES WORDS;**

**TEACHING**

**TAKES WORDS**

**AND ACTIONS.**

**HEALING TAKES**

**A TOUCH...**

We have brothers who are teaching about God and the church in ways which do not involve a classroom or lecture hall. We have brothers who teach about holiness in their daily lives and at work. There are those who are, in fact, teaching daily by their very example in the world.

Not all are teachers; not all are preachers — but all can be healers.

Healing and the art of the outstretched hand, the hug or the smile is something which has become a great part of this community. The last healing service was one of the most powerful I have witnessed. Spontaneously singing the Trisagion, the community gathered under the healing wings of the Spirit, and healing moved across the chapel!

All of us have a part in these three ministries. Some of us don't know when we are preaching. Some are healing when they least expect it to be happening. When you say your office in public, on the train or bus, in your workplace off in a corner during a break — you are teaching those around you that it is possible to pray in the world. When you reach out to someone in difficulty and your hand touches theirs, you are healing. Remember the ministry of silence! Preaching takes words; teaching takes words and actions. Healing takes a touch or a meeting of the eyes. That's all.

These days are filled with strife and terror; filled with static and uncertainty. We, as religious in the Episcopal Church must continue to be a witness to all. Preach the word of God and preach the fullness of life in a vowed state. Teach all who would listen about the saving love of Christ and the ability to know that love. Finally, heal whenever you can: a rift between you and another member of the community; a problem in your parish; a difficulty in your family or relationship. Cultivate the three key ministries of religious life.

*RTB*

## Meeting the Community

### BEARING THE BURDEN

Robert Michael

Often people ask, “In which ministries is the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory involved?” The truth is, when I was searching for a religious community, I was not looking for a community that would supply me with an apostolate. I was already deeply involved in several types of ministry. I was searching for a community of spiritual friends among whom I could develop and foster the type of prayer I need to nourish and energize my apostolic commitments.

I am a psychologist who works primarily with gay and lesbian people. As the AIDS pandemic mushroomed in the gay community, my work necessarily veered toward the mental health dimensions of HIV and AIDS. My close proximity to the epidemic has provided me with opportunities to develop ministerial responses to specific problems. The first opportunity was to organize a network of highly trained, gay-affirmative family and couples therapists in the Boston area to provide low-cost and *pro bono* clinical and consultative services to PWAs and their families. Many of the clinicians who participate in this network have been working with PWAs since the beginning of the epidemic, and our association led to the publication of *Therapists on the Front Line. Psychotherapy with Gay Men in the Age of AIDS*, which I co-edited. This gave us a format to communicate what we had acquired over the first decade of the epi-



dem — but it also allowed us to share the tremendous cost of doing this work.

In the mid-80s, I began work as a consultant to clergy on the psychological ramifications of HIV and the response of parishes to the needs of PWAs. I found this work tremendously fulfilling, and I extended it to teaching Pastoral Care at Harvard Divinity School, and to supervising seminarians’ field placements at my parish.

The most rewarding, yet taxing, component of my ministry to the HIV community is the individual work I do with gay men. Through the course of each man’s illness, my work increasingly takes on more of the components of ministry as an individual may no longer be able to pay for psychological services, or to travel to my office to keep appointments. In the last stages of illness, my work is often to help shoulder the burden of responsibilities which the ravages of AIDS now prevent the person from carrying.

At the heart of this work is the difficulty of repeatedly confronting one’s mortality at a relatively premature age. Yet it is exactly this aspect of my work which led me to seek the religious life. I remember telling friends, “I’ve spent too much time over the last decade on the border between life and death. No one can do this work without being altered by the experience; either he becomes depressed, or he finds his own way to let God be God.” My personal goal has been to find this way.

## *A Holy Land Journey*

### RETURNING HOME

Earlier this year I was able to realize a dream of many years and pay a visit to the Holy Land. I was very eager to experience the land of the Bible by setting foot in it. For many years both within the context of my Bible readings in the daily office and other reading, the Holy Land and Israel in particular had become bigger than life. So, in the company of William Francis, off I went.

Perhaps what struck me the most was observing Judaism, Islam and Christianity literally on top of each other there. All of these consider this land holy and two of them dispute ownership — often violently. Of course I had read about these claims, but to see Abraham's children competing for space was astounding. Nowhere is this competition more evident than at Jerusalem's Temple Mount. Here at the site of the First and Second Temple, observant Jews pray at the Western Wall while above them Moslems pray at the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque (the third holiest site in Islam). An uneasy feeling abounds here with Israeli police and Arab security guards very

much in evidence carrying out airport-type security.

This is the land in which Jesus lived among us. From the Church of the Holy Nativity, which tradition says is the site of his birth, to the site of the Holy Sepulcher which tradition says is the site of his burial and rising, one could feel Christ's presence in new and deeper ways. Another place that I found particularly holy was Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial.

There was no escaping the fact that these holy areas are in the middle of an advanced and cosmopolitan country. Perhaps that is as it should be — the holy places live on regardless of their surroundings. Life goes on, but special places retain their meaning for us all.

I urge you to add the Holy Land to your future travel plans. Not only will you come back enriched by your experience with hospitable people, but your faith will be that much more enhanced by visiting your home. Make no mistake about it, this is your home.

*Stephen*

## *Here and there with the brothers and sisters*

### COMMUNITY NOTES

#### *Province I*

Members gathered for a weekend retreat at Epiphany Monastery, New Boston, New Hampshire in October. The retreat program consisted of an extended group discussion of Evelyn Underhill's book, *The Spiritual Life*.

Earlier in the year a less formal gathering at novice **Helen Bernice's** farm in New Hampshire provided a welcome time for relaxation.

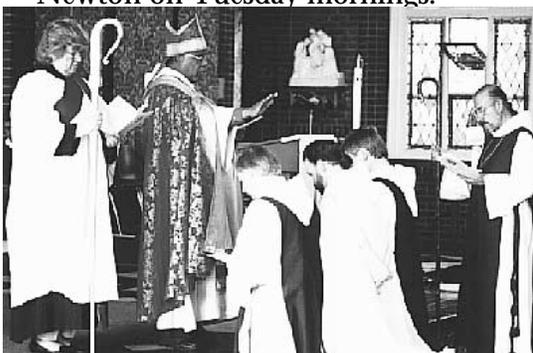
**Robert Michael** has been named co-chair of the search committee for a new rector at his parish, the Church of Saint John the Evangelist, Bowdoin Street,

Boston. The parish held a joint celebration of Holy Cross Day and the foundation of the Brotherhood. **Ciarán Anthony** was master of ceremonies, postulants **Alec McLure** and **Michael Bushnell** werethurifer and crucifer respectively, and **Robert Michael** preached. + + +

**Robert Michael's** *Therapists on the Front Line: Psychotherapy with Gay Men in the Age of AIDS*, was named the most notable book on HIV/AIDS for 1994 by *FOCUS*, a monthly periodical of research on the mental health dimensions of HIV and AIDS published by the University of California, San Francisco, AIDS Health Project.

**Charles Edward** served as deacon at the New Hampshire Diocesan Convention Eucharist. **Christian** has a permanent seat at the convention due to his long years of service to the diocese.

Associate "**Grove**" **Calkins** tickled the ivories of the mighty Baldwin in the Massachusetts General Hospital chapel, for an interfaith service marking the opening of the season for Volunteer Pastoral Ministry. He also plays at Grace, Newton on Tuesday mornings.



*Bishop Dennis commissions the first staff members for Fessenden House.*



*Bishop Dennis, between Deacon Claudia Wilson and Francis Andrew, at the dedication service for Fessenden House*

## Province II

Brother Bernard Fessenden House was dedicated during a festive Evensong at which Bishop **Walter Dennis** presided and **Richard John** preached. The house for HIV+ men opened with one resident and two Gregorian friars on staff. Fessenden House is a ministry of The Agape Fund, Inc. a not-for-profit, charitable organization started by **Richard John**, **Ronald Augustine** and the Rev Lynn Harrington in 1992 to provide emergency assistance for people with HIV/AIDS.

**Richard John** attended a three-day retreat for people with AIDS, those in AIDS ministry, and AIDS caregivers, in July at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Led by the Rev Ted Karpf, it was a time of prayer and reflection, and a great opportunity to exchange ideas and come back refreshed to minister and care for those with HIV/AIDS. John Mathis, SSJE, also attended and both brothers spent a good deal of time sharing the experiences and concerns of their long-term ministries to people with HIV/AIDS. **Richard John** was one of three hospital chaplains invited to preach at Hospice of Westchester's annual Service of Remembrance held at the Chapel of

Divine Compassion, Our Lady of Good Counsel Academy, White Plains. He also continues his work as Pastoral Care Co-ordinator for the AIDS Care Center at Westchester County Medical Center, Valhalla, the designated AIDS center for the Hudson Valley Region. He also continues to administer The Agape Fund, chair the Advisory Board of Fessenden House, serve on The Diocesan AIDS Council, keep Province II running smoothly as Provincial, serve as Organist and Choirmaster at Saint John's, South Salem, and continue his CPE training. Other than that, there's not much going on!

**William Francis, Francis Andrew and Richard John** proudly attended the



*Father Jack Lewis, SA, a dear friend of the Brotherhood, a prime mover in both the Ecumenical Prayer Covenant and the founding of Fessenden House on the grounds of the parish he pastored in Yonkers, died shortly after the dedication of the facility.*

Completion Ceremony of two Fessenden House residents from their ATS programs. The ceremony was held outdoors on the grounds of The Huston-Cortez Residence, and marks a special milestone in the lives of these men who have successfully completed 18 months of a drug and/or alcohol rehabilitation program.



*The congregation processed from Holy Rosary parish church to Fessenden House, the former convent on the parish grounds.*

**Maurice John, Andrew** and novice **Alban Patrick** report that the farm at Saint Gregory's Retreat Center is very busy. **Alban Patrick** is now sacristan at Saint Paul's Cathedral, Syracuse, continues to sing in the cathedral choir and serves as choir librarian.

**Stephen** continues to assist with Trinity Parish's (Wall Street) homeless shelter, doing two overnights each month, and has agreed to take part in his parish's stewardship campaign.

Postulants **James J Mahoney** and **Thomas J Liotta** both serve at Saint James, Goshen, New York, where Jim teaches Bible study and Tom carries out an active music ministry. Both sing with The Halcyon Singers, a group they have been with for many years.

**Tobias Stanislas** continues his studies at the General Theological Seminary and distinguished himself recently in receiving the HP



*Tobias Stanislas in NT1 at GTS (photo by Bruce Parker)*

Montgomery Prize for "the Junior student judged most deserving by achieving the highest grade point average." He has appeared in print in an unusual com-

ination of places this last quarter: a brief excerpt from a sermon that appeared in these pages last year was “tad-dled” by *The Anglican Digest*, a satirical work on sexuality that has circulated on the Internet for over a year has popped up in various guises in both *The Voice of Integrity* and *The Witness*, and a poem in the form of an urban “*Ubi sunt*” in his parish’s *Saint Luke’s Review*.

**Karekin Madteos** has gotten settled in San Francisco, has started chaplaincy training at San Francisco General Hospital, and worships at Holy Innocents parish. He and **Thaddeus David** meet several times each month for prayer and brotherly fellowship.

**Christopher Stephen** has joined the firm of Higgins and Quasebarth, consultants in historic preservation, as an Associate. He is working on many projects including the rehabilitation of low income housing in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Manhattan; a fire-safety system upgrade for many city-owned buildings; and the conversion of the monastery of the Sacramentine nuns in Yonkers into a residence and day treatment center for people with HIV infection. The Greyston Foundation, a Zen Buddhist group, which is purchasing the monastery from the Sacramentines, is doing the conversion. While working on this project, **Christopher Stephen** has had the opportunity to visit with Sister Mary Pius, an old friend of the community. In his words, “If she weren’t a nun, she’d make a dynamite mechanical engineer.” The monastery is only a short distance from Fessenden House, and **Christopher Stephen** is hopeful that these two facilities for people with HIV can work together, complementing each other’s ministries. He has joined **Francis Andrew** as a brother-

in-residence at Fessenden House. Besides being part of the residential community, he is volunteering his time in its ministry. “It’s challenging, but it’s also exciting. I find the work energizing rather than exhausting, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to live here and participate in the life of this house.” Because of his move to Yonkers, he has left Saint Peter’s, Chelsea, where he was a member for eight years. While there, he chaired the Campaign Building Committee, which oversaw the construction-related aspects of the parish’s restoration program. During his tenure, the parish completed approximately \$800,000 of work on the structural repair and rehabilitation of its 157-year-old building. He also served on the vestry and sang in the choir. Since his move to Yonkers he has been attending Saint Mark’s, Nepera Park.

**Christopher Stephen** and **Francis Andrew** visited Grace, Hastings, New York. Grace has provided food and supplies for the ministry at Fessenden House. While there, they visited with Rector Betty Hudson and many members of the parish. They also recently visited All Saints, West Orange, New Jersey, for services commemorating the parish’s 130th anniversary.

The Manhattan-area members celebrated Foundation Day ‘95 — commemorating the 26th anniversary of the founding of the Brotherhood — with a gathering at Provincial **Richard John**’s house in South Salem, New York.

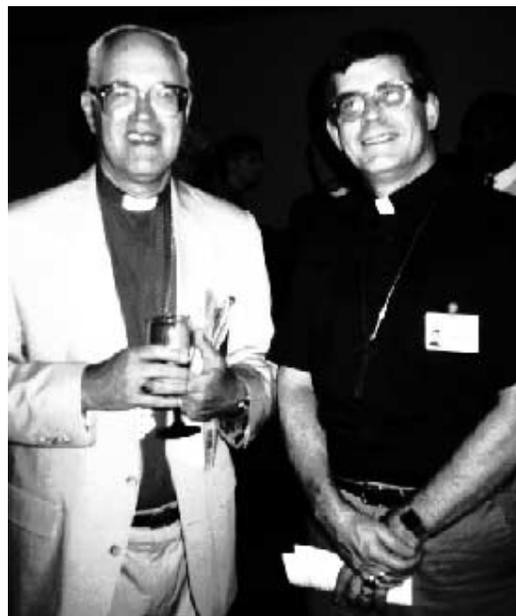
**James** spent much of the fall traveling for his office at the Episcopal Church Center, including two visits to Wisconsin as the Presiding Bishop’s Linkage Staff Officer to the Dioceses of Fond du Lac and Eau Claire; chairing the meeting of the Companion Diocese

Network at Waycross (Diocese of Indianapolis); and, because he manages the Episcopal Church's Overseas Leadership Training Program, attending the annual meeting of the Seminary Consultation on Mission, at the University of the South, Sewanee. His visits to Wisconsin centered on the two diocesan conventions, and while there he enlarged his circle of friends and deepened these relationships. He preached two Sunday services at Christ Church, La Crosse, participating in a parish Bible study and received a tour of the area, including the spot where James Lloyd Breck claimed the local Mississippi valley for Christ during a missionary visit to the region in the 1840s. During the Companion Diocese meeting the group attended Saint David's, Bean Blossom, Indiana, and he had the occasion to briefly address the friendly congregation there. At Sewanee he spoke with various US and Canadian professors about the religious life and the Brotherhood's place in it. On another note, when Associate Bishop **Leo Frade** visited New York to attend the annual meeting of the Trustees of the General Seminary, **James** hosted him to a Japanese lunch (apparently there are not many such restaurants in Honduras!)

**Francis Andrew** preached and assisted the Rev Canon John C Powers (staff officer of the National Association of Episcopal Schools) in the Chapel of Christ the Lord (The Episcopal Church Center) on Michaelmas.

### **Province III**

**Lillian Marie** attended the Region III International Order of Saint Luke the Physician Healing Conference in Eustis, Florida. This will assist her in her work as a Lay Eucharistic Minister.



*Archbishop George Carey chatted with James at a Church Center reception during his American visit last year.*

**Edward** joined Jesuit priest Jim Horn to attend a Sea Fair Center quarterly meeting. They have invited the Newport director of the Sea Fair to Baltimore as a speaker for their next meeting. **Edward** also attended the eucharist for the new Bishop of Maryland Robert Ihloff. On a sadder note, he presided at his mother Cecilia's funeral, on Long Island, joined by many family members and friends, with **James** and **Tobias Stanislas** representing the Brotherhood.

Manuel Andrade has chosen to leave the postulancy of the Brotherhood. We wish him all the best as he continues his discernment and seeks to serve and glorify God.

### **Province V**

It is with great pleasure and considerable pride that we announce the ordination of our brother **Thomas Joseph** to the diaconate. Congratulations, and God bless and strengthen you for many years of service.

## ON HOLY GROUND

In June, I was fortunate to travel to the Holy Land with Fr Charles Faso, OFM, the Schola Cantorum of Saint Peter's-in-the-Loop Roman Catholic Church, and a large group of pilgrims. My friend De-ward Rahm, who is organist/choirmaster of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church in Chicago, was the Schola's organist.

There are many sacred places to visit in Israel, and 10 days can really be a whirlwind tour. We visited many holy sites, and the Schola's singing at the daily offices and masses made the trip even more rewarding.

Something that has taken on new meaning for me is actually having been at the places I read about while saying the daily offices. Early on in the trip, taking the path down the Mount of Olives, we went to the Chapel of Dominus Fleuit, where Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem. The Schola sang as we prayed silently. From there, we had a panoramic view of Jerusalem, across the Kidron Valley.

At the bottom of the Mount of Olives, below the Russian Orthodox Church of Saint Mary Magdalene with its golden onion

domes is the Garden of Gethsemane. The ancient olive trees in the garden possibly go back to the time of Jesus. Inside the church there is an atmosphere of mourning, and a stone marking the place where Jesus prayed the night before he died.

As one leaves Gethsemane, straight ahead across the valley is Saint Stephen's, and the subterranean church venerated by the Orthodox as the Tomb of Mary. Downstairs is a cave where Jesus is believed to have come with the disciples.

At the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, we were met by a contingent of Franciscan Friars who led us in a solemn procession into the church. Nearby are stairs that take one to the top of Calvary, with its Latin altar of the Nailing, and Greek altar of the Crucifixion. Behind is a beautiful Armenian mosaic at the entrance to their chapel.

A highlight for me was renewal of baptismal vows in the River Jordan. Just below the spot where the Sea of Galilee empties into the Jordan, a kibbutz provides facilities for entering the waters for renewal. Exactly where John bap-

tized Jesus is not known, but we were probably in the area. Each person entered the water, and Fr Charles dipped his hand into the Jordan, and poured it over each one's head.

Another major site was Mount Tabor. The steep road to the top is accessible only by car. The views are breathtaking, as is the beautiful church surrounded by the ruins of the Crusader monastery.

A few of us were able to see Saint George's Cathedral. Anglicans formally joined the city's witness in 1841. The cathedral is the seat of the bishop and the home of two congregations, one Arabic and the other English-speaking.

There is certainly a lot more that could be written about a visit to the Holy Land, including Bethlehem, Nazareth; and on the Mount of the Beatitudes, overlooking the Sea of Galilee and across from the Golan Heights, the chapel and hospice of the Italian Franciscan Sisters. I hope I've given a small flavor of the experience here; if you have the opportunity, don't miss a chance to visit the lands Jesus knew.

*Ronald Augustine*

# INTERCESSIONS

## The Brotherhood & Companion Sisterhood

Episcopal Visitor *Sun*  
Walter D Dennis

Episcopal Visitors Emeriti  
*Horace WB Donegan d 11.11.91*  
Paul Moore, jr

Life Professed  
Richard Thomas Biernacki  
*John Nidecker d 6.20.88*  
James Teets  
Christian Williams

Luke Anthony Nowicki *Mon*  
*John Peter Clark d 2.25.94*  
William Francis Jones  
Stephen Storen  
Thomas Joseph Ross  
Tobias Stanislas Haller  
*William Bunting d 10.12.88*

Thaddeus David Williams *Tue*  
Edward Munro  
Charles Kramer  
*Bernard Fessenden d 8.10.93*  
Donovan Aidan Bowley  
Michael David Elvestrøm  
Edward Ramón Riley

Christopher Stephen Jenks *Wed*  
Ciarán Anthony DellaFera  
William Edward Orce  
Damian-Curtis Kellum

Annual Professed  
Clare Connell  
Richard John Lorino  
Ronald Augustine Fox

Maurice John Grove *Thu*  
Charles Edward LeClerc  
Francis Andrew Phillips  
Andrew Fortuna  
Elizabeth Mary Burke  
Gordon John Stanley  
Lillian-Marie DiMicco

Novices *Fri*  
Helen Bernice Lovell  
John Michael Haney  
Karekin Madteos Yarian  
Robert Michael Burnham  
Susanna Bede Caroselli  
Alban Patrick Thompson

Postulants *Sat*  
Alec David Juan McLure  
J Stephen Moss  
William David Everett  
Michael I Bushnell  
Thomas J Liotta  
James J Mahoney

## Associates

*Cecil Berges d 10.16.90 Sun*  
*Marion Pierce d 12.26.91*  
Helen Marie Joyce, VHM  
Robert Macon  
Grosvenor Calkins, jr  
Jeff Emmett  
*Richard A Belanger d 11.21.94*  
Joseph di Mauro, SA  
Catherine W Sturm

Mary Helen Clare *Mon*  
Maryann Wolff  
Joseph F O'Day  
Stephen D Montgomery  
Fidel Flores  
Karl W Fry  
Brendan W Nugent, TSSF  
Sheila Gould

Earl Christian *Tue*  
Lawrence LeRoy David  
*Kenneth Staples d 10.6.92*  
David Smith  
William R Munroe  
Wendell Allen  
*Elizabeth J Holton d 8.27.93*  
Roland "Randy" RR Pryor  
Grant Walsh

Mary Virginia Clement Haney *Wed*  
Karen R Kleinmann  
Jeffery L Benson  
M Eugene Ellis  
Mark Harris  
Enrique Antonio Illarze  
Dennis W Pattey  
John A Bell

Gerard F Beritela *Thu*  
Perry L Conley  
Ethel B "Ettye" Hurley  
Wilhelmina Barton  
Raymond E Barton  
Gabriel McGovern  
Amy M Barron  
Leopold Frade  
Diana D Frade

Robin Stephanie Steele *Fri*  
Ulric Van den Berghe  
Carol Gwynn Hays  
James David Walley  
David Benzshawel  
Roberta R M'Kay  
Theresa Allan  
Glenn R Charlton

Betsy Kardos *Sat*  
Ellen Poisson  
David Burton  
Timothy Lundy  
Wiley W Merryman  
David A Dean  
Albert O Cantwell

Anthony Galati  
& The Friends of the Brotherhood

## Religious Communities

Sacramentine & Visitandine Nuns  
Society of the Atonement  
Order of Agapé & Reconciliation  
Camaldolese Benedictines  
Society of St John the Evangelist

## For healing

Damian-Curtis Kellum, BSG  
William Edward Orce, BSG  
Clare Connell, CSSG  
Helen Bernice Lovell, n/CSSG  
For all who live with HIV/AIDS  
Laureni LeClerc  
Gordon D Luhman, CSSS  
Verna Woodfill  
Matthew Richards  
David R Graham  
Marie and Robert Jenks  
Robert J Maroney  
Stephen Long  
Ruby Caroselli  
Walter D Dennis

## Departed

Charlotte B Morgan  
J Norman Hall  
George T Koerner  
Henry N Fukui  
John McFarland  
Francis Jimenez  
Phoebe Nan Arrington  
Brock Burroughs  
George Rath  
Arlington Cutting  
Mickey Mantle  
Jerry Garcia  
John Lewis, SA  
Rodney Godden  
Robert Dentan  
Cecilia Munro  
Rolando Segura  
Louise Mabel Potter  
William Tobias Haller, jr

## Intentions

The Decade of Evangelism  
Joseph Richey House  
Saint Gregory's Retreat Center  
Brother Bernard Fessenden House  
Baltimore International  
Seafarers' Center  
Tobias Stanislas Haller, BSG  
Thaddeus David Williams, BSG  
Philip Kuhn, Ellen Poisson, and  
Donald P Dickson  
Carl  
Manuel Andrade

Phillip Hewitt, Carl Garner,  
William Borgen, Timothy  
McCaleb, Lawrence David,  
Robert McLaughlin, Daniel  
Rieger, Glenn Charlton  
Walter  
Carl  
Tom  
Heather and Scott Kirby  
The Week of Prayer for Christian  
Unity 1996

**Thanksgiving**

AIDS Care Inc., Society of Helpers  
The ordination of Thomas Joseph  
Ross, BSG to the diaconate  
The witness of Tracey Lind  
The life profession of  
Michael-John Austin, OCSL  
The 25th anniversary of James H  
Dunkerly as rector of St Peter's,  
Chicago

**WHERE THERE'S A WILL**

You can assist and further the ministries of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory by remembering us in your will. If you choose to do so, the following form of wording is appropriate:

*I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, Inc., a New York State not-for-profit corporation, with a present address of 82 Prospect Street, White Plains NY 10606-3499, and its successors for ever \$\_\_\_\_\_ and / or \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my estate to be used in such a manner as determined by its Directors.*

*Time Value Publication*  
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**EPIPHANY / LENT 1996**

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