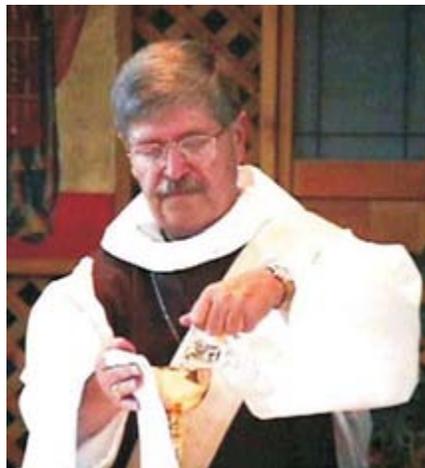




HE SERVANT



**WELL DONE,
GOOD AND
FAITHFUL
SERVANT...**

*Thomas Joseph Ross, BSG
d. 12.18.01*

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Epiphany / Lent 2002

THOMAS JOSEPH ROSS: A REMEMBRANCE

TJ—Tommy-Joe, Tom—Brother. As one of the senior brothers in the community, Thomas Joseph served over the years in many capacities. He was a long time member of Council (which serves as my council of advice as well); he was a Provincial who served the community well—if at times very much as the curmudgeon! He was a strong-willed and opinionated man and never flinched at letting you know where he stood. But he was a loving and caring man and he loved the Brotherhood with all his heart.

Tom made his first profession when the Brotherhood was still in its adolescence. He was with us through many changes and chances of growth and development. He weathered all of them. When we changed our habit design he moved, though grumbling a bit! When we began the Sisterhood he was reserved but went with the will of the community. He loved the sisters and eagerly watched them develop and eventually move to independence.

Tom had a special devotion to the Blessed Mother, and the Rosary was an important part of his daily devotions. He was eventually called to ordained ministry as a deacon, a very special part of his life. He served proudly proclaimed the gospel in his parish and on the rota of the Brotherhood during Convocations..



*Thomas Joseph, John Peter,
and Bernard in 1990*



*Richard Thomas with Thomas Joseph at
his admission to the novitiate in 1981*

Thomas Joseph is summed up in this: he was faithful to the Brotherhood and to the Episcopal Church. He loved serving both. He was a true “servant of the servants of God.” I have mentioned other times the words of Canon Edward West; many years ago he told Mother Ruth, founder of the Community of the Holy Spirit, “When you have a sister in heaven, your community will be truly blessed.” Thomas Joseph now joins John, William, Bernard and John Peter. He will find his match among those saints of ours—though I imagine he and Brother John will lock horns over something!

Bless you Thomas Joseph, friend, brother and keeper of the faith—the faith handed down and perfected in our work for God and the church. Rest in peace. Well done, good and faithful servant.

RTB

Thomas Joseph Ross, BSG

A FAITHFUL SERVANT

Thomas Joseph was born on July 7, 1943, and made his profession of vows in the Brotherhood on January 2, 1982. He was ordained to the diaconate October 28, 1995, and died December 18, 2001

Thomas Joseph attended a vestry meeting at his parish, Saint James' in Cincinnati, on Tuesday evening, December 18, during which he mentioned that he wasn't feeling well. This was not particularly surprising, since he was recuperating from a broken shoulder and lesser injuries suffered as the result of a bad fall he'd taken in early November while walking his dog. He



James places the scapular over Thomas Joseph's shoulders at his first profession in January 1982.

returned to his apartment after the meeting and settled down in his favorite chair in the living room to watch some TV before bed, and quietly died. The next day he was found sitting there, just as he was as he drew his last breath, calm and at peace, with no sign of pain or fear at the end.

Thomas Joseph had been the longest-serving Minister Provincial in the community's history. Though not the first Provincial for his region, he was appointed Provincial of Province West by the

Minister General at Annual Convocation 1987. Though both his title and the designation of his province changed during his time in office, he continued to serve as Minister Provincial of Province V until his resignation at Annual Convocation 2001, due to slowly declining health. He had stood at his post during times of tranquility and of turmoil; he was always available and attentive to the needs of the friars of his province, and he articulately and actively represented them at the meetings of the Council and the Chapter. A person of such character and commitment is seldom found and always greatly missed.

The few who were a part of the Brotherhood when Thomas Joseph arrived at his first convocation in 1980 may recall his talking about his attachment to the Community of the Transfiguration in Glendale, Ohio, and of his love and respect for the sisters there. Living in Cincinnati and working at Christ Church Cathedral enabled him to visit the convent often and to spend time in prayer with the nuns of CT. It was quite appropriate, therefore, for his funeral service to be held at the Chapel of the Transfiguration. The sisters sat vigil with our brother's body overnight. Ronald Augustine, the present Minister Provincial of Province V, arrived in Cincinnati that evening, together with Joseph Basil, Postulant Prospective Deward Rahm, and Sr Mary Julian of the Sisters of Saint Gregory. They were warmly welcomed at the convent

and given time to spend in prayer in the presence of Thomas Joseph's remains. The next morning came with a flurry of activity as Bishop Herbert Thompson, Jr arrived to preside at the funeral. Ronald Augustine reports that a three-part homily was preached on the occasion: he delivered the first section, followed by Thomas Joseph's Rector, the Rev Gretchen Anne Wood, and the convent's chaplain and Thomas Joseph's long-time friend, the Rev Robert A Hufford. Ronald Augustine also brought greetings from our Minister General, Richard Thomas, and from all the Gregorian friars who could not be present that morning.

As he wished, Thomas Joseph was buried in his habit and wearing a deacon's stole, the symbols of his vocation and of his ministry, holding a rosary and an Office Book close to his heart in death, just as he did in life. As is the community's tradition, his Profession Cross and Life Profession Ring were removed prior to the final closing of the coffin. These symbols of religious fraternity, no longer necessary for one who now abides in the nearer presence of God, will continue in service as younger vocations come to that point in their journey. Our brother was buried in a local cemetery among his family members.

Thomas Joseph probably succumbed to a massive heart attack, but that's not what's important; what is important to know is that he was ready. We are each given an entire lifetime to prepare for our own death. For some, that may be as long as a century; for others, just an hour or two. But either way, the time we are given is there to accomplish the task of preparation. When a baby dies, it requires very little time to prepare; but the longer a person lives the longer it takes to get ready. Our brother was a man of prayer and he was well-acquainted with the shortness of life. He had the advantage to confront his declining health with the time to set everything right. It was as if he had a premonition of death and he wasn't shy about making his goodbyes during Annual Convocation this past summer. Each of those present had an unusual opportunity of confronting mortality, and everyone did so with grace and thanksgiving. Thomas Joseph now rests with the angels, no longer concerned with the needs of this life. And the good news is that, as each of us approaches eternity at our own time, we will be in the company of many old and close friends, for we will be met at the gate itself by our beloved John, William, Bernard, John Peter and Thomas Joseph, and what a heavenly welcome that will be!

James



Thomas Joseph with his ever-present cigarette, shares a comment in a group discussion at Graymoor.

THE TIME AND THE HOUR

The large Paschal Candle that now stands burning is not there merely for decoration. That candle was lighted for the first time last spring at the Great Vigil of Easter as a symbol of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It stood burning by the altar throughout the Easter Season. On Pentecost it was moved to the font.

Since then it has been lighted again and again for every baptism in congregations throughout the Episcopal Church and for every funeral. The Light of Christ's resurrection shines whenever someone enters the church on earth through baptism. And it shines again whenever someone enters the church in heaven through the gateway of death.

As the church gathers from time to time around the lighted Paschal Candle, it is much the same as a family in the time of Jesus gathering around the solitary candle in their home. The nighttime darkness of evil and even of death itself is held back by the light in the center. Jesus Christ is the light in the center of our lives, the light that provides hope against all the forms of darkness that gather around us.

But if the Light of Christ shines for us at the center of our lives, then it also kindles light in us when we are baptized. The Light of Christ we receive in baptism is light that is meant to illumine the darkness of the world. The Light of Christ burns in the life of a Christian the way a candle burns, by expending itself, by giving itself away. Just as our Lord Jesus Christ gave himself for the sake of the world, so also we who are baptized into him give ourselves away for the sake of others.

When Jesus spoke of not putting one's light under a bushel basket, he was describing how all who follow him are to burn with the light of the faith he kindles in them. They are not to hide the light he gives them under a basket of fear or false modesty. Instead they are to let it shine for the benefit of others. In the life on earth of every Christian the Light of Christ shines in the work they do and in the witness they bear. Sometimes the people around them do not know that the true source of that light is Christ. But people benefit from the light nonetheless. They see things better and live fuller lives because of it.

Brother Thomas Joseph Ross lived a life that was illumined by the Light of Christ, and his life in turn brought that light to others in many ways and on many occasions. He was professed in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory on January 2, 1982. He served as Provincial for Province V, and only recently gave up that often thankless assignment. Living a life of prayer for years, he answered God's call and became a deacon in his beloved Diocese of Southern Ohio on October 28, 1995 and served Bishop Thompson faithfully. He served Mother Gretchen and the people of Saint James, and was happy in that ministry. He loved the Community of the Transfiguration, and truly found this to be a sacred place.

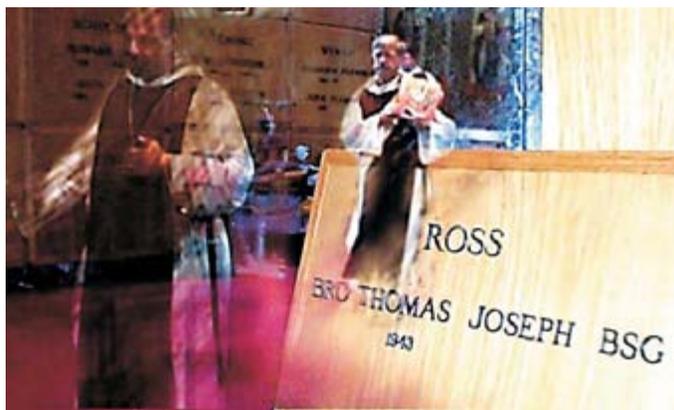
When I was a postulant in 1989, he was my provincial. He was always there for me, and when I became the provincial, I did my best to be there for him. It was difficult as we were separated by miles, but we certainly did a lot of emails and telephone calls back and forth. I last talked with Thomas the weekend before his death. He was in good spirits, happy that his physical therapy was progressing, and it struck me that his

main concern was not for himself, just as it usually wasn't, but to ask me to put Bishop Thompson and his wife Russelle in our daily prayers at my home parish in Chicago.

The Gospel for Thursday night's Daily Office reading was Matthew. It ended this way: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor

the hour." Many of us have traveled with Thomas Joseph for months in his illness, but most of us expected him to live for many more years. But as Thomas Joseph sat down for the last time on Tuesday night, as he watched, it was his hour and he went to rest with our Lord.

Ronald Augustine



The community reflects

MEMORIES OF OUR BROTHER

Looking back over the twenty years I have known Thomas (I must be getting old!), one incident that sticks in my mind was when he and several brothers stayed with my family in New Jersey in 1986. As many of you know, I don't smoke, neither does my ex-wife and to my knowledge no one other than my father had ever been accorded the privilege of smoking in the house by my ex-wife. But on the Sunday before Convocation, I woke to find Thomas Joseph sitting at the kitchen table drinking coffee and smoking a cigarette. Being a true gentleman, he had been in the garage smoking, because he didn't want to get bundled up to go outside. Evidently when my ex woke she heard something and went to investigate. They managed to scare each other when she entered the garage and she told him that rather than continuing to freeze in the garage and frighten the hell out of each other, he should come to the kitchen and have coffee. As I recall, Stephen was about as speechless as I was when he came into the kitchen to join us for breakfast and found brother Thomas Joseph drinking coffee and smoking!

Another thing I remember is that when he and I sat next to each other in choir, we had this way of following each other into tonal qualities of song, that—well, we found notes that most other brothers didn't even know exist! Thomas Joseph loved to sing "Lift High the Cross" and always lifted high his arms when he did. He had a lot of gifts that he shared with us over the years, before he settled into the "grumpy old man" role. I am glad to hear that he got his "Hail Marys" at the funeral, and feel deeply saddened at his loss and at the idea that his is the first brother's funeral that I have missed. Our heavenly choir now has five member saints waiting for the rest of us.—William Francis



Thomas Joseph (far right) makes a point at the Chapter meeting in 1985.

Thomas Joseph entered the Brotherhood and made his first vows a few months before I did. This was back in the days when the community admitted and professed folks more or less on their own schedule, before the days of Convocations and well-structured formation programs and such. This qualifies us as “old timers”; Thomas Joseph died just a few weeks shy of his twentieth anniversary in vows, and by the time this issue of *The Servant* is in the mail I’ll probably be a few weeks short of observing mine. TJ and I entered the community some three months apart, but by the time we were eligible for life profession, the community was a bit more formal, and we made our life vows together in 1987, at the same time our first priest-brother, Edward Ramón, entered the novitiate. At the time, neither TJ nor I was seriously contemplating ordination, yet a little over a decade later we had the joy of sharing an altar as deacon and celebrant. “Tommy Joe” and I used to call each other “pall-mates” since we had both lain under that symbolic funeral pall together at our life profession, dying to our old selves as we put on the new dedication to a life of service. He has now gone to the *real* life of unending service at the altar of

which all our stone and wooden tables are but shadows and replicas.—Tobias Stanislas



Richard Thomas poses with the newly life professed Tobias Stanislas and Thomas Joseph, and the new novice Edward Ramón, at Incarnation Camp, Ivoryton, March 14, 1987.

I remember my first visit to the Brotherhood on a rainy weekend at Graymoor. It was the weekend of my interview and nerves were on edge and blood pressure sky high. Looking back, most of that weekend seems a bit blurry with the excep-

tion of two events. During the interview process, Thomas Joseph scared the daylights out of me! Throughout the weekend he seemed to be so stern and strait-laced that I thought, “Surely, he must be the Novice Master. And if he is, I think I might be in for a

wild ride.” Thomas Mark and James Dunstan graciously offered the comfort of their home until it was time for me to get my train, and while there, Thomas seemed to “ease up” a little. We even had a chance to catch a smoke together on the front lawn before each of us departed. I remember leaving with a feeling of wanting to give him a big hug. I never got the chance to give him that hug, until last summer at our first Convocation at Mount Alvernia. On more than one occasion that week, he made the statement that “This might be the last time I’ll see you.” We had talked several times that week and when it was time to depart, he gave me a big hug and a kiss and told me he loved knowing me. I will never forget that day. Many of you know so much more about Thomas Joseph and I am sure you are richer for that. I knew him long enough to know that beneath the stern facade was a longing, loving heart and I am a better person for having been touched by him.—Robert James

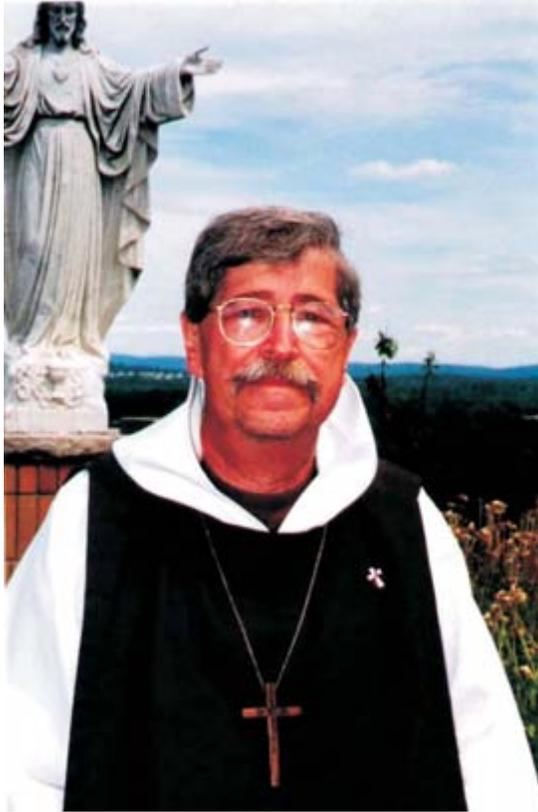
Thomas Joseph was one of the first persons I met in the community when I came for my interviews, and he was always special to me. I know that he was one of the oldest members of the community and many of you have known him for many years. I know that he was often crabby, but he was still ours and we loved him and will miss him greatly.—Emmanuel

There is one thing about Thomas Joseph I remember fondly and I continue to laugh about it. It was the first time I met him at his first Chapter meeting. We got along very well. And when I was leaving, I said to him, “Well, you’re always welcome to come visit me anytime; the door is always open.” (People say things like that and there are people who never take you up on it.) But I got a phone call from him and he said he was coming for a visit. That was to be just one of many, many visits to Boston, the first of many enjoyable times we had together. He was a great friend, one that I will surely miss deeply.—Luke Anthony

This morning James Dunstan and I went to the Convent of Saint Helena (just down the road from us) for Mass that privately we were going to offer for TJ. When we arrived a number of the sisters came up to us to offer their condolences. Sister Ellen Francis (our former Sister Ellen of CSSG) was the celebrant and announced, “The Holy Eucharist is being offered in memory and for the repose of the soul of Brother Thomas Joseph Ross of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory.” We were invited to stay for breakfast and Ellen and Sister June Thomas (an old friend of TJ’s from Cincinnati) sat and reminisced with us about our lives with TJ. June Thomas entered OSH about the same time as Thomas Joseph came to BSG and they both shared the same spiritual director.

Thomas Joseph was my mentor in formation. He said, “Don’t you go and give me no long drawn-out reports. I don’t want ‘em long.” Of course, I was dutifully obedient! We would always discuss them on the phone and he would write his report (a short one). But the phone call conversations were always insightful and helpful and where the real work of formation was done.

Thomas Joseph would get me so very angry by his seemingly negative attitude toward life in these last couple of years, but there was always a little bit of the opening that you could see through that showed signs of “Well, I really don’t mean all of that.”



Donovan Aidan's portrait of Thomas Joseph

He was a holy curmudgeon and I'm going to miss my beloved mentor—terribly. With heavy heart but with hope of the resurrection.—Thomas Mark

It was such a great shock to learn of Thomas Joseph's death. As my brother Brian said last January when my dad died, "I expected it soon, but not today!" Our favorite irascible and curmudgeonly brother had a very soft heart that his gruffness helped to shield from hurt. This became abundantly clear in long conversations over the years. At Mount Alvernia last summer, I did a portrait study of him, as well as of some of the other brothers. When I asked him whether he would sit for me to do this, he said, "Oh, you only want to do this because I'm going to die!" Yet he sat for the pictures and we had a good time doing them. He had very clear perception of his imminent death. I was preparing a larger copy of this picture to send to him, but that will not be necessary. —Donovan Aidan

Here and there with the community

COMMUNITY NOTES

Boston

Province I met on September 15 for its "Foundation Day" retreat. The brothers gathered at the Church of Saint John the Evangelist on Bowdoin Street in Boston for a day of prayer, social time, and provincial business. In light of the tragedy of September 11th the day included an African Bible Study on 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, from the proper of a Mass in Time of War. We ended the day with Vespers, Holy Hour and Benediction, followed by supper at a local restaurant.

On October 27 Ciarán Anthony represented the IBM Software Group, Lotus Software, at the Twentieth Human Rights Campaign New England Dinner held at the Hynes Convention Center. Francis Andrew accompanied him as guest for the evening. Tipper Gore was the Honored Guest and Keynote Speaker; also speaking were Anne and Chad Gifford (President and Chief Operating Officer of FleetBoston Financial) and State Representative Cheryl Jacques and her partner Jennifer Chrisler.

Francis Andrew formally represented Bishop Stephen Charleston, President and Dean of Episcopal Divinity School at the Celebration of the 1700th Anniversary of

the Conversion of Armenia to Christianity, held at the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Cross in late October. Ciarán Anthony, Minister Provincial of Province I, accompanied Francis Andrew for the celebration. Attending were Archbishop Khajag Barsamian of the Diocese of the Armenian Church in America, Bernard Cardinal Law of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, Metropolitan Methodios of Aneon of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Boston, and the



Ciarán Anthony and Francis Andrew at the HRC Dinner

Reverend Dr Diane C Kessler (Episcopal) of the Massachusetts Council of Churches. The celebration included a concert of sacred music performed by the Komitas Chamber Choir of Armenia conducted by Hovhannes Mirzoyan.

Stoughton MA

In mid-December Ciarán Anthony, Francis Andrew, and Gabriel Liam joined Andrew at his parish (Trinity, Stoughton) for the Holy Eucharist and the parish's annual Stewardship Brunch. The Rev Robert Bagwell, a/BSG, Rector of Trinity Church, was celebrant and preacher.

The Bronx

Province II held its Fall Quiet Day on Ember Saturday at Saint James' Fordham where Tobias Stanislas is vicar. Nine Gregorian friars were present, plus Sr Elizabeth Mary of the Sisters of Saint Gregory and three other Associates. Christopher Stephen delivered the day's meditation, reflecting what was in the hearts of everyone present. He began by saying, "I had intended to talk about the Cross this morning, but another kind of 'cross to bear' has forced all other concepts out of my mind." His words gave substance to the horrors of that recent day, when terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center in New York City and part of the Pentagon outside Washington DC. Tobias Stanislas celebrated the Holy Eucharist, assisted by Associate the Rev Frederick L Nestrock and James, and James Dunstan provided a moving sermon on the theme of opposition and the obligations of the Christian faith. It was a short day as retreats go, made so by the parish's own schedule of events, and the group retired to the rectory for lunch and fellowship. This was the first time many had seen the newly-renovated rectory, and everyone enjoyed the warm sunshine on the porch and the warm conversation throughout the afternoon!

Manhattan

In October, the Diocese of New York sent out the call for clergy and religious with pastoral training to come down and volunteer for 8-hour shifts at Saint Paul's Chapel on the edge of the World Trade Center site. The chapel had quickly become an oasis and refuge for those involved in the work that had begun as rescue and slowly edged into recovery. Food, a place to rest, and willing shoulders were offered round the clock to help give respite to the weary and emotionally drained heroes working in the pit. Tobias Stanislas arrived early for his morning shift, and tells of the shock of seeing the few remaining stories of what had been the great towers that stood just a block to the west of Saint Paul's Chapel. "When I got into the chapel and signed in, it was very quiet; just some flickering candles and the dim morning light streaming through the dusty windows. I sat down to read the morning office, and was immediately called to recollection of the timelessness of tragedy when I began the Psalter for the sixteenth day: 'O God, the heathen have come into your inheritance; they have profaned your holy temple; they have made Jerusalem a heap of rubble. They have given the bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the air, and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the field. They have shed their blood like water on every side of Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them...' I'll never read that Psalm the same again."

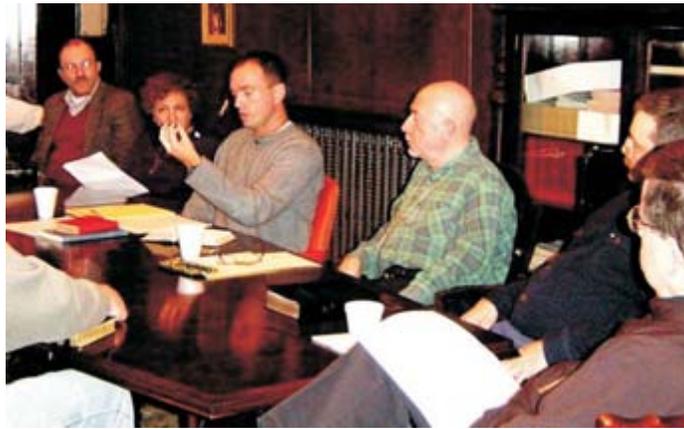
The Minister General and Gregorian friars and Associates of Provinces I and II turned out in force to add the community's "Amen" to the "Recognition, Investiture and Installation of the Rt Rev Mark Sean Sisk as the 15th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York" on Saturday, September 29. As a token not only of his support for Bishop Sisk but of his sometime canonical residence in the Diocese of New York, Francis Andrew journeyed down from Boston to represent Province I at the event. The service was held at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, which was filled to capacity—no small accomplishment!

A lesser-known fact about Bishop Sisk is that he is a Franciscan, a member of the American Province of the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis—and "Br Mark" was duly supported by the religious communities at this important moment in his life and vocation. In addition to the ten Gregorians present, other communities in the procession included the Society of Saint Francis (First and Third Orders), the Order of the Holy Cross, the Community of the Holy Spirit, the Society of Saint Margaret, the Order of Saint Helena, a new Dominican community, and Br Anthony-Francis representing the Solitaries of the diocese. Another highlight for the Gregorians present occurred at the procession of the attending bishops, which included Bishops Moore, Dennis and Michel, the Brotherhood's second, third and present Episcopal Visitors!

Brooklyn

When a rector takes a sabbatical, all sorts of challenges—as well as opportunities—open up for those left in charge. A case in point is our own John Henry, Senior Warden of Saint John's, Park Slope, a real trooper during the three-month absence of the rector, the Rev Clarence H Powers. John Henry took on a good deal of the preaching and leading daily Evening Prayer at the parish, as well as the endless responsibilities that come with managing a staff and running a large, well-used building. Saint John's was also the site of Province II's Advent Quiet Day. Drawing a fine

flock of about 25 Gregorian friars, Associates and friends—including the rector, who returned from sabbatical the day before—the day was led by the Rev Dr Christopher King, Youth Coordinator for the Diocese of New York. Drawing on Advent’s potent themes of expectation, Dr King used the text of the Latin hymn, “Conditor Alme Siderum—Creator of the stars of night” and the Great “O” Antiphons to spark conversations about spirituality. John Henry and his two daughters provided a hearty lunch on a cold fall afternoon and Dr King celebrated the Holy Eucharist—with the brothers’ assistance, of course. And as a special surprise, John Henry also provided a wonderful cake in honor of the Minister General’s birthday, that very day!



Retreatants listen intently as Christopher King makes a point in the course of his conference.



James looks on as Richard Thomas poses with the surprise birthday cake.

South Salem NY

Richard John provided much-needed good news in mid-September with his announcement that he had “appeared before an ACPE Certifying Committee and made it! I’m now at my next level of Supervisory Education and moving steadily toward Full Supervisor. I’m numb, but enjoying the victory!” Each of us adds his own “Alleluia and Amen!” to what must surely seem to Richard John to be an endless process.

Brewster NY

The Brotherhood Council gathered for its fall meeting in mid-October at Saint Cuthbert’s Retreat House. It is always a pleasure to meet there, adjacent to the Melrose School and house of the Community of the Holy Spirit. Autumn was in high color that weekend and the weather was crisp and bright—everything necessary for a productive and, at the same time, restful conference! The major agenda item at this meeting was next year’s budget, which was passed as amended, and Edward was unanimously elected the new team leader of the Pastoral Care Team. Two vocationers were interviewed (one from the Diocese of West Texas and the other from Chicago) and accepted as postulants-prospective. And Tobias Stanislas’ presence was greatly appreciated by the sisters as well as the Gregorian friars as he was pressed into service and celebrated the conventual Mass on Sunday morning, with Edward assisting as deacon.

Baltimore

Tobias Stanislas was the guest preacher at Grace and Saint Peter's Church on Advent III. He and James came to town as part of a surprise party planned for Tobias' mother's 80th birthday, which enabled him to accept a standing invitation from rector the Rev Frederick S Thomas, Jr. Grace and Saint Peter's (fondly known as GASP) is one of the great anglo-catholic gems of the east coast, and it was an honor and joy for Tobias to preach in the context of such splendid worship.

Boca Raton

Just when it seems like we're committed way over our heads, what do we do? We take on something new! A year ago Mark Andrew stepped in as coordinator of his parish's (the Chapel of Saint Andrew) Faith-Seeking Journey catechumenate program. And, as he was considering ways to avoid being asked to continue in the leadership role of preparing people for Confirmation for another year, the assisting priest prevailed upon him to consider a call to Lay Eucharistic Ministry. At that point he discovered a saying attributed to Mother Theresa: "God will give me no more than I can handle. I just wish he didn't trust me so much!" In the end, you know what he did: he accepted the call as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and also agreed to lead the Faith-Seeking Journey for another year. God *does* provide!

Houston TX

Robert James was tapped by Bishop David Joslin, Assisting Bishop of New Jersey, to represent the diocese at the "Reclaiming the Great Commission" conference at Camp Allen outside Houston in late November. Needless to say, our brother felt quite honored!

Natchitoches LA

Michael David once again worked his magic in helping produce a truly spectacular Lessons and Carols liturgy at Trinity Church. There were seven harps, nine brass, harpsichord, organ, vocal soloists, cello, guitar, flute, four readers, and three officiants in copes, and one thurifer. Michael David did multiple duty and lived up to both his patron saints by playing harp and serving as thurifer! The decor of the church was all in silk greens, with a center Della Robia of berries, fruits, and cones. Michael David has also performed in three concerts on harp and flute and enjoyed hearing some of the fine soloist harp performers. His own primary specialty, of course, is the visual arts, and his teaching (including a raku party for his ceramics class!) and work in scenic design are keeping him very busy. He joined the choir at Immaculate Conception (RC) for their Christmas celebration. And on top of all this he continues the reconstruction work on the friary!



Michael David at a Southeastern Louisiana University concert

Waukesha WI

Tobias Stanislas led the Long Retreat for the Order of Julian of Norwich, focusing on the theme of “the Work of God”—the liturgical work that the church, and most especially the religious communities undertake as their primary vocation. Because of a delay in his flight (just a week after 9/11) Tobias Stanislas arrived after the Greater Silence had begun, and he says he felt as if he had been swept into a week-long Tea Ceremony, in which the only sound, apart from his own voice in the meditations, was the rustle of habits! The time for silent reflection was just what the doctor ordered, however, and the Julian community, when finally able to speak at the end of the retreat, were generous with their thanks for a thought-provoking series of meditations.

San Francisco

Francis Sebastian reports that the New Year will see him taking up chaplaincy duty at San Francisco General Hospital. “I have been praying and meditating on discerning this call and I feel very excited to begin this new ministry.” He has met with the coordinator and the chaplaincy staff and felt “right at home. God has led me here for a reason. I am both excited and anxious, but ultimately thrilled about this change.” We wish him every blessing as he joins several other Gregorian friars across the country who serve in this work of providing a healing presence to God’s people when they are at their most vulnerable.

Honduras

Bishop Lloyd E Allen, new Bishop of Honduras, was scheduled to make his first official visit to the Episcopal Church Center in mid-September but, with the airlines still in turmoil, he postponed his visit until November, when he spent three days making new contacts and cementing old ones. One of them was with his two New York Canons, Richard Thomas and James. They had lunch together and began their relationship afresh, both as friends and as colleagues. Bishop Lloyd had asked if a visit to the World Trade Center site might be arranged, and later that afternoon James and Canon Patrick Mauney, Director of Anglican and Global Relations, accompanied the bishop to Wall Street, where they were greeted by the Vicar of Saint Paul’s Chapel, and received a tour of the site from two police officers. All were overwhelmed at seeing this tragedy so close, and Bishop Lloyd shared with his two companions that a number of Hondurans had been working in the Towers that morning, one of them a personal friend of his from his home parish in Tela on the Caribbean coast. Being able to pray for all those lost on September 11 at the very site itself was a great privilege, especially for Bishop Lloyd, who will be able to share this experience with the family of his life-long friend back home.



Maurice John checks in from the Phillipines, where he is assiting at the local parish. Here he is seen with some of the local schoolchildren at another missionary outpost!

On the other end of the Honduras Connection, Peter and his wife Betty are spending a year as missionary teachers at the bilingual school in Tegucigalpa. Peter and Betty are in Honduras serving with the Volunteers for Mission program of the Episcopal Church, and they are assigned to the parochial school at the Church of Saint Mary of the Angels, which happens to be where Bishop Lloyd served as rector prior to his election as bishop. Peter tries to send email messages whenever he can get a connection and he tells us that they are having “a wonderful experience with delightful children in grades four through eight. I lead the weekly chapel services on Thursday and lead Morning Prayer on Sundays for the English-speaking congregation that meets at Saint Mary’s. I enjoy the chapel services because the preaching is very demanding, very much a matter of ‘get it said quickly, simply and to the point.’ And the lovely thing is, they listen! Betty and I have started our usual weekly Bible study group which we have had in the States for a few years; she has also done a visitation to another school in the area, and she has published her own workbook and tape for the students, enabling them to extend their language acquisition work at home with their parents. I have also started a writing program in the seventh and eighth grades.” Peter and Betty journeyed north to San Pedro Sula, where the diocesan office and the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd are—and where a number of other missionaries teach at the Cathedral School—and enjoyed the opportunity to share Thanksgiving dinner with their colleagues. Please keep Peter and Betty in your prayers.

Here, There, Everywhere (almost)

As always, this past season presented a whirlwind of travel for James, who seems to save up his travel all year and splurge it all in one month! Early October found him at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California for the annual meeting of the Seminary Consultation on Mission—a gathering of seminary professors from the eleven Episcopal seminaries and Wycliffe Theological College in Toronto around the subject of missiology. The following weekend was the BSG Council and then quickly came a two-day trip to Green Bay, Wisconsin, not for football practice but for the annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac (James represents the Presiding Bishop and the staff of the Episcopal Church Center to the Dioceses of Fond du Lac and Eau Claire). James was welcomed by Bishop Russell E Jacobus and asked to speak to the convention about New York City in the wake of the September 11 tragedy; a version of his address text is found in this issue. Nine days later both the Minister General and James attended the three-day Program Staff Retreat led by the Presiding Bishop and held at the Stony Point (New York) Conference Center—sort of ‘old home week’ for the Gregorians, who remembered Stony Point from their Annual Convocation of 1984. This was immediately followed by James’ visit to the convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire, this year taking place at the beautiful and historic Christ Church in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Though his time there was brief, this visit marked the tenth convention James has attended as Linkage Representative to that diocese and he enjoyed seeing Bishop Keith Whitmore, Associate the Rev Bruce N Gardner and the many good friends he’s made over these rich and fruitful years. And the convention delegates welcomed James’ personal reflections on the World Trade Center tragedy, as well.

Associates

It is our sad duty to announce the death of Sue Bradley, Associate and long-time friend of Damian-Curtis in Arkansas. Sue died at home on Sunday afternoon, December 23, at the end of more than a year's battle with lung cancer and related conditions. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Reflections on the World Trade Center

FACES IN THE TRAGEDY

When the bishop invited me to this convention he asked if I would say a word about the events of September 11th in New York City. That's not an unreasonable request; it's in the background of my mind every day. If I had to focus on one word, I think it would be *heroes*. Heroes came from every direction that day, and still keep coming. These heroes are not only the police, the firefighters and the EMS workers—though they are certainly heroes—but I'm talking about the everyday people who began to line up on 11th Avenue the very next morning, September 12th, and who continue to come every day since then. These are people from New York City, Long Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania—from across the country—and they come to volunteer their time, their strength and their love to help with the efforts at World Trade Center Plaza. A daily quota of people are permitted to work in that unstable and dangerous space, and many are turned away. But they're back again the next day, and the next.

These volunteers are heroes, but not the only heroes. The Episcopal Church has been intensely involved with this tragedy from the moment it began. Saint Paul's Chapel is just across the street from the Trade Center and Seamen's Church Institute is a few short blocks away, and together they continue to be sources of comfort to the volunteer workers at Ground Zero. Even without electricity, Saint Paul's and Seamen's Church Institute stayed open around the clock, cooking food on barbecue grills, dispensing blankets and dry socks and clean shirts, and providing a place for workers to rest and relax. Electric service has since been restored, but broken lives are not so easily restored. Saint Paul's and Seamen's Church Institute are places of heroic effort, and your church is right there. From the very beginning Episcopal Relief and Development has been there, too, helping to provide the support that brings food and water and clothing to these centers of caring. ERD is a hero, too.

Episcopal clergy, laity and religious continue to volunteer at Saint Paul's and on the site itself. In the week of September 11th they came to help the injured and those rescued from the debris; now they come to counsel police and other volunteers who were never prepared to witness such devastation. As battlefield chaplains do, clergy have been called upon to administer last rites and to bless body parts—experiences of a magnitude few are prepared for. Our clergy and chaplains are very much heroes, and one of the most prominent is Bishop George Packard, our Bishop for the Armed Services, Health Care Chaplaincies and Prison Ministries. Bishop Packard and his staff have been on the scene almost daily. They have called in off-duty chaplains from around the county to staff a network that sends them out again two-by-two to any diocese needing grief counseling training. These people are heroes to me.

Bishop Griswold and Bishop Mark Sisk of New York were among the first church leaders to visit Ground Zero—though Cardinal Egan got most of the press coverage—and Frank and Phoebe Griswold were there at Seamen’s Church Institute, ladling out hot meals and giving words of comfort. Heroes.

On the sidewalk in front of the Episcopal Church Center is a large sign, welcoming people to the chapel and offering counseling services provided by clergy and staff. These people are heroes. In the chapel is a bulletin board where people post prayers and notices—and photos of loved ones who left home that Tuesday morning and never came back. One of the most compelling is a snapshot of a proud young man in his 20s holding a baby; the caption reads: “Has anyone seen my daddy?”

Personally, it’s impossible for me to conceive of death in such huge numbers. It is as meaningless for me to appreciate what six million European Jews of the Holocaust means, or hundreds of thousands of Rwandans slaughtered during their civil war less than a decade ago, or these thousands of people who struggled to get out of the buildings at World Trade Center Plaza before they collapsed. Just numbers, not mothers and sons and grandfathers and sweethearts and friends.

At police and fire stations around the city are thousands of photographs of those missing, taped to fences and walls in the hope that someone might have seen a loved one in a hospital somewhere or, God forbid, in a mortuary. Most are smiling faces, captured in a moment of happiness. But these faces look out at you with hollow eyes; they’re ghosts; you know they’ll never come home again. Captions remind you that they were in Tower 1 or Tower 2 on the morning of September 11th.

I’d like to close these reflections with a personal story. I was away from the office for two weeks in July, and I arranged for my secretary to secure the services of a temp that could organize, edit and update the information on two massive Anglican Communion lists. This was the kind of boring job nobody has time for during a normal day. When I came back, I was told about a young man who worked diligently for two weeks; the job was finished and the temp was gone to his next assignment. I never met him, but I was grateful for his work. A couple of days after September 11th someone placed a notice on the bulletin board in the chapel; it was brought to my attention that this was the same young man that had done the temp job for me. His name was Darren Bohan and he had begun another temp job at an office on the 102nd floor of Tower 2 at 8:30 am on September 11th. His fiancée was posting his photo as widely as possible and she knew he had recently worked at the Episcopal Church Center. To our knowledge, his remains have not yet been identified.

This is the way I can personally understand the World Trade Center tragedy. Here is a person I never met, but yet I know him. He worked for me and I have reviewed his work in detail, reading his copious editing notes written in red ink. He was thorough and talented and friendly, and the other staff members in my office liked him; he was the kind of person I would have hired for a permanent position. Now I pray for him and those who love and miss him, a stranger and yet not. If you need a way to personally relate to the tragedy of September 11th, perhaps you will add Darren Bohan to your prayer list. He was there.

James gave this address at the Conventions of the Dioceses of Fond du Lac and Eau Claire



INTERCESSIONS

The Brotherhood

Episcopal Visitor

Rodney R Michel

Episcopal Visitors Emeriti

Horace WB Donegan d 11.11.91

Paul Moore, jr

Walter D Dennis

Life and Annual Professed

Richard Thomas Biernacki

John Nidecker d 6.20.88

James Teets

Luke Anthony Nowicki

John Peter Clark d 2.25.94

William Francis Jones

Stephen Storen

Thomas Joseph Ross d 12.18.01

Tobias Stanislas Haller

William Bunting d 10.12.88

Edward Munro

Charles Kramer

Bernard Fessenden d 8.10.93

Donovan Aidan Bowley

Michael David Elvestrøm

Edward Ramón Riley

Christopher Stephen Jenks

Ciarán Anthony DellaFera

William Edward Orce

Damian-Curtis Kellum

Richard John Lorino

Ronald Augustine Fox

Maurice John Grove

Charles Edward LeClerc

Francis Andrew Phillips

Andrew Fortuna

Gordon John Stanley

Karekin Madteos Yarian

Alban Patrick Thompson

Gabriel Liam Everett

Thomas Bushnell

Thomas Mark Liotta

James Dunstan Mahoney

Patrick Ignatius Dickson

Robert James McLaughlin

Peter Budde

Novices

John Henry Ernestine

Francis Sebastian Medina

Aelred Bernard Dean

Joseph Basil Gauss

Mark Andrew Jones

Emmanuel Williamson

Postulant

Richard Matthias

Postulants-Prospective

William Benefield

Deward Rahm

Associates

Cecil Berges d 10.16.90

Marion Pierce d 12.26.91

Helen Marie Joyce, VHM

Grosvenor Calkins

Jeff Emmett

Richard A Belanger d 11.21.94

Joseph di Mauro, SA

Catherine W Sturm

Mary Helen Clare

Maryann Wolff

Joseph F O'Day

Stephen D Montgomery

Fidel Flores

Brendan W Nugent d 10.10.96

Sheila Gould

Earl Christian

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

Jeffery L Benson

M Eugene Ellis

Mark Harris

Enrique Antonio Illarze

Dennis W Pattey

John A Bell

Gerard F Beritela

Perry L Conley

Wilhelmina Barton

Raymond E Barton

Gabriel McGovern

Ethel B "Ettie" Hurley

Amy M Barron

Leopold Frade

Diana D Frade

Robin Stephanie Steele

Ulric Van den Berghe

Carol Gwynn Hays

James David Walley

David Benzshawel

Robin R M'Kay

Theresa Allan

Glenn R Charlton

Betsy Kardos

David Burton

Timothy Lundy

Wiley W "Jack" Merryman

Graham Thomas Prosser

Philip L Hewitt

Michael S Parenti

Mark L Raper

Laurie A Wiegand

John-Albert Moseley

JoAnn Tomback

Carl Lindgren, OSN

R Tony Cable

Lynne J D McQuade

Zechariah Schariah

Lydia Karlo

Steven Bright-Jordan, OSJ

Ruth Richmond Laning

Denise A Tivedo

Kathleen C Klee

Sarah Elizabeth Wells, SSG

d 5.8.2000

Patrick Bell Schwing

R William Franklin

Martín Barahona

M Carl Lunden

Patricia A Ahearn

David Alvarado

Jay Frank Crosthwaite

Paul E Van Brunt

M Sharon Ryan

Virginia E Holloway

Charles C Nichols, jr

Kevin Heckman

Margaret J Faulk

Paul G Power

Ruth G Power

Laurie Joseph Niblick, n/SSG

George L Vizvary

John R Coyle

Melissa Colby

Barbara Ann Jensen

Robert R M Bagwell

William Russell

Bruce N Gardner

Mark Palcanis

Malcolm Roberts III

Cynthia Cheski

Jim Elledge

Jeffrey Linden

James E Cyphers

Michael D Bond

Mary Jean Bond

Nancy R Fifield

Frederick L Nestrock

Brad Hicks

Gina Stickelmaier

Howard B Bowlin

Carin Bridgit Delfs, SSG

Sue Bradley d 12.23.01

Joseph Lynn Spears

Rolando Q Bacoy

John Calella

Robert Thomas

Robert J White

Elizabeth Mary Burke, SSG

Stephen Moss

& The Friends of the

Brotherhood

more

Intercessions, continued

Religious Communities

The Sisters of Saint Gregory
Sacramentine & Visitandine
Nuns
Society of the Atonement
Order of Agapé & Reconciliation
Camaldolese Benedictines
Society of Saint John the
Evangelist
Community of the Paraclete
Congregation of the Anglican
Oblates of Saint Benedict
Community of the
Transfiguration
The Order of Julian of Norwich

For healing

For our brothers Luke Anthony,
William Francis, Charles,
Damian-Curtis, William
Edward, Edward Ramón,
Patrick Ignatius and James
Dunstan
For our sisters Clare,
Lillian-Marie, Elizabeth Mary
and Susanna Bede
For all who live with HIV/AIDS
Ian Frazier
Jane Bowley
Patricia J Matthias
Scott Wager
Mary Haller
Walter D Dennis
John Aguilar-Cruz, BSF
Charles Miller
Gordon Gauss
Pauline Brulé
Richard Faro
Kathleen Smith
Anthony
John Walsted
Juanita
Beryl Fredell
Joe Goulet
James Staples

Althea Quarles
Austin Munro
Brian Coats
Melinda
Bart
Gareth
Elias Freeman, SolSB
Kay and Chris
Russelle Thompson

Departed

Charlotte B Morgan
Arsene and Louise Lemarier
J Norman Hall
George T Koerner
Henry N Fukui
J Steward Slocum
James R Gundrum
Thomas Joseph Ross, BSG
Joseph Keller
Jim Godfrey
Seretta
Sue Bradley, a/BSG
Dorothy Sutton
Dan "Doc" Molloy
Ivar Lof
Samuel Maldonado
Pauline Sowley
Dorothy Lines
Albert R Herbel
Wilfred Niblick
Gail Finley
Bernice Parkins
Dorothy Sutton
Olive Black
Thomas Hannafin
Maria Seguel
Mary Benigna, VHM
Darren Bohan
Philip Henry Grieves
Ed Sanford
Catherine Dean
Agnes Draper
Jennifer
Maryann Pleggi

Intentions

Joseph Richey House
Fessenden House Recovery
Ministries
Saint James' Church Fordham,
Bronx
Baltimore International
Seafarers' Center
Our brothers William Francis,
Ciarán Anthony, Andrew,
Karekin Madteos, Francis
Andrew, Thomas Mark, Aelred
Bernard and John Henry
Trinity, Stoughton MA
Saint John's, Boston
The Lotus Team at IBM
Steve Godfrey and David Martin
Thomas King
John, Andrew, Seth and Marc
Julia Ducham
George and Muriel
Fidel Flores, a/BSG
Marian
Randy
Peter, BSG and wife Betty Budde
Bill and Willie Bradley
Jeanne
Mark
Alesia

Thanksgiving

The birth of Jillian Linde Reed
The ordinations of Lloyd E
Allen, Michael J Roeske and
Vicki Jo Natzke
The 25th Anniversary of the
Ordination of Ellen M Barrett

WHERE THERE'S A WILL

You can assist and further the ministries of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory by remembering the community 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 and its successors for ever \$ _____ and / or _____ percent of my estate to be used in such a manner as determined by its Directors.