

# HE SERVANT



*Edward Riley BSG 1940–2005*

**# 199**

*Epiphany 2006*

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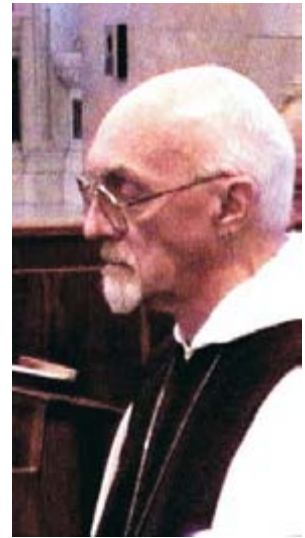
## TWO MORE FOR THE CHOIR

Many years ago, when the Community of the Holy Spirit was young and newly founded, Canon Edward N West of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine told Mother Ruth, “Your community will be great when you have your first sister in heaven.” We now, hoping and trusting in God’s mercy, have several brothers there, sharing in the heavenly courts with many other religious: people who lived in faith, hope and love, and in service to God and God’s people on earth. In recent months, we have lost two of our brothers:



Patrick Ignatius and Edward Riley. Very different men physically—our own Laurel and Hardy in physique—but both of them full of that spirit of devotion and service to which all of us aspire.

Patrick was one of those quiet, unassuming people whose presence touched you in many ways. His devotion to the Brotherhood was first and foremost and he loved it and the church we serve. He was a people person, never shying away from those who were shunned by many; he served the least of those—as Christ commanded. Patrick gave us all courage in adversity as we watched him struggle with his illness for several years, but always saying, “I guess God is not ready for me yet!” And he went on, frail, but patient. The most



moving time for me was when Patrick asked me to pray the Prayers for the Dying, most specifically while he was able to participate. Patrick was driven by his love of the Cross; it was central to his life and this was obvious at all times. So now he is where he longed to arrive in the end, at the side of God in the heavenly kingdom.

Edward was a big man (in many ways) and a gentle giant at the same time. Having had a long career in radio work and service in the Convocation of American Churches in Europe in the years of Bishop Browning, and later in the Diocese of Chicago, Ed came to us seeking a community of prayer. He found it; and said that it gave him a respite from the “priest-craft” he found in so many clergy meetings. Not that he didn’t have priestly craft! His way of breaking the bread was dramatic and beautiful — we used to call it the Butterfly Effect because of the large hosts we use, which seemed to fold and unfold in his hands. He gave us a great deal; and as our first priest-brother he set the tone for the way in which the ordained are treated in our ranks. We are all brothers — and he was the first to show us that, certainly one for us and of us and to us: a brother first and foremost. That is a precious gift.

These two men will be missed from our earthly company, but they have left a memory which will not fade. God bless them both.

*RTB*

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### *Br Edward Riley, BSG—Rest in Peace*

For the second issue of *The Servant* in a row we are saddened to report the death of a long-time Gregorian Friar. Over the past decade Br Ed endured declining health with a cheerful grace that few could equal. But even multiple ailments could not dampen his spirits, and he often struggled to make the trek to New York from his home in Chicago in order to be present with his brothers at Annual Convocation. Ed was a major presence in any group, with a laugh and a beaming smile that could melt even a heart of stone! And his ever-present response to his health issues actually became a mantra for the whole community, for whenever he would be asked about the latest development, he would always close the description with an upbeat “God is good!”

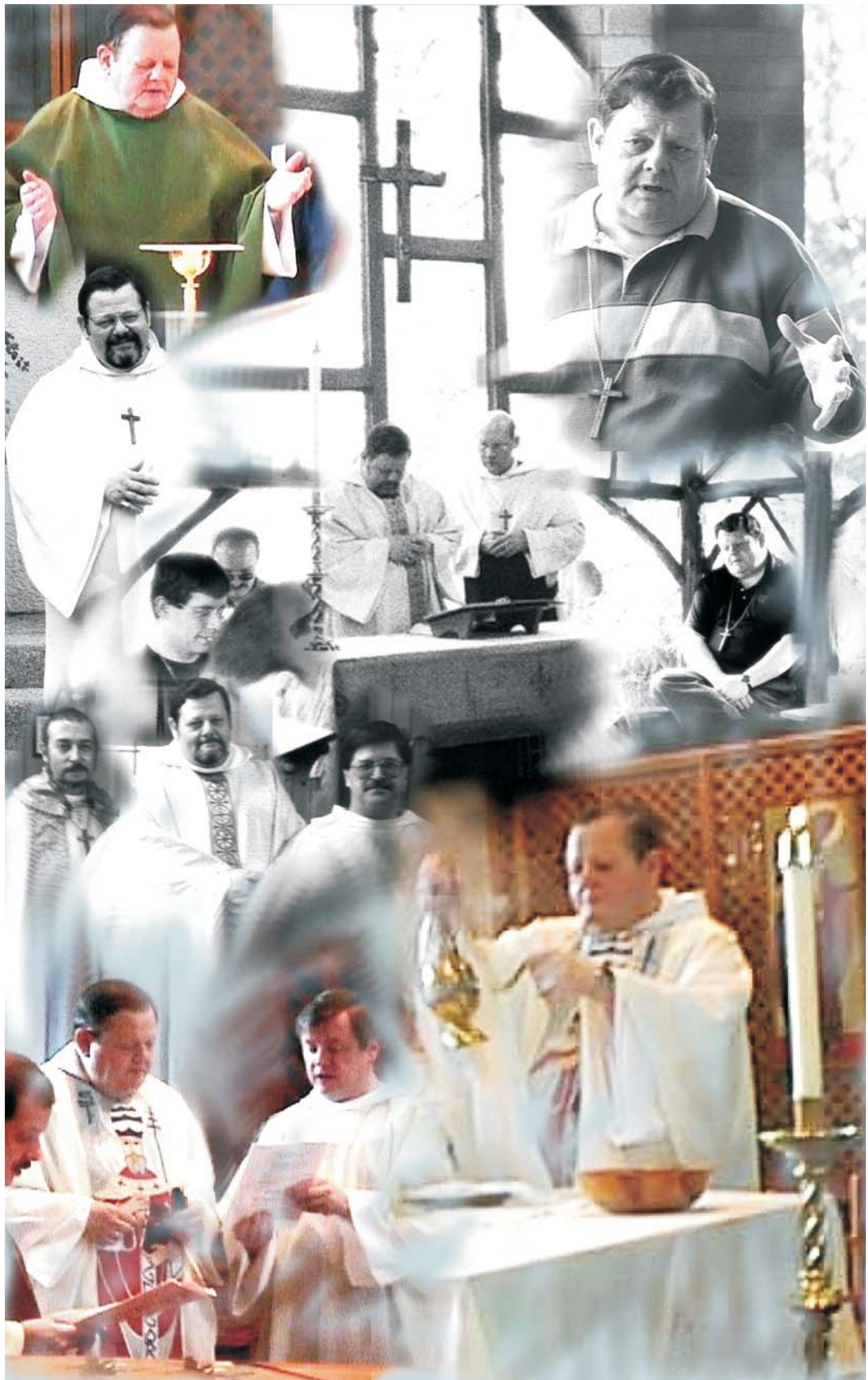
Eternity came for Ed as many would wish for themselves, suddenly and apparently without pain. After suffering a blow to the head from a fall at home, he went into a coma and never regained consciousness. Over the next few days a constant stream of Gregorian Friars attended him and prayed with him at his hospital bedside. At his wish, all life support was removed from him, and he went peacefully into the waiting arms of his Creator at 6:37 pm on Thursday, September 15, 2005. Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon him, may angels escort him to the throne of God, and may he rise again in glory! Amen.

In true Gregorian fashion, a requiem mass was celebrated on Saturday afternoon, November 5th, at the parish where Ed had served as Assistant Priest during his retirement years, the Church of the Atonement in downtown Chicago. The Rt Rev James W Montgomery, the retired Bishop of Chicago who had ordained Ed to the diaconate 40 years earlier, was celebrant of this solemn high mass and was assisted by Gordon John as deacon of the mass. Our own Ronald Augustine pulled multiple duty that day as he was the preacher for the service as well as serving as master of ceremonies and as thurifer. Ed would have loved seeing that! Nathanael Deward traveled from his own parish of Saint Peter’s, Chicago, to be the organist for this service, and Joseph Basil was crucifer. And completing the Brotherhood contingent was Robert James, who journeyed from Atlantic City, New Jersey and served as epistler.

Br Edward Riley lived just 65 years—a relatively short span by today’s standards—but he achieved a lasting memorial in the hearts of literally countless people around the world. Ed found joy in each day of his life and he shared that joy of living with anyone who happened to be there with him. His legacy for us, his Gregorian brothers and his numerous friends, is that he truly believed that “God is good!” May each of us live out our span of years as well as he did!

### *The (Other) Patronal Feast*

A major festival on the Gregorian Kalendar is the annual observation of the consecration of our Patron, Saint Gregory the Great, as Bishop of Rome—an event that originally took place on September 3 in 590, and for which the worldwide church still gives thanks to God. Gregory was one of the greatest ecclesiastical thinkers and missionary movers of his or any other time. As the newly-elected Minister Provincial of Province





*Edward on the air in Munich, early in his ministry*

Grayson Street in San Antonio, along with their rector, the Rev Douglas Earle—hosted the Daily Office and the Holy Eucharist for the brothers during their visit, and field trips were provided to Mission San Jose, one of the five early Spanish missions located in San Antonio, plus to the Alamo and to San Fernando Cathedral (Roman Catholic). Both Edward and Gordon John were welcomed in their diaconal ministry at Saturday and Sunday masses at Saint Paul’s. Food was as plentiful as sunshine and Texas hospitality, and all who attended were so grateful to William Henry and his parish for organizing a memorable provincial gathering.



*Edward shortly after his reception as a novice*

### *Concord, New Hampshire*

Charles Edward led a Quiet Day for his parish of Saint Paul’s in this see city in mid-September, just as autumn in New England began to take form. He presented two meditations on the subject of Radical Hospitality and Reconciliation, the Holy Eucharist was celebrated, and all present seemed refreshed and fortified to begin the new ‘church season.’ Summing up his meditations, Charles Edward said: “Radical Hospitality brings us beyond our comfort zone and opens us to the world at large. In that space, the Christ is present in diverse individuals in need of his unconditional love.”

2 (New York and New Jersey), Richard John called the community together within the Octave of this Feast Day for an opportunity to share fellowship and prayer at his home in upstate South Salem, New York. While not all of the Gregorian Friars of this province could attend, those who did were treated to wonderful food and a near-perfect day in the late summer sunshine.

Likewise, Province 5 called the community together for an entire weekend, congregating in San Antonio, Texas and environs as coordinated by William Henry, who lives in that historic city. Edward, Minister Provincial of Province 5, journeyed from Maryland to attend this get-together, as did Gregorian Friars from Chicago and Nashville, as well as Austin and Fort Worth in Texas. William Henry’s parish—Saint Paul’s

The Priory of the USA of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem held their annual Chapter and the 45th Service of Rededication—including the Investiture of Knights and Dames and Other Grades—at Saint James' Church, Madison Avenue, on Saturday afternoon, November 12th. This service was of particular note to Gregorian Friars because two of our own were invested as Serving Brothers at that time: Tobias Stanislas and William Henry. (Readers of *The Servant* will recall our coverage of the investiture of Stephen in 2003, and he has continued in his devotion to the Order, today serving as a Member of the Chapter.) Bishop Mark Sisk of New York, who is a member of the Venerable Order, officiated at the service and preached the sermon, retelling the story of the order's history of faithful charitable medical service for the people of Jerusalem and for all who have journeyed there on pilgrimage throughout the ages. Br Derek Ford, SSF, Minister Provincial of the American Province of the Franciscan Order—and also a member of the Order of Saint John—visited with the Gregorians present, as did Sr Mary Christabel, past superior of the Community of the Holy Spirit (and a member of the Venerable Order), Bishop Sisk and many of the others that filled Saint James' Church that day. A more festive yet solemn occasion could not be imagined, especially that would involve Anglophiles! Sincerest congratulations to our brothers who serve that Venerable Order!



*Stephen, William Henry and Tobias Stanislas at the annual Investiture of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem*

Yonkers

The life, vocation and ministry of Br Patrick Ignatius Dickson was celebrated by his parish of historic Saint John's, Getty Square, on Saturday morning, October 22nd. (With Trinity, Wall Street, and Saint Peter's, Westchester Square in the Bronx, these three parishes were all born in the 1690s, within a few years of each other.) Saint John's was the parish that Patrick Ignatius loved and served for the last several years of his life, and several brothers attended this service, together with members of his family, of the Saint John's congregation and of Patrick Ignatius' previous parish, and of the clergy of the diocese. Bishop Catherine S Roskam, Suffragan of New York, celebrated the mass as well as Patrick's life, Thomas Mark was deacon of the mass, and



*While visiting the Holy Land, William Henry delivered medication to Saint John's Hospital in East Jerusalem and assisted with eucharist at the chapel of the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor.*

Tobias Stanislas reprised his moving sermon originally preached at Patrick's funeral at the beginning of Annual Convocation this past July. The Rev S Burtner Ulrich, Rector of Saint John's, was also delighted to be a part of this service.

### *Perth Amboy NJ*

Stephen and William Francis joined the Sisters of Saint Gregory at their Annual Convocation, and brought the good wishes

and prayers of the community to Mary Louise Chin on her first profession of vows.

### *Seward, Alaska*

On Sunday, September 18th, our own Br Emmanuel was installed by Bishop Mark L MacDonald as the 1st Rector of Saint Peter's, Seward. Saint Peter's has been Emmanuel's parish for the past few years, ever since he moved to Alaska to assist our Associate, the Rev Robert Thomas, with new work there. Emmanuel tells us: "I am the first rector of Saint Peter's, as we just received our parish status... We [also] had three confirmed [at this service], which was great for our little parish. Last year we had seven, which was the first confirmation service here in over eight years, so things are going well." Heartfelt congratulations go out to Emmanuel; we've very proud of your ministry there!

### *Funeral sermon for Edward Riley BSG*

## **GOD IS GOOD**

The very word *funeral* conjures up in our minds such things as sorrow, broken-heartedness, loneliness and tears. That is one reality, and it is perfectly normal, for those are the things that lie deep in our hearts today as we bid our earthly farewell to Ed. But there is another reality which is expressed powerfully not only in the scripture readings but from beginning to end of the funeral service. A powerful part of that reality is the message of hope rather than hopelessness. "I am resurrection and I am life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die."

Jesus himself experienced these realities of life and death. He wept at the grave of his friend Lazarus and he died and rose from the dead so that we too might rise with him to the place he has prepared for us. He experienced our sorrow and he gives us our hope.





*Ed's wry humor was always a hit at meetings. (l to r: Bernard, Edward Munro, Edward Riley, Richard Thomas, James, William Francis.)*

We remember before God our dear brother Ed. Each of us here will have our own memories. There will be those who may remember him in his curacy at Saint John the Evangelist in Flossmoor, as Rector of All Saints' Ravenswood, as he served the church in Europe, and as the first ordained brother in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory. I remember him as the community's Director of Education when I was a novice. Other brothers recall him as their mentor as they sought ordination. Many never knew of the work he did in the struggle for Civil Rights in the South.

For those of us who had the privilege of attending a celebration of the Eucharist conducted by him know that his interest in it was not simply academic. His preparation for worship and his care in leading it were vivid illustrations of the deep love he had for the worship of the church and of its importance to his life. He might have told us he didn't care for all the "hoo-ha," but he could celebrate a High Mass with the best of them. I remember assisting him as he wore a fiddle-back chasuble at Saint Paul's by the Lake one Sunday, as he presided at a Rite I Mass. But just to keep things on an even keel, he loved popping a cork on a bottle of champagne at All Saints to use at the eucharist. Many of us will remember him as a devoted priest, caring, compassionate and faithful in all he did. Former parishioners will remember him as a superb



*Edward as a postulant*

teacher who was not only a scholar but also one who could express with great clarity the faith which inspired all he did.

One of his favorite sayings was, "God is good." Through all his years of illness, he recited that over and over, and it generally jolted the rest of us back to reality when we were feeling sorry for ourselves. There Ed would be, even while hospitalized, using his one good eye, following our Rule and saying the Daily Office. Well done, good and faithful servant.

But we are bidden not only to remember him but also to remember him with thanksgiving. Here many of us will give thanks not only for his



*Thomas Joseph and Edward work on labeling The Servant.*

priestly work and teaching role but, and maybe above all, as a friend. For someone who was so quiet and reserved in many ways he had an extraordinary gift of friendship and humor which drew people to him like a moths to a candle. Our organist today, Br Nathanael Deward, started calling Ed “Jackie Gleason” years ago, and Ed relished the role with good humor. His friendships not only crossed the seas and oceans but also crossed the religious divide, for he felt the pain of disunity acutely and reached out to others not of this church with a firm hand and a warm heart.

Long before it became the norm, Ed was ministering to those living with HIV and AIDS. After his priestly retirement, he continued helping people as a hypnotherapist and teacher.

It is fitting that our service is in the context of the Holy Eucharist which itself means thanksgiving, for this is the springboard of his faith as it should be for all Christians. It is here that the veil between this world and the next is most transparent. It is here in this great sacrament that we are closest not only to the Father, through his Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, but also to all our loved ones beyond that veil. It is so fitting then, that our thanksgiving for Ed’s life be offered through this wondrous sacrament.

In this service we also “leave him in the keeping of God.” Now isn’t that also a wondrous thing? We leave him not in the keeping of an unknowable and unreachable God, but one “who pitched his tent” amongst us, as we are reminded in that glorious Christmas gospel in which Saint John writes that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

“And the Word became flesh.” I remember some years ago reading about the astronomer Sir Patrick Moore who said that he did not belong to any church, but he did



*As part of his priestly ministry with the community, Edward would from time to time hear the brothers' confessions.*

believe in an intelligence behind the universe. It is certainly not such a being to which we commend Ed and all those whom we loved on this earth—many of whom we mentioned just this past Wednesday on All Souls Day—but to a God who took our nature upon him and whose Son could say, “I am the Good Shepherd,” the one who leads his flock to green pastures, one who cares, one who protects, one who above all loves. It is with confidence that we leave Ed in his keeping for he knows the Good Shepherd and the Good Shepherd knows him and calls him by his name.

Lastly, we are here to comfort one another in our grief in the hope that is ours through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There is no doubt in my mind and in the minds of many others here that this service would have taken place long before now but for Fidel’s and Damian-Curtis’ loving devotion to Ed. I know that Ed appreciated very deeply that sense of family life which the two of them afforded him through the years on Arthur Avenue, and from which he derived great enrichment. We pray that the confident hope provided by our Christian belief in the resurrection will strengthen them and us in the days to come.

For Ed’s nephews JR and Jay here today; his sister Joannie and her husband Walter; Ed’s brother Tom, all who could not be with us today: May our prayer be yours. “God of all consolation, look with compassion on us your children in our loss, give to our troubled hearts the light of hope and strengthen us in the gift of faith.”

*Ronald Augustine Fox*

# INTERCESSIONS

**The Brotherhood**  
**Episcopal Visitor** Sun  
 Rodney R Michel

**Episcopal Visitors Emeriti**  
*Horace WB Donegan d 11.11.91*  
*Paul Moore, jr d 5.1.03*  
*Walter D Dennis d 3.30.03*

**Life and Annual Professed**  
 Richard Thomas Biernacki  
*John Nidecker d 6.20.88*  
 James Teets

**Mon**  
 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

**Tue**  
 Charles Kramer  
*Bernard Fessenden d 8.10.93*  
 Donovan Aidan Bowley  
*Edward Riley d 9.15.05*  
 Christopher Stephen Jenks  
 Ciarán Anthony DellaFera  
 Damian-Curtis Kellum

**Wed**  
 Richard John Lorino  
 Ronald Augustine Fox  
 Maurice John Grove  
 Charles Edward LeClerc  
 Virgilio Fortuna  
 Gordon John Stanley  
 Karekin Madteos Yarian

**Thu**  
 William David Everett  
 Thomas Bushnell  
 Thomas Mark Liotta  
 James Mahoney  
*Patrick Ignatius Dickson d 7.20.05*  
 Robert James McLaughlin  
 Peter Budde

**Fri**  
 John Henry Ernestine  
 Francis Sebastian Medina  
 Aelred Bernard Dean  
 Joseph Basil Gauss  
 Mark Andrew Jones  
 Emmanuel Williamson  
 Richard Matthias

**Sat**  
 William Henry Benefield  
 Nathanael Deward Rahm  
 Thomas Lawrence Greer

**Novices**  
 Enoch John Valentine  
 Ron Fender

**Postulants**  
 David Battrick  
 Michael Elliott  
 David Henton  
 Zane Young

**The Associates and Friends of the Brotherhood**  
**Religious Communities**  
 Sacramentine & Visitandine Nuns  
 Society of the Atonement  
 Community of the Paraclete  
 Companions of St Luke~  
 Benedictine  
 Community of Celebration  
 Congregation of the Companions of the Holy Saviour  
 Life in the Lamb Community  
 Little Sisters of St Clare  
 Rivendell Community  
 Sisters of St Gregory  
 Third Order SSF  
 Worker Sisters & Brothers of the Holy Spirit  
 Camaldolese Benedictines  
 Society of St John the Evangelist  
 Anglican Oblates of St Benedict  
 Community of Transfiguration  
 Order of Julian of Norwich

**For the intentions of**  
 Joseph Richey House  
 Fessenden Recovery Ministries  
 Dove House  
 Baltimore Int'l Seafarers' Center  
 St James Fordham;  
 Trinity, Stoughton MA;  
 St Paul's Grayson St, San Antonio;  
 St Peter's, Chicago  
 Brothers Ronald Augustine, Karekin Madteos, William David, Thomas, Thomas Mark, Emmanuel, Luke Anthony, Charles, Damian-Curtis, Charles Edward, James Mahoney, Aelred Bernard, John Henry  
 Aldersgate UMC Dobbs Ferry, St Christopher's, Kileen TX  
 White Plains Hospital  
 Episcopal Parishes of Yonkers  
 Ian, David, Dennis, Marie, William Henry, Johanna, Virginia, Nancy, Dean, Scott, Kathleen, Steven, Anthony, Austin, Tim  
 Lillian-Marie, Carin Bridgit & Helen Bernice SSG, Sheila Gould a/BSG  
 Irma and her family  
 Homer, Burt & Paul  
 Peter Rochak  
 Carolyn O'Boyle

**For the Departed**  
 Benefactors, Friends & Associates:  
 Charlotte Morgan, Arsene & Louise Lemarier, Norman Hall, George Koerner, Henry Fukui, J Steward Slocum, James Gundrum, Cecil Berges, Marion Pierce, Kenneth Staples, Elizabeth Holton, Richard A Belanger, Brendan W Nugent, Sarah Elizabeth Wells, SSG, Sue Bradley  
 James Perry  
 Don E Kirk  
 Audrey Bauer  
 Pamela Harmon  
 Agnes A Maley  
 John Claypool  
 Gerald J Morawski  
 Ed Sullivan  
 Sylvester Liotta  
 Nick Camberlange  
 Ina C Hurst  
 Edward Riley BSG  
 Jock Davis  
 Dorothy Bauer  
 Lucille Schmidt Morgan  
 William C R Sheridan  
 Linda Graves  
 Robert Maucker  
 Carolyn C. Hardin  
 Isaiah  
 Don  
 Riley (Kenneth) Francis  
 David Knox  
 Barry Dell  
 Linda Harkness  
 Marilyn Martin  
 Jane Willis  
 Donald Failor  
 Sandra "Cookie" Benson  
 Morgan

**Thanksgiving**  
 Thanksgiving for the ordination of Carin Bridgit Delfs SSG to the priesthood

**Note**  
*The published prayer list no longer includes names of the sick in a separate section. Rather, on specific request, intentions will appear under the heading, "For the intentions of..." The brothers themselves pray for all for whom prayers are asked; however, we respect the need for privacy in a published document.*