



HE SERVANT



*Charles Kramer BSG
Born May 25 1935
Professed September 16 1984
Died October 23 2006*

#202
Epiphany/Lent 2007

GOD EVER NEAR, EVER PRESENT

To use a wonderful verse given to me by a dear friend: *Dios aprieta, pero no ahorca* — translation “God squeezes but never chokes.” In one of her poems, Grace Bush says:

I shall be near you when falls the dew
On garden pathways, where we two have met,
When crimson roses, heavy with perfume
Unfold their petals, I shall not forget.

We are entering Lent as a church, but in the *state* of the church it is either a time of transformation or of going to hell, with the headstrong vision that we have the correct answer and that we *know* what God intends for us. Have we lost sight of the reality that we might, in fact, be offending God more than we can imagine?

I shall be near you when music wakes
Thrilling your soul with melody divine,
And in the music you shall hear my voice,
I am the singer, and the song is mine.

The song is God's, the church is God's but we have a stake in what is happening. I believe that the church is being tested. Can we be faithful—truly faithful? Not just to creedal ideas, but to God, and to each other? Are we ready to keep the vows made at our baptism, and in many cases, ordination? Are we in danger of treating the Baptismal Covenant like a menu?—take what we like and leave behind what offends or tastes bad? It is time to take Lent seriously as a time of self-examination and testing—and change. When people in a restaurant find the menu not to their liking, what happens? They leave. My dear friend and sister in Christ, Bishop Barbara Harris, once began a sermon, “What a time, what a time, what a time!” That was a while ago, a different time, and we are in another time. Is it time to fish or cut bait? It is surely time to examine, as we are admonished in the call to a holy Lent, what we are about and where we are going in our faith journey.

I shall be near you when comes the night,
Through deepest darkness, steadfast as a star,
Life shall not part us, dear, nor death divide,
I shall be near to you, where-e'er you are.

I shall be near—God is near and calling us to a holy Lent: to be honest and sincere; searching and examining where we are. We are on the edge of a great time in this church. If examining means leaving, so be it. In the last line we read: “I shall be near to you, where-e'er you are.” As our examination makes us stronger, the church will be stronger; if it makes us confused and unhappy—stay no longer. Many have loved this church for centuries; those who are happy should remember—I shall be near.”

May Lent renew and strengthen us—especially those who love and care about *this* church as it is, with faults and difficulties. In 540 Cyprian said, “The church is an anvil that has worn out many a hammer.” Put the hammers away for Lent and beyond.

—RTB

Here and there with the brothers

COMMUNITY NOTES

Manhattan

James Teets has joined the Board of the historic Bible and Common Prayer Book Society. He joins Bishop Rodney, who chairs that board, Stephen Storen (Treasurer), Associate Nevin Brown and the Rev Dr David G Henritz OSL, Executive Director (as well as long-time Friend of the Brotherhood). James, in his position in the Office of Anglican and Global Relations of the international Episcopal Church Center, has served as a resource for the Society and their fine work on behalf of the world-wide Anglican Communion. The Bible and Common Prayer Book Society was originally a gift to the church from Bishop John Henry Hobart, who founded it during his tenure as Bishop of New York in the early decades of the 1800s. Today, almost 200 years later, the Society continues to respond to numerous requests for grants of Bibles and liturgical books in several languages which come from dioceses throughout The Episcopal Church and the world.

Stephen has been elected to the board of directors of the New York Mission Society, a long established social service organization that serves children and families in need in New York City.

White Plains

BSG was well represented at the Convention of the Diocese of New York. James reprised his role as Deputy Inspector of Elections, and Tobias Stanislas Haller served on a post-General Convention panel, leading a presentation on actions of GC in relation to the wider Anglican Communion. He also introduced a resolution requesting the bishop to authorize the commemoration of John Jay as a significant lay leader of the Episcopal Church and early opponent of slavery; the motion was adopted in a nearly unanimous vote.

Harrisburg

On Sunday morning, October 22, a great knock came to the doors of Saint Stephen's Cathedral, and a large congregation of well-wishers welcomed Nathan D Baxter as the 10th Bishop of Central Pennsylvania. His consecration had taken place the day before, at the Zembo Shrine in Harrisburg—a much larger facility than the cathedral—and Luke Anthony Nowicki was there to support his new diocesan, along with Susanna Bede Caroselli SSG, who added her voice to the large choir assembled for the occasion, and Bishop Rodney Michel also participated in that ancient and dramatic liturgy. Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold was the chief consecrator, and another long-time friend of the Brotherhood, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, was the rousing preacher that day. Members of our partner-in-mission, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, joined in the choir and helped swell the congregation. Our sincerest congratulations go out to Bishop Nathan, along with our best wishes for a long and blessed episcopal ministry!

Nashville

Thomas Lawrence Greer recently announced that he has accepted a position as Staff Nurse on the Cardiac Step-Down Unit at Vanderbilt Medical Center. This career move enables him to continue his education toward an undergraduate baccalaureate nursing degree and also opens the health care field to him for much broader personal advancement. Congratulations from all of us!

Chattanooga

Associate Bo Armstrong invited Aelred Bernard Dean and Ron Fender to the patronal celebration at Saint Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church. Rector Buckley Robbins donned the Franciscan habit as he reenacted their patron in his sermon and blessing of the animals. The celebrations were kicked off with a parade of pets and their human companions, a release of white homing pigeons that circled above the church before flying home, the blessing of the animals, and animal representatives from humane societies, the Chattanooga Zoo, and a petting farm from “Noah’s Ark.”

Chicago

On Sunday, September 17th several of the Chicago-area friars gathered for the high mass at the Church of the Atonement to remember and to celebrate the life of our dear brother Edward Riley on the first anniversary of his death. A number of his closest friends also attended the solemn liturgy, which took place at the parish church at which Ed was an assistant to the end of his life and which he loved dearly. And what would any celebration be without food? Ed would certainly have agreed, and the whole gathering finished the day at a local restaurant in his remembrance: a faithful and caring priest, a loving and jolly friend, and a prayerful Gregorian Friar. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

Saint Louis

Stephen attended the Forty Sixth Service of Re-Dedication Including the Investiture of a Knight and Other Grades in The Most Venerable Order of The Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem. The investiture weekend was significant since it also commemorated the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the American organization of the Order as a Priory and the Grand Prior HRH The Duke of Gloucester was present for the weekend's events. The American Priory provides significant financial and material support to the Saint John's Eye Hospital in Jerusalem (valued at \$1,073,000 in 2006).



Stephen serves as a marshal at the investiture.

Austin

Peter Budde and his wife Betty, Aelred Bernard, Joseph Basil Gauss and Will Harpest joined David Luke Henton and Tim Kruse at the blessing of



A real Texan celebration

their home in early November. The same weekend saw the Jazz Festival at the Episcopal Church of Saint James, where The Tom Braxton Quartet with Suzi Stern provided music in worship. The brothers were moved by the joy-filled worship and generous hospitality of the parish, and recalled the words of the hymn, “How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound, as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia.”

Los Angeles

Thomas Bushnell recently announced that he has received word from the Bishop of Los Angeles that he has been officially approved as a Postulant for Holy Orders, and all Gregorians extend encouragement as he continues to pursue his vocation. He also continues his work toward his doctorate at UC Irvine, while maintaining a full schedule as an instructor there. His doctorate is on the near horizon.

Australia and New Zealand

Edward Munro and his wife, Barbara, spent three delightful weeks on holiday in the South Pacific, seeing people and places they’ve never seen and visiting novice David John and his family. Beginning their journey in Auckland, they traveled from the North Island to the South Island via camper-van and, after many sightseeing stops, two weeks later wound up in Christchurch. They then spent a week mostly in and around Sydney and were only able to see a small portion of that vast country of Australia. David John and his wife, Luisa, and their three sons welcomed their international guests for a weekend-long visit to Newcastle, where David John serves on the staff of Christ Church Cathedral, and they managed to squeeze in a local vineyard tour and wine-tasting, a backyard barbeque and services at the cathedral. Sounds like fair dinkum, mate!

On the loss of a brother

WIDOWED ONCE MORE

Charles Kramer BSG

Born May 25 1935 • Professed September 16 1984 • Died October 23 2006

Charles was a long-time and much-loved member of the Brotherhood, with a “serial number” of 41 (out of the 129 who have formed a part of the community over the years to date). He came to the community as a Companion—now known as an Associate—in the early 1980s and from that moment he was “hooked!” He continued faithfully to attend as many gatherings of the community over the decades as his slowly declining health permitted, both nationally and provincially, and, though he never held a major office in the Brotherhood, he was held in warm regard by all of his brothers.



Though he normally favored a briar, Charles was willing to experiment.

Charles held both Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Middlebury College. He was captivated by the French language ever since a visit to France as a young man. He pursued this passionate interest throughout his lifetime, first in a career as a teacher of languages in various public and private schools from 1958 until 1970, and later as a member of a French-speaking Masonic lodge. Charles made a major career change in 1970 to the financial industry on Wall Street in the Controls Section of the firm of Bache Halsey Stuart Shields, where he continued his working career until retirement.



Charles and William work on sorting and labeling a mid 1980s edition of this newsletter, in the parish office at Saint Bartholomew's White Plains.

Charles made a major career change in 1970 to the financial industry on Wall Street in the Controls Section of the firm of Bache Halsey Stuart Shields, where he continued his working career until retirement.

He was confirmed at his family's parish, Grace Church, Massapequa, Long Island, and later transferred to Trinity, Wall Street, where he remained active as a Lector, Subdeacon and Master of Acolytes until his retirement from the financial world that brought him to the Wall Street area. Having lived in Flushing,



Charles was a faithful member of the Brotherhood's liturgical serving staff, until suffering the stroke that left him unsteady on his feet. He is seen here with Donovan Aidan Bowley and Virgil Fortuna.

cellent and his humorous tales from a lifetime of experiences always brought gales of laughter—which is indeed the hallmark of Gregorian fellowship. While his body eventually failed him, his wit and memory never did, and for that alone his time with us will always be cherished.

Charles was a long-time member of two Masonic Lodges, one English-speaking and the other French-speaking. Stephen, who knew Charles in both capacities, noted that Charles and his mother Elizabeth were two of the first people to welcome him to Trinity Church in the late 70s, and he shared with Charles and William Francis Jones in an EFM group there. Charles had many roles in his Masonic associations, including Past Master of Heritage Lodge 371, Past District Deputy Grand Master of the 4th Manhattan District, and Anointed High Priest of Ancient Chapter—Royal Arch Masons. He was a superb ritualist, and the week before his death the current Master of Heritage Lodge asked Charles to handle the ritual of initiating four new Entered Apprentices. At the event, his mind was sharp,

Queens for most of his life, he began a relationship with Saint Matthew's Woodhaven which would continue until his death. He was beloved by the congregation and the Rector of Saint Matthew's, the Very Rev Tracey M Williams.

Whenever Charles was with a group of people, he soon became the center of attraction! He dearly loved story-telling and was a master at the craft, especially the Cajun tales of Boudreaux and his pals. Laughter surrounded him and he seemed to brighten any part of a room. He would sit there filling his pipe and begin with: "Now this is very interesting!" And it always was, for Charles made it so! His timing was ex-



Richard Thomas receives Charles' first profession of vows in 1984, as James and Bernard Fessenden assist.



One catches a glimpse of Charles' humorous side in the telling exchange of glances with Richard Thomas, as Stephen and William Francis are otherwise engaged.

Charles (below right) enjoyed good food as well as fellowship.



Edward Munro and Charles posed for a "class picture" — both made their first vows in 1984, Edward in March and Charles in September.





Charles presented the fruits of his experience from a Franciscan Nature Walk at Graymoor.

but the body in steep decline. As Stephen notes, “Charles was definitely one of God’s good-hearted holy eccentrics. He certainly touched my life, and I can see from reading the notes from other community members that he touched others, too. May he rest in peace.” All Gregorian Friars add an Amen to that!

One of Charles’ favorite Boudreaux stories concerned passing on of the news of his death to Clotile, his wife. Thibodeaux volunteered that as “the soul of diplomacy and tact,” he would be the best to deliver the sad news. When Clotile answered the door, Thibodeaux asked, “You the Widow Boudreaux?” She answered, “Well I’m Missus Boudreaux, but I’m no widow.” To which the soul of diplomacy and tact responded, “The hell you ain’t!” So we find ourselves as a community once again as abruptly widowed — death is rarely tactful — but in the knowledge that Charles can take this joke and join in the laughter — as he always did, even when telling the jokes himself.

Charles was buried privately in his family’s plot at the Flushing Cemetery, without ceremony, while a memorial service was planned for a later date at which his many friends from so many different fields of endeavor could gather. The Brotherhood, his parish, the Masonic Order and countless of his friends mourn his passing from our sight, even for a brief moment until we are each reunited in eternity, where we trust that Charles is already holding court and telling his wonderful stories to our brothers who have gone before—and also to all those who never had the great good fortune to spend an evening with him in this life. We are sad to lose this delightful spiritual warrior from our midst, even for a moment, but we also know that God is good and that all good things will be restored in Christ Jesus. Rest in peace, dear beloved brother. +



Charles with friends at his Woodhaven parish, including Bishop Michel

SCREWTAPE TO WORMWOOD 2006

My dear Wormwood,

I want to pass along a brief note in recognition of the wonderful work you are doing with the Anglicans these days. Anglicans in general have been rather bland fare for quite some time, but your introduction of some new condiments has spiced things up quite delightfully. I don't think I've experienced such delectable invective since the late 19th century. Of course, it can't hold a *candle* to the Reformation, but it does show signs of promise for a sumptuous feast.

But first of all, credit where credit is due: and much of it must be given to Glumsnaggle, our new IT manager, for the way in which he has managed to transform the Internet from a useful tool for communication into a positive cesspool of trivialization, mischaracterization, libel and slander — and my old favorite, assertion masked as argument. Oh, I never tire of that one. Fortunately, neither do they! Of course, he merely had to guide the process, but it has assured him a place in the Lowerarchy, and I hear he may even be on the Dishonours List.

Along the line of credit where due, I must say you appear to have taken a leaf out of the Enemy's book, and are becoming positively creative. You have got your patients to the point where they are simultaneously claiming and rejecting authority (of any and all sorts, no less!) without seeing the contradiction. You've got them taking each other's arguments at the very worst, and picking nits like there's no tomorrow — true enough for some of them, as they will soon discover when they arrive in the Infernal Kitchen.

Just a bit of avuncular advice as you continue your work: by all means keep them focused on themselves, and on institutional questions — Who Gets to Be In Power. I mean, you can be creative as you like with the details, but the “tried and false” methods are always best to Fall back on. I think I do not need to remind you of the First Principle of *The Tempters' Manual*, “Remember the Apple.”

Which brings me to my central concern: this *unfortunate* attention on the part of some of your patients to these so-called Millennium Development Goals. It would really be most unhelpful to our cause to have them actually *do* the things the Enemy wants them to do, to set aside self-obsession and do something about disease, poverty, ignorance, and so on. Anything *you* can do to persuade them that these MDGs are just “secular” will be to your advantage. I had a lovely curried Goat last night — one of the Old Souls that I'd kept in reserve; and you know, he still didn't get it! As I savored him bite by bite, he kept whimpering, “But when did we see you hungry or thirsty or in prison...” Delicious.

So, Nephew, in closing, I advise you to apply yourself to this two-pronged approach: play up the institution and downplay what it is actually meant to accomplish, as it could turn out to be a disaster for us if this movement catches on.

Your Uncle,
Screwtape

Tobias Stanislas, with thanks to C S Lewis

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

Luke Anthony Nowicki *Mon*

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 d 10.23.06 *Tue*

Bernard Fessenden d 8.10.93

Donovan Aidan Bowley

Edward Riley d 9.15.05

Christopher Stephen Jenks

Ciarán Anthony DellaFera

Damian-Curtis Kellum

Richard John Lorino *Wed*

Ronald Augustine Fox

Maurice John Grove

Charles Edward LeClerc

Virgilio Fortuna

Gordon John Stanley

Karekin Madteos Yarian

William David Everett *Thu*

Thomas Bushnell

Thomas Mark Liotta

James Mahoney

Patrick Ignatius Dickson d 7.20.05

Robert James McLaughlin

Peter Budde

John Henry Ernestine *Fri*

Francis Sebastian Medina

Aelred Bernard Dean

Joseph Basil Gauss

Mark Andrew Jones

Emmanuel Williamson

Richard Matthias

William Henry Benefield *Sat*

Nathanael Deward Grahr

Thomas Lawrence Reem

Enoch John Valentine

Ron Fender

Novices

David John Battrick

Michael Elliott

David Luke Henton

Postulants

Will Harpest

Todd Mashlan

The Associates and Friends of the Brotherhood

Religious Communities

Sacramentine & Visitandine Nuns

Society of the Atonement

Community of the Paraclete

Companions of Saint Luke~

Benedictine

Community of Celebration

Congregation of the Companions

of the Holy Saviour

Life in the Lamb Community

Little Sisters of Saint Clare

Rivendell Community

Sisters of Saint Gregory

Third Order SSF

Worker Sisters & Brothers of the

Holy Spirit

Camaldolese Benedictines

Society of Saint John the

Evangelist

Anglican Oblates of Saint

Benedict

Community of the Transfiguration

Order of Julian of Norwich

For the intentions of

Joseph Richey House

Fessenden Recovery Ministries

Dove House

Baltimore Int'l Seafarers' Center;

Saint Paul's Grayson Saint, San

Antonio

Brothers Tobias Stanislas, 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

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, Jack Merryman

Verna Dozier

Robert Nell Tate

Eutiquio

Brad

Jerry

Gilbert Slater

Rick Medina

Dawne Fox

Louise Erhhart

Denise Christie

Craig Hamrick

Joseph Imperato

Patricia Hosmer

Romuald OSB Cam

Sarah Smith

Catharine Knox

Joey

William Andersen jr

Ricky Coppolino

Lauren Killen

Assunta Femia

Benjamin L Harris

Franklin Palcanis

Kevin Iams

Thomas Caldwell

Steven Ortiz

Paul Dewalt

Thanksgiving

The life and ministry of Charles

Kramer BSG