



HE SERVANT



**DAMIAN-
CURTIS
KELLUM BSG**

*Born August 25 1932,
Professed August 4 1990,
Died October 9 2007*

#206

Epiphany/Lent 2008

UNITY

As the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity occurs this month, I would like to share some thoughts on our One-ness as churches. Our church is not a rival of any other church. We should not brag that our preaching, our program, our music or our buildings are better than those of other churches. Remember that “they who compare themselves among themselves are not wise.” We should strive to be a church worthy of the Christ whom we honor.

Our church should not criticize any other church. We believe that “to his own master a man stands or falls.” There is so little time to spread the news of God’s love through the Gospel to the world, that we dare not waste any time by pausing to condemn others. Our church should stand ready to share any of its vision or methods with other churches, pray for other churches and rejoice when any other church shows an excellence for us to pattern after.

Our church should stand in awesome recognition that it is part of the Body of Christ, and must strive to do the “greater things” which God promised when his own work of salvation was completed on the Cross. And finally, our church should invite anyone who is seeking Christ and a means of serving him to join in fellowship and worship with us.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Fountain of all good, kindle in us insight and aspiration, that each hour of prayer may be a time lived in eternity. Open our ears that we may hear. Soften our hearts that we may receive thy truth. Reveal thyself to us here that we may learn to find thee everywhere. *Amen.*

RTB

*This article originally appeared 25 years ago
in the January 1983 issue of The Servant*

Here and there with the brothers

COMMUNITY NOTES

Cambridge MA

Ciarán Anthony DellaFera, Minister Provincial of Province 1, recently shared the following note: “When I took my MCAT course the instructor told us that we should do some fun achievement thing over the weekend after the exam to rebuild our confidence. So, as of this afternoon, I am now a certified SCUBA diver!” Congratulations, dear brother!

New York and New Jersey

The Diocese of New York held its annual convention at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine on Saturday, November 10th and Tobias Stanislas Haller and

Thoms Mark Liotta attended as Clergy Delegates, and Associate Nevin C Brown as a Lay Delegate from his parish, Saint Ignatius of Antioch. James Teets reprised his role as Deputy Inspector of Elections for the convention—his eleventh year in this position. Tobias Stanislas was reelected a Deputy to General Convention and Provincial Synod, and for the first time as a member of the Standing Committee—with *no help* from James!

The Eighth Annual Convocation of the Sisters of Saint Gregory took place at Emmaus House in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. Brotherhood Minister General Richard Thomas Biernacki was the preacher at the convocation's main liturgy, at which Bishop Stephen Charleston, President and Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was the celebrant. Important milestones in the community's life were also celebrated at that service, including the life profession of vows of Srs



*Susanna Bede Caroselli SSG
with the Minister General BSG*

Susanna Bede Caroselli, Carin Bridgit Delfs and Laurie Joseph Niblick; Novice Connie Jo McCarroll made her first profession of vows. Our continued love and prayers are with our dear sisters as they go from strength to strength!

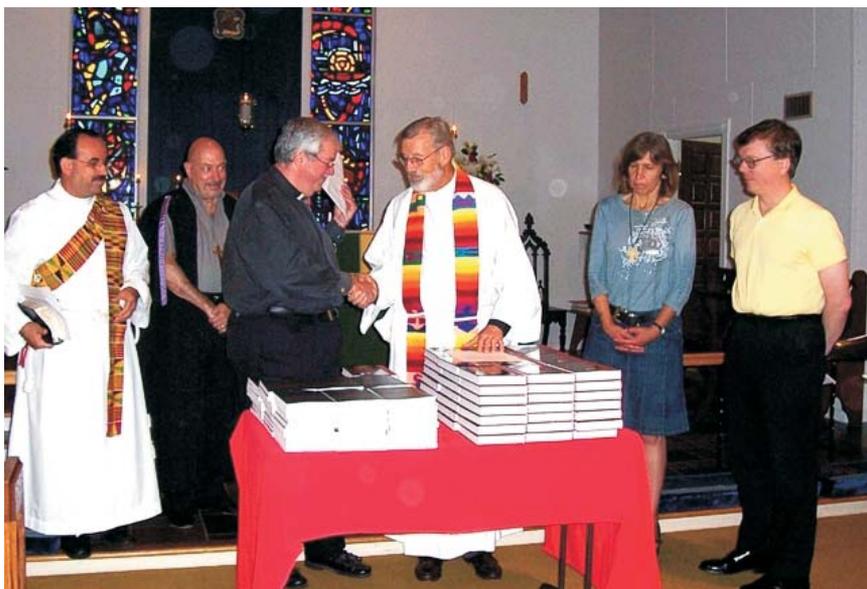
On November 18th Richard Thomas was invested as a Knight of Grace in the Sovereign Order of the Orthodox Knights Hospitaller of Saint John of Jerusalem at the OCA Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection in New York City. Our Bishop Visitor, Rodney R Michel, who is also Prelate of the Orthodox Knights, was to have preached at this gala event, but was detained due to the combination of weather and traffic. The major focus of this Order is to promote the continued improvement and understanding among Christian churches.

The Brotherhood Council held its interim meeting, and along with the Education Committee made a number of decisions for the good of the community. In addition, Council interviewed Blane Van Pletzen and invited him to attend the 2008 Annual Convocation as a postulant-prospective. Blane is presently studying at the General Theological Seminary. He is at the center of the group shown in the photo below.

On November 3rd the Priory in the United States of America of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem held its 47th annual Service of Rededication at Saint Thomas Church, Manhattan, including the investiture of



Stephen Storen as an Officer and James Teets as a Member of the Order. Among the many people invested in this Order, which traces its ancestry in modern times back to the reign of Queen Victoria, was the Very Rev Cecil David Williams, Dean of Trinity & Saint Philip’s Cathedral, Newark, and the Rev William AFM Blasingame, Rector of Saint Paul’s, Staten Island—both Invested as Members and both long-time friends of the Brotherhood. Bishop Mark Sisk of New York exercised his role as Sub-primate of the Order—he is akin to the Episcopal Visitor for the Priory in the USA—and Bishop Jack Nicholls of Sheffield in the Church of England—the Order’s Prelate—presided and preached.



The assembly looks on as Dr Henritzky presents worship materials to Fr William Riker.

Stephen Storen joined the Rev Dr David Henritzky and the Minister General for the presentation of worship materials to Holy Communion, Fairhaven NJ, on behalf of The Bible and Common Prayer Book Society. Stephen was also present for the presentation of worship materials in Spanish and Chinese to the congregation of St George’s, Flushing NY, at which Bishop Richard Shimpfky was celebrant.

A number of the Province 2 brothers also gathered at the Minister General’s residence to celebrate the 38th anniversary of the Brotherhood’s foundation on Holy Cross Day 1969.



The 38th-anniversary cake

Washington DC

Edward Munro joined his granddaughter Erin McDermott and 20 of her classmates from Saint Mary's College of Maryland to take part in an anti-war march in the nation's capital. The event was sponsored by Veterans Against War. It started at Lafayette Park near the White House with speeches by representatives from many groups both religious and secular. It then proceeded to the Capitol where a rally for peace was held. Many thousands took part and the march was made up of a cross section of society with students and senior citizens well represented.

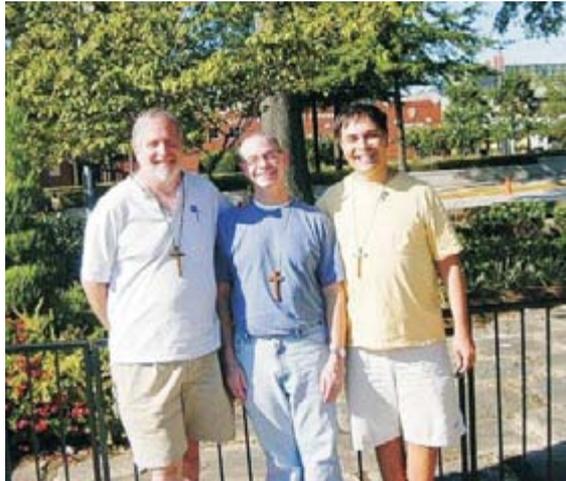
Along with several confreres of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, Stephen Storen attended a Solemn Liturgy of Investiture of The Sovereign Military Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and Malta (Federal Association USA) at the Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle, presided over by Archbishop of Washington Donald W Wuerl.

Chattanooga TN

The Chattanooga Theatre Centre's production of Romulus Linney's *Clair de Lune* earned Ron Fender a Best Director award at the Tennessee Theatre Association annual conference. This means the show will be featured at the annual Southeastern Theatre Conference this March. Can Broadway be far off?

Atlanta GA

Aelred Bernard Dean and postulant Bo Armstrong joined other volunteers from The Open Door Community in Atlanta GA, in participating in acts of mercy and justice this Labor Day in offering food and hospitality to Atlanta's homeless, poor and marginalized communities. The day started early as volunteers set up tables and chairs, got the grills going for hamburgers, cutting watermelon, making coleslaw, baking beans and transporting our friends from the streets and



Bo Armstrong, Thomas Lawrence and Aelred Bernard

shelters. The Open Door Community cooked over 1200 hamburgers, 65 gallons of baked beans, pounds and pounds of coleslaw and more watermelon than most families will ever eat in a lifetime; and all this effort fed 500 men, women and children—a small fraction of Atlanta's homeless and working poor families. The sun-filled day overflowed with grace, joy, laughter and enough to eat.

Several of the brothers gathered for a retreat weekend in remembrance and celebration of Foundation Day as a community, and the Catholic Worker House of The Open Door Community in Atlanta extended hospitality for the gathering. This retreat was both a working and reflective retreat for the brothers. While there, the brothers provided some much-needed maintenance in the kitchen and Thomas Lawrence Greer noted that while scrubbing kitchen utensils to restore their original shine, “We’re having our Brother Lawrence experience in finding God in the rattle of the pots and pans.” They also extended hospitality to the residents of The Open Door Community by relieving them in cooking, as they cooked the meals for them. The brothers also engaged in *lectio divina* on Luke 15:1-10 which provided an ongoing discussion and meditation. The group took a field trip to the Martin Luther King Jr Museum and ended the trip with Evening Prayer where Martin Luther and Coretta Scott King are laid to rest. The highlight of the retreat was Mark Andrew Jones making his renewal of vows to Aelred Bernard, the Minister Provincial, while Thomas Lawrence and Bo Armstrong laid hands on him.

Chicago IL

Joseph Basil Gauss has passed his nursing board exam (NCLEX) and is now on his way in a new career of help and caring. Congratulations from all of us!

On Sunday, September 30th, Minister Provincial Nathanael Deward Rahm celebrated his fifteenth anniversary as organist and choirmaster at Saint Peter’s, Chicago, and Joseph Basil and a number of Gregorians were in attendance. Joseph Basil submitted the following report: “Today marked the fifteenth anniversary of Nathanael Deward as organist/choirmaster at Saint Peter’s Episcopal Church, Chicago, which did not go unnoted by the congregation. During the announcements Saint Peter’s new Priest-in-Charge, Sarah Fisher, summoned Nathanael Deward to the lectern where he was presented with a gift from the congregation. There was applause as his choir sang ‘Happy Anniversary To You!’ While the hymnody was wonderful, and the psalm—tone one of Nathanael Deward’s own, the prelude and postlude made the entire service special. The prelude was Mendelssohn’s “Prelude No. 1 in c minor” and the postlude Widor’s “Toccata” performed with great skill and aplomb on Saint Peter’s recently expanded instrument. After the postlude there was a standing ovation including *whoops* of appreciation!” Needless to say, we each add our own, dear brother!

We report with deep sadness the death of our brother in Christ Damian-Curtis Kellum. His health had declined in recent years, but his spirit was always indomitable and cheerful. Damian-Curtis spent much of his ministry in social service work. He served as Court Ap-



*The Minister General and
Damian-Curtis
at his first profession of vows.*

pointed Special Advocate for abused and neglected children (CASA) for the 20th Judicial Circuit in Arkansas, and on the board of directors of Dove House, a woman's shelter and refuge, on the Hot Line and as liaison to the Department of Human Services. He was always a kind and caring presence, and he will be much missed.

*San Francisco
CA*

Karekin Madteos Yarian, Minister Provincial of Province 8, participated in a book project by contributing a chapter to it recently. The book, titled *Voices of the Virtual World: Participative Technology and the Ecclesial Revolution*, was released in July.

Newcastle AU

Novice David John Battrick has announced the opening of a new website for the Newcastle School of Theology for Ministry in Australia, as part of a new experiment in extended learning — www.schooloftheology.net — where he is the school's director as a part of his work as Ministry Development Officer for the Diocese of Newcastle. Novice Michael Elliott is a member of the school's Board of Studies. The school now has 85 students enrolled—do drop in!

A presentation on the vows

LIVING THE VOWED LIFE

At the outset I want to express my gratitude for the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and especially for Aelred Bernard's response to the Spirit's guidance and invitation. Over the last few years Aelred Bernard has led us to reflect in a most enriching way, I think, on the meaning and inherent call of our vows. I also want to thank those brothers who have participated in previous panels as well as all of you who have shared your insights, feelings, concerns and struggles.

I am mindful and grateful that we are a community, made so by our common response to the workings of the Spirit in our lives. That common response finds expression in our Rule and our vows.

In community we lean on one another, encourage and build up one another. And, lest it go unspoken, we sometimes annoy one another. There can be times for admonishment and calls for obedience. Even then—perhaps most particularly then—there is love and the working of the Spirit. All that we experience together helps us grow in our ability to live the vowed life.

For me, living the vowed life is rooted in community, in this Gregorian community. Our vows, all that they address and all that to which they lead us to aspire, is rela-



Damian-Curtis at his admission to the postulancy

tional in character. We are called to be in relationship with God and with one another. Living the vowed life of a Gregorian is not a solitary affair.

Although we are not a residential community, we must inevitably live out our vows in community. And it begins here. We acknowledge in the Gathering Service that, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we experience the love of God in Christ Jesus, and share that love with others. And we jointly affirm from Psalm 133 “how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity.”

Being a nonresidential community without a commitment of stability, i.e., without a commitment to live in one place or in a single community for the rest of our natural lives, does



Richard Thomas, with Damian-Curtis after his life profession of vows



Richard Thomas and James look on as Damian-Curtis signs the instrument of life profession.



Damian-Curtis in the refectory with William Francis Jones

not mean we can simply trade out. While it is right and proper for some who test their vocation with us to discern the need to leave, when one comes to fully embrace the vows, we also embrace how we have changed and become part of one another ... how we live for one another.

Our Gregorian community is the nurturing environment that prepares us to carry our experience of the vowed life back to the world at

large, to the other communities of which we are a part. In those various communities we are to strive to witness to the sacredness of all life and labor by living out our vows. The vowed life is the essence of our witness.

We are fortunate if we return to our other communities and find recognition and support for our vowed life. This is most often the case when we return to our spouses, partners and families. To a greater or lesser extent we find this in our parish family as well. Beyond those communities, however, I suspect the amount of recognition and support we encounter for our vowed life is spotty at best.

Being in a large, publicly held business enterprise, I find little recognition let alone support save for individual relationships. Instead, there is a highly competitive culture that places a premium on not who one is or even what one did yesterday but on what one can contribute today and tomorrow. One's value is largely defined by one's economic contribution.



Richard John Lorino joins in presenting Damian-Curtis to make his life profession.

For me, therefore, living the vowed life is often a struggle and a confrontation with the powers and principalities of this world. Incidentally, on this subject of the spiritual powers and principalities of this world I recommend the work of Walter Wink.

Now it is important to clearly state that my struggles in living out the vowed life in the for-profit business sector are not exclusively external. No, brothers, the spiritual powers of this world, that competitive culture rooted in economic definitions, rises up from within me. I am keenly aware

of how much of my psyche leads me away from God. I am far from perfect as I travel this path. And I have come to realize that one's ego has virtually an infinite array of rationalizations for compromise and course adjustments.

For me, then, leading the vowed life is about trying to maintain a focus on God as opposed to the many distractions one encounters in the world.

Focus is necessary but not sufficient however. I also strive to live in gratitude. When faced with challenges and obstacles, be they external or when I am forced to confront some internal defensiveness around a personal preference for my way as opposed to God's way, I find it immensely helpful to engage in prayers of thanksgiving.

When I first began to rely on this approach I was beset by all kinds of thoughts, chief among them was the realization that I am praying to a God that let his Son be crucified, so it seemed prudent to manage one's expectations and not expect any better treatment.

There is no great temptation to despair because our prayer life engenders trust in God. Living out our vows is also rooted in our prayer life, which is largely regulated by the Rule. It follows, at least for me, that living the vowed life begins by living out our vow of obedience to the provisions of the Rule of the Brotherhood.

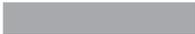
This is supplemented and nourished by obedience to all pastoral officials and spiritual directors or advisors. By the way, I cannot stress enough the importance of having a regular routine for spiritual direction with one or more trusted spiritual advisors.

So, the vow of obedience, the vow that I believe is perhaps discussed least of all, is for me the stepping stone for living the vowed life generally. By being faithful to the provisions of the Rule, we live a life of prayer, which predisposes one to live with a prayerful sense of felt gratitude. This, in turn, serves as a springboard for living our vows of chastity and poverty. Lived gratitude predisposes one to being less controlling, more respectful and loving. Lived gratitude also predisposes one to being more generous with one's time, talent and treasure.

To sum it up, in my view, living the vowed life is nourished in our Gregorian community and always expressed in the various communities in which we participate. In fidelity to our common response to the workings of the Spirit in our lives, which finds its expression in our Rule and our vows, we develop a prayerful relationship of trust in and with God that allows one to live out of a sense of gratitude, praising and serving God in all whom we meet.

On a final, pragmatic level we also should approach this entire subject mindful of our Minister General's familiar refrain: each person who comes to us changes us. Just as we as a community are open to that process of change, growth and discovery, each of us as an individual should be cognizant of the impact that we might have on this community. We are in relation with one another and this should entail some ownership, accountability and responsibility for and to our community. Certainly, let all things be done lovingly.

Mark Andrew Jones



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 d 10.9.07

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
 Francis Sebastian Medina

Aelred Bernard Dean *Fri*
 Joseph Basil Gauss
 Mark Andrew Jones
 Emmanuel Williamson
 Richard Matthias
 William Henry Benefield
 Nathanael Deward Rahm
 Thomas Lawrence Greer

Enoch John Valentine *Sat*
 Ron Fender

Novices
 David John Battrick
 Michael Elliott
 David Luke Henton
 Will Harpest

Postulants
 Bo Alexander Armstrong
 Jason F Bullock

Postulant-Prospective
 Blane van Pletzen

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
 Baltimore Int'l Seafarers' Center;
 Saint Paul's Grayson St, San
 Antonio
 Brothers Edward, Ronald
 Augustine, Karekin Madteos,
 William David, Thomas,
 Thomas Mark, Emmanuel, Luke
 Anthony, Charles Edward, James
 Mahoney, Aelred Bernard, John
 Henry, Ron, David John
 Aldersgate UMC Dobbs Ferry,
 St Christopher's, Kileen TX
 White Plains Hospital
 Episcopal Parishes of Yonkers

Ian, David, Dennis, Dean, Scott,
 Tim, Johanna, Virginia, Nancy,
 Kathleen, Debra, Steven,
 Anthony, Austin, Lloyd & Mary;
 John, Derek, Mavis, Kay, Edith,
 Ruby, Bill, Raye

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, Helen Marie Joyce
 VHM, Kenneth Staples,
 Elizabeth Holton, Richard A
 Belanger, Brendan W Nugent,
 Sarah Elizabeth Wells SSG, Sue
 Bradley, Jack Merryman; Paul
 Power
 Frank Hughes
 Mary Lou Slaughter
 Joan Eng, OCP
 Phyllis Rindge
 Diana Saxby
 Scott Glidden
 Betsy Weintz
 Ray Clouse MD KStJ
 Madeleine L'Engel
 Henry J Travers
 Marie
 Jon Bankert, SSF
 Bill (Hubert Lovey) Martin
 Calvin O Pressley
 Chris Lee
 Amber
 Donald Wilkenson
 Dorothy Benner
 Sean Reynolds
 Charles Karoly
 David Currie
 Brad
 James Alieu
 Bruce J Holding
 Paul Osborn

Thanksgiving
 Nathanael Deward Rahm BSG's
 15 years as Organist/Choirmaster
 at St Peter's Episcopal Church,
 Chicago
 Marriage of Mary Patricia Dilger
 & Steven Lee Gadberg
 Birth of Anna Bullock