



HE SERVANT



#215

Eastertide 2010

EASTER'S CENTRALITY

Christmas and Easter are the two big events in the church's calendar. One celebration centers around what everyone feels they know about — a little baby — and with which most everyone has some first-hand experience. The second celebration centers around what everyone feels uncertain about and inexperienced about — an empty tomb. A baby is in the life of most people is some way — but an empty tomb is outside not only the experience but also the imagination of many.

Many people put Christmas first and Easter second in the sequence of events to be remembered. Yet, in fact, it is only because of the resurrection we celebrate at Easter that we can know there was a Christmas! The church was born around the conviction of the disciples that Jesus was raised from the dead and that lived on. So: first the resurrection, and then the birth of our Lord.

It is good to have "religious" thoughts about Christmas, but the beginning of our journey of faith starts with Easter morning. That faith begins with belief about our Lord's resurrection. The real issue on Easter Day is not our immortality but the victory of Christ. Without Easter, Good Friday would have been unendurable. What could we say of God if ultimately the world's best man met only the world's worst fate?

The mystery of Easter remains a mystery. It is better to be concerned with the inner meaning of the resurrection than to be curious about the manner of its happening. But the victory is a fact. If Jesus lives in us, we do not have to be afraid. The experience of the church through twenty centuries is that all the darkness of Good Friday, all the failures of history and human despair cannot put out the great light. "The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

RTB

Here and there with the brothers

COMMUNITY NOTES

Winter Retreat 2010

The Brotherhood gathered at Mount Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls, New York for convocation and retreat, from January 20 through 23, and we received the traditional welcome from the OFM Friars who have become our dear friends. Though only four days long, this was a much-needed time apart for all who attended, given the great stress we all experience in our lives and how that reflects upon our various ministries, and upon the lives of our families and parishioners. As our Lord and his disciples regularly experienced the need to retreat, to go away from the daily pressures of their ministry, this time apart is a fundamental response to the needs each of us lives with each day. This brief time is for refreshment and renewal, both spiritual and physical, and with the intention to refocus our lives toward our ministries —



Group discussion forms an important part of Convocation.

through the Rule of our order — so that we each may be restored to our common purposes.

Prayer and fellowship are major facets of each day of our time together, and this retreat featured sermons at the daily masses from Tobias Stanislas Haller, Edward Munro and Joseph Basil Gauss. The daily masses were celebrated by Tobias Stanislas who stood in for Bishop Rodney Michel, who was unable to leave his new ministry as Assisting Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania due to last-minute responsibilities. Edward and Thomas Mark Liotta exercised their ministry as deacons, as did the several other Gregorian Friars who support the daily worship as organists, sacristan and acolytes.

The study theme of this gathering was provided by Dietrich Bonhoeffer through his book, *Life Together*. Bonhoeffer was called to take charge of a clandestine seminary for training Lutheran pastors in Pomerania, Germany from 1935 until 1937 when the Nazis forcibly closed the seminary. During those stressful years Bonhoeffer recorded his thoughts about life lived in community — which is what the seminary was — and this book was published posthumously, following his execution at Flossenbug Concentration Camp in the waning days of World War II. What did Bonhoeffer have to share with the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory today?

Our retreat opened with a film about the life and times of Dietrich Bonhoeffer which provided back-



Joseph Basil



Viewing the documentary on Bonhoeffer's life

ground to his writing *Life Together*. Through three further sessions the brothers reflected on and discussed the similarities disclosed by Bonhoeffer and compared them with our individual experiences in our various ministries. What Bonhoeffer recorded in his book was in many ways familiar to our own daily experiences in prayer, focus and mission, though his grounding in Luther's Evangelical theology and his mode of expression often varied from ours as Anglicans. Also noted were some differences in style and substance that even sixty years of Western Christendom have introduced into our thinking. Our traditions, though often similar, were not always the same.

Exercises developed by our Education Committee brought into focus how the relationships between us were shared by the budding pastors in Bonhoeffer's seminary, and also heightened our own awareness of the unique aspects of the Brotherhood's Rule. As the retreat program concluded, each brother experienced the opportunity to put into words his own formation and to discuss the benefits that formation had provided him for life in community and ministry. We left Mount Alvernia both refreshed and thankful for the community prayer time and for our time spent in learning more about who we are and why we are called to do what we do. And we are most grateful for the sacrifices Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his brothers made for the life of Christ's church, and how they benefit us in our own time.



Bonhoeffer's image at Saint Alban's Abbey in England

Province 1

Ciarán Anthony DellaFera was one of two winners of the 2009/2010 Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) Student Information Technology Award resulting from his work in the Dominican Republic this past summer. His winning presentation was titled "Hospital General El Buen Samaritano Teleradiology & PACS System" and the Awards Committee "was impressed by the quality of the applications and presenta-



(l to r) Donald Blais, Enoch John Valentine, Virgilio Fortuna and Barry Turley at the All Saints Valentine's Day event

tions as well as the broad scope of the projects as they relate to improving care through the use of information technology. The MMS is the publisher of the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine. Each of your brothers is proud to add his expression of congratulations!

Valentine's Day came in a special way to All Saints Memorial Church, Providence, Rhode Island in an event entitled, "Aspects of Love." Aimed at fellowship-building, under the direction of Donald Blais, the celebration brought many new people to All Saints for an afternoon program. The combined

choirs of All Saints and St. Matthew's RC sang under the direction of Enoch John Valentine, joined by Dr Barry Turley as accompanists for soloists. The program included poems, readings, quotes and songs about the many aspects of love and relationship we share as couples, friends, parents and Christians. A collation of sweets and sparkling cider was served by members of the parish and great fellowship and fun was had by all in attendance.

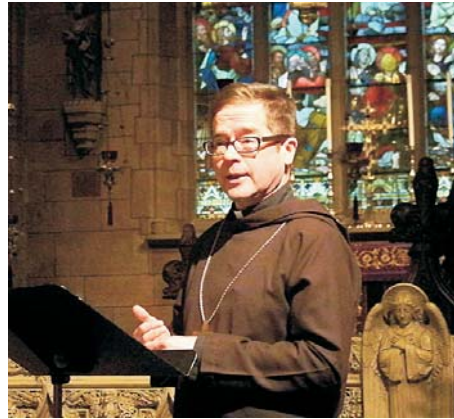
Province 2

"Getting the Word (of God) Out: An Advent Day of Reflection" was the title of the Province 2 Advent retreat, co-sponsored by the Brotherhood and Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, and brothers from all around Province 2 journeyed to



BSG and TSSF at Saint Mark's, Philadelphia

the City of Brotherly Love for a two-day gathering in early December. The event was ably organized by Robert James McLaughlin, who is a member of Saint Mark's, who also arranged for hotel accommodations for everyone traveling to this event. Bishop Michel, the Brotherhood's Episcopal Visitor, heartily welcomed the travelers to dinner at an Italian restaurant near the parish. The following morning the Rev Sean Mullen, Rector of Saint Mark's, welcomed everyone to the parish and celebrated mass for them. Minister Provincial Richard John Lorino



Tobias Stanislas

welcomed the retreatants, among whom were several members of the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis, with whom the Gregorian Friars were very pleased to share the day. The theme of the retreat was "Speaking the Unspeakable" and Tobias Stanislas presented meditations on the mission, ministry and spreading the Word of God. A fine luncheon was provided by the parish — and a number of parishioners also enjoyed the Quiet Day, as well as getting to know the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory a bit better. It was quite an undertaking to arrange for a two-day retreat at such a distance for most of the members of the province, but it was so successful and invigorating that we will certainly do it again!

Reflecting the current down-turn of the US economy, the 2009 General Convention of The Episcopal Church faced a massive budget shortfall by reducing funds supporting programs from the Episcopal Church Center in New York, including lay-offs of one quarter of the staff there and at satellite offices across the country. By the end of 2009, 45 of the 180 staff positions were eliminated, including that occupied by James Teets as Grants and Covenants Officer in the Partnerships Center. After hav-



Richard Thomas Biernacki shares remembrances with James, and Bishop Christopher Epting (who retired from his post as Ecumenical Officer).

ing served for almost 24 years on the staffs of three Presiding Bishops, James elected to take early retirement. He will continue to devote much of his energy to his responsibilities for the Brotherhood and for his parish, Saint James' Fordham in the Bronx, so any thought of "spare time" will quickly be forgotten!

Lent — thought to be a time for quiet reflection and introspection — actually turns out to be quite a busy time for many of us, and Edward Munro is anything but an exception. He reports that his parish of Saint Christopher’s (New Carrollton MD) is taking this holy season in its stride, hosting the Winter Relief Homeless Shelter. “On Wednesdays we have a morning Holy Eucharist and a soup and bread supper followed by Bible study. Friday evenings we provide the Stations of the Cross — and all that keeps me busy!” Saint Christopher’s recently completed a week-long program hosting 35 homeless men and women in their undercroft. “There were meals, chaperones and transportation provided, and I was the coordinator of the program, serving at the church from six to eight hours every day.”

Province 4

After much time in thought and prayerful planning, Ron Fender informs us that his new project, the House of All Souls, is nearing completion. This project and program, located in Chattanooga, Tennessee, will provide a permanent home for eight homeless, disabled men. Ron says his work “was inspired by Fessenden House and Common Ground in New York. Christopher Stephen Jenks’ devotion to the broken and outcast has always touched me and inspired me to continue in this work” — his reference is to his years of service to homeless and hungry people as a case manager and staffer at Chattanooga’s Community Kitchen and through the homeless program at Saint Matthew’s Shelter for Men.

Advent in Austin, Texas saw the presentation of the “Art and Soul” series at Saint James’ Church under the guidance of David Luke Henton. This Adult Forum series was enthusiastically received and enjoyed by all who attended, and David Luke tells us that he has been asked to lead this set of spiritual exercises again during Advent 2010.

Province 5

Will Harpest recently shared the following note with his brothers: “Over three years ago, during my year as a postulant, I developed an introductory curriculum for the use of small-group fellowships at Church of the Atonement, Chicago. The original small group that began then is still meeting, though many of the faces around the table have changed. I always refer to the material that I put together as Course 101 for Small-Fellowship Groups. At the time I thought that other fellowship groups would form. Several efforts were made in that direction, but key people moved away, and that was that.... until this Christmas Eve. After the midnight service I was talking with a newer parishioner about small group ministry. He eagerly volunteered that such a ministry was exactly what he hoped to be about. In the past several weeks I have been working ‘behind the scenes’ to support the birth of a new fellowship. This evening, as I write this, the eight members of this group are gathering in a parishioner’s home for the first time. The diversity of the members include race, gender, age, national citizenship, sexual orientation, and recently baptized. In common they hold a commitment to Christ, the church, and to a meaningful Lent.” We join our prayers of thanksgiving with Will’s that God may bless this new creation, and we give thanks for Will’s perseverance and skill in bringing this group into faithful fellowship.

As part of Pipedreams International Holiday Sampler on NPR, Nathanael Deward Rahm performed the organ accompaniment to Paul Nicholson's "Shepherds Came to Bethlehem" sung by the Schola Cantorum of Saint Peter's in the Loop, Chicago, Michael Thompson, conductor.

Province 8

During Advent 2009 the brothers in the San Francisco area gathered at Francis Sebastian Medina's home to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with prayer and traditional Mexican food. Would that we all could have been there!

Emmanuel Williamson has relocated from the Northwest to the Mid-Atlantic, having been called to serve as Priest-in-Charge of Church of the Redemption in Southampton, Pennsylvania. We wish him all the best in this new ministry.

A poem for beginnings

ANNUNCIATION

Love lays weeping
At the foot of the stairs;
 Sings a song,
Whispers a prayer,
Clutching her face
 With new hands.

*Who am I?
Servant girl, harlot,
Empress, dove?
Shall I wear scarlet?
Bathe myself in purple linen?*

O tender ewe-child
Seek not the fairness of it!
Seek not reason, neither
Seize upon your
New found lowliness.

Tender shoots spring forth,
From the untilled soil,
 In the nature of things,

At his command.

And God heard and remembered his people.

Love lays weeping
At the foot of the stairs.

Fear not!

For he has remembered.

Outside, under the autumn bough
The thunder whispers,
 Whispers to the trees,
 Whispers dangerous, wondrous things...

Things meant only
To be carried on an angel's wings.

Fear not the thunder
Whispering your name.

Who am I Lord but a jar of clay?

Am I remembering this moment?

Is it a
butterfly kiss
On the back of this tiny hand,
Or have the heavens moved
And dashed my soul into pieces?

Who am I but weeping,
Whispering
 and clutching?

And who are you
Who calls my name
 by thunder?

Are you Judgment, Savior,
Servant or King?

Love lays weeping
At the foot of the stairs,

For God has remembered his people.

Karekin Madteos Yarian



Tikkun Olam

With all this,
we need not remain in the chains of convention,
which choke the higher, free spirit,
which desecrate the holy that emanates from a higher order,
the world of freedom,
where thought has been endowed with liberty,
absolute freedom for aspiration,
complete freedom for the inclination of the will,
and for creation.

And the greater the freedom,
the greater will be the level of holiness.
"I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will exult in the God of my salvation." (Hab. 3:18)

Let everyone express in truth and in faithfulness
whatever his soul reveals to him,
let him bring forth his spiritual creativity
from potentiality to actuality,
without any deception.
Out of such sparks torches of light will be assembled,
and they will illumine the whole world out of their glory.

Out of such fragments of inner truth
will the great truth emerge.

—Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook (1865-1935)

Orot HaKodesh, Vol. 1, pp. 167-8,
translated by Ben Zion Bokser.
Published by Paulist Press. 1978

INTERCESSIONS

For the Brotherhood		Novices	Sat	For the Departed
Episcopal Visitor	Sun	Bo Alexander Armstrong		Benefactors, Friends & Associates:
Rodney R Michel		Francis Jonathan Bullock		Charlotte Morgan, Arsene &
Episcopal Visitors Emeriti		Blane Frederik van Pletzen-Rands		Louise Lemarier, Norman Hall,
<i>Horace WB Donegan d 11.11.91</i>		Tikhon Pethoud		George Koerner, Henry Fukui,
<i>Paul Moore, jr d 5.1.03</i>		James Patrick Hall		J Steward Slocum, James
<i>Walter D Dennis d 3.30.03</i>		Postulants		Gundrum, Cecil Berges, Marion
Professed		Eric L Turner		Pierce, Helen Marie Joyce,
Richard Thomas Biernacki		Millard S Cook		Kenneth Staples, Elizabeth
<i>John Nidecker d 6.20.88</i>				Holton, Richard A Belanger,
James Teets		and for Associates and Friends of		Brendan W Nugent, Sarah
Luke Anthony Nowicki		the Brotherhood		Elizabeth Wells, Sue Bradley,
<i>John Peter Clark d 2.25.94</i>				Jack Merryman; Paul Power,
William Francis Jones	Mon	For Religious Communities		William Russell, Mark
Stephen Storen		Sacramentine & Visitandine Nuns		Domoguen; Elizabeth Mary
<i>Thomas Joseph Ross d 12.18.01</i>		Society of the Atonement		Burke SSG
Tobias Stanislas Haller		Order of Friars Minor		John Nader
<i>William Bunting d 10.12.88</i>		Community of the Paraclete		Jennifer Marie Anderson
Edward Munro		Companions of Saint Luke~		Joyce Taylor
<i>Charles Kramer d 10.23.06</i>		Benedictine		John "Jud" Presmont
<i>Bernard Fessenden d 8.10.93</i>		Community of Celebration		Kay Tucker
Donovan Aidan Bowley	Tue	Little Sisters of Saint Clare		Gideon Addington
<i>Edward Riley d 9.15.05</i>		Anamchara Fellowship		Dorothy Blakeman
Christopher Stephen Jenks		Anglican Order of Preachers		Harry Kaprilian
Ciarán Anthony DellaFera		Rivendell Community		Bert, Peter, Omar, Raymond
<i>Damian-Curtis Kellum d 10.9.07</i>		Sisters of Saint Gregory		Derek Greene
Richard John Lorino		Third Order SSF		Norval White
Ronald Augustine Fox		Worker Sisters & Brothers of the		V Nelle Bellamy
Maurice John Grove		Holy Spirit		Florine Hendrix
Charles Edward LeClerc		Camaldolese Benedictines		Edward Core
Virgilio Fortuna	Wed	Society of Saint John the		Arthur Andre
Gordon John Stanley		Evangelist		Robert McNutt
Karekin Madteos Yarian		Anglican Oblates of Saint		Violet Humphrey
William David Everett		Benedict		Ronald Tanner
Thomas Bushnell		Community of the Transfiguration		Carol Jean Rives
Thomas Mark Liotta		Order of Julian of Norwich		Beverly Gurley, Steve Gurley
James Mahoney		Order of the Holy Cross		Ron Pietsch
<i>Patrick Ignatius Dickson d 7.20.05</i>		Order of Saint Helena		Lauraine Fraumeni
Robert James McLaughlin	Thu	Community of Saint John Baptist		Irwin Dambrot
Peter Budde		Society of Saint Francis		Mary Baker
John Henry Ernestine		For Ministries		Christopher Womack
Francis Sebastian Medina		Joseph Richey House		Erin Scott
Ælfred Bernard Dean		Fessenden Recovery Ministries		Michael Storen
Joseph Basil Gauss		Baltimore Int'l Seafarers' Center		Tuana'itau Tuia Faatamala
Mark Andrew Jones		Saint Paul's Grayson St, San		Nathan Kingsley
Emmanuel Williamson		Antonio		Michael Rinaldi
Richard Matthias		Aldersgate UMC Dobbs Ferry		Richard Key
William Henry Benefield	Fri	Saint James Fordham, Bronx		Brian Leitch
Nathanael Deward Rahr		Saint Christopher's, Kileen TX		Jabez Bryce
Thomas Lawrence Greem		Saint James, Austin		George Prina
Enoch John Valentine		White Plains Hospital		Marie Niclas
Ron Fender		Grace Cathedral, San Francisco		George Leora III
Michael Elliott				Peter Bankers
David Luke Henton				Richard Proulx
David John Battrick				Hollis Hoiberg
Will Harpest				Raye Benefield
				Sheldon Peavey
				Myra McDaniel
				Josh Diehl
				Sonya Kennedy
				Maurie Caschetta