



HE SERVANT



#217

Fall 2010

Publications from the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory

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CONVOCATION OF BROTHERS

As I began to consider what I would share in this issue there was really one thing — Convocation 2010.

The first verse of Psalm 133 has always been close to my heart; it is a verse we, as a community, often sing at one or more of the Rites or Offices when we are gathered physically together “in community.” *Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is, when brethren dwell together in unity.*



Convocation 2010 made me so incredibly proud (if I may be so bold) of this gathering of amazing and gifted brothers — diverse in ways most cannot imagine — yet held together by a bond which is unbreakable and firm. The Offices, the daily Eucharist and the Rites of the Community are the glue, the firm union of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory.

This Convocation had much to work on; much to fine-tune and put in place — changes in some of our structures and in the way our education program is maintained and carried out — and changes in some officials and the way in which they continue to serve in the governance of the community. Most of all, we spent a great deal of time in how we react and act to and with each other — both when together and when apart. Diversity brings issues and issues can bring division. Not with this community!

Our retreat, which will be addressed in community notes, was superb. The week was incredible. But what was overwhelming was the sense of community felt most of all by me, the father and the founder of the Brotherhood. I watched as, when I challenged and put forth new ideas, the brothers responded with fine discussions and interaction. Where there might, in other contexts, have been derision and conflict, we saw real working together for the common goal — living the vows we all made in this community — to God and to the church.

I am humbled to be the leader — first among equals — of this incredible band of saints and sinners. We are stronger than ever and remain true to the ideals of our Patron, Gregory the Great: *Soli Deo Gloria — to God alone the Glory.*”

RTB

Here and there with the brothers...

COMMUNITY NOTES

Annual Convocation 2010



The panel discussion on the Vowed Life

The Brotherhood gathered from around the world for Annual Convocation and Chapter in late July, at Mount Alvernia Retreat and Conference Center in Wappingers Falls, New York. The week served as a refresher course in the call along a path governed by the Brotherhood's Rule.

The week began with the Minister General's Charge to the Brotherhood in the form of a keynote address outlining the order's mission and frankly assessing where that mission has succeeded and where it has failed. The following day the community assembled to explore "The Meaning of the Vowed Life" as Gregorian Friars receive that call from God. A panel consisting of Thomas Bushnell, Mark Andrew Jones, Thomas Lawrence Greer and James Patrick Hall opened the discussion, with each member delivering personal remarks on different facets of the Gregorian Way as experienced in his life and ministry. From that beginning the company of brothers was free to add their own thoughts, and the animated conversation continued throughout the morning and afternoon.



Fellowship and conversation "on the porch"

Episcopal Visitor Rodney Michel of the Diocese of Pennsylvania was present and engaged with the community for the entirety of the convocation, which was a great blessing to everyone who attended.

Another feature of the week has become the Emmaus Walk, wherein senior brothers are linked with those newer to the community for a focused opportunity for them to get to know one-another better. This has become essential considering that the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory has become a world-wide community which includes several Provinces of the Anglican Communion. As it's name indicates, the Emmaus Walk normally takes the form of a stroll for an hour or more, and the warm and sunny weather in Upstate New York proved no hindrance whatsoever!

A number of meetings take place at each annual gathering in addition to the Chapter Meeting — some are teaching events conducted by the Directors of Education and of Postulants and Novices — Thomas Bushnell and William David Everett — and involve the Ministers Provincial and the assigned Mentors for those in formation. The Provincials are also provided a time to meet as a body and with the Minister General. The five Brotherhood Provinces hold their annual meetings during this week in order to welcome new members and to discuss calendar events and retreats to be scheduled for the upcoming year. This year Province 1 (New England) elected a new Minister Provincial — Enoch John Valentine of the Diocese of Rhode Island. In this same vein come the elections and appointments of other leaders for the community, including new members of Council — James Mahoney, Robert James McLaughlin, Joseph Basil Gauss and David Luke Henton — and six friars in Annual Vows met with the Minister General in order to renew their vows for another year.

Gregorian Friars are always called upon to celebrate the daily masses during convocation, in coordination with Bishop Michel, who was the celebrant twice during the week, including the festival convocation worship on Saturday. Other masses were celebrated by Tobias Stanislas Haller and David



Bishop Michel



The pall symbolizes death to the old way of life.



(above l) David John Battrick lays on hands as part of the liturgy of healing. (above r) The Minister General receives Richard Matthias' life vows. (r) Blane Frederik van Pletzen-Rands preaches. (below r) Novices Millard Cook and Jonathan Severus Turner.



John Battrick, assisted by Gregorian deacons Edward Munro, Charles Edward LeClerc, Gordon John Stanley and Thomas Mark Liotta, serving together with friars in all other roles. Preaching during the week was inspiring as always; those contributing included Bishop Michel, the Minister General, Peter Budde, Enoch John and Blane Frederik van Pletzen-Rands.

The religious life is celebrated most personally through the Rites of the Brotherhood and this year was especially busy. Four friars made their Life Profession of Vows: Joseph Basil, Richard Matthias, Nathanael Deward Rahm and Thomas Lawrence, and two novices made their First Profession of Annual Vows: Bo Alexander Armstrong and Francis Jonathan Bullock — all this taking place at the festival Holy Eucharist on Saturday, July 31st.

Earlier in the week two postulants were received into the novitiate: Jonathan Severus Turner and Millard Cook,



*(above l) Newest postulants: Gregory Green asks to be admitted, and Richard Helmer (r) receives the postulant's cross.
 (below l) Bo Alexander Armstrong gives thanks for the privilege of wearing the profession cross, (r) and Joseph Basil Gauss makes his life vows of profession.*



(l to r) Thomas Lawrence Greer, Richard John Lorino, Nathanael Deward Rahm and Karekin Madteos Yarian



The Schola under Nathanael Deward's direction

and two men were admitted to the postulancy: Gregory A Green from the Diocese of Western North Carolina and Richard E Helmer from the Diocese of California.

Province 1

Virgilio Fortuna is starting a parish internship for one year, as a part of his preparation for the diaconate, at the Church of Our Savior in Middleboro [Massachusetts]. He will be in charge of parish outreach. He is also working on revised paperwork for the diocese and expects to be — all those in authority being willing — made a candidate in the fall.



The community assembled on the steps of the Chapel of the Stigmata

The Minister General binds Francis Jonathan Bullock with the knotted cincture — representing commitment to the threefold vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.



Province 2

Tobias Stanislas Haller led the diocesan clergy retreat for the Diocese of West Virginia in May and was very well received by Bishop Michie Klusmeyer and the more than 35 clergy who attended the three-day annual event. The topic was the role of Scripture in the life of the church, in particular in the dynamic interplay involved in interpretation and application of an ancient document’s timeless truths. The clergy association provided copies of Tobias’ book, *Reasonable and Holy* (Seabury 2009) for all of the retreatants, and an impromptu book-signing was undertaken.

The August 12 issue of *The London Gazette* announced this year’s list of those being honored by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with appointments and promotions in the various orders of which she is the Sovereign Head, and among them comes word that James Teets has been promoted to the grade of Officer Brother in The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem.

Province 4

Minister Provincial Ælfred Bernard Dean has recently been admitted to the Master of Social Work program of Valdosta State University in Georgia. Much of his study work can be accomplished without the requirement to reside on campus — which is an additional blessing to him.

Jonathan Severus Turner has relocated to Chattanooga and will be working at the Community Kitchen, also assisting Ron Fender at the House of All Souls.

Province 5

Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, CA, has awarded Ronald Augustine Fox the continuing education series certificate for Anglican Studies. The certificate reads “In recognition of successful completion of all the prescribed requirements, the Center for Anglican Learning & Leadership hereby confers upon Br Ronald A Fox the continuing education series certificate for Anglican Studies.” Beginning in 2008 and ending this past July, Ronald Augustine took the six required online courses, which included *The Anglican Bible*; *Facing Choices: Ethics in the*



Blane Frederik with Bishop Irish (l) and Mark Andrew with Bishop Frade (r)

Anglican Tradition; Modern Period: History and Theology; We Will with God's Help; Ministry in the Anglican Tradition; Chapters in Anglican Church History and Theology; and Let us Pray: An Introduction to the Book of Common Prayer.

William Henry Benefield — who is already a practicing Doctor of Pharmacology and an international lecturer on related subjects, in addition to pursuing ordination to the priesthood in the Diocese of Chicago — has announced that he has been accepted to a two-year certification program in spiritual direction at the SMU/Perkins School of Theology in Dallas through their Anglican Studies Program, beginning in August of this year.

Province 8

Tikhon Pethoud withdrew from the novitiate, and Emmanuel Williamson was granted release from his annual vows earlier this year. We are all thankful for the opportunity to have gotten to know them and hope that their time in the Brotherhood will be of support as they continue their pilgrimage.

Ordinations

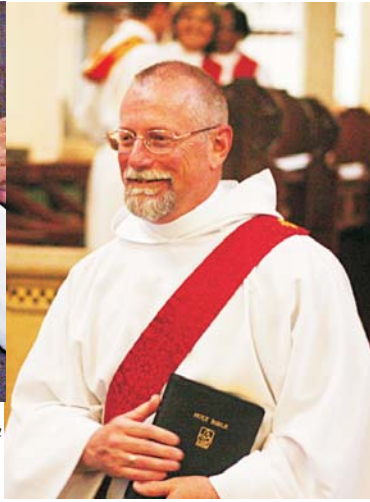
We are very happy to report on two ordinations to the transitional diaconate among our number: Bishop Carolyn Irish of Utah and Bishop Leo Frade of Southeast Florida (himself an Associate of BSG) ordained Blane Frederik van Pletzen-Rands and Mark Andrew Jones respectively. Blane Frederik has taken up the position of Canon for Children, Youth and Pastoral Care at St Paul's Cathedral in Buffalo, and Mark Andrew will be serving in a number of capacities in the diocese, no doubt making use of his professional background in human resources and law.

INTERCESSIONS

For the Brotherhood			
Episcopal Visitor	Sun	Bo Alexander Armstrong	Sat
Rodney R Michel		Francis Jonathan Bullock	
Episcopal Visitors Emeriti		Novices	
<i>Horace WB Donegan d 11.11.91</i>		Blane Frederik van Pletzen-Rands	
<i>Paul Moore, jr d 5.1.03</i>		James Patrick Hall	
<i>Walter D Dennis d 3.30.03</i>		Jonathan Severus Turner	
Professed		Millard Cook	
Richard Thomas Biernacki		Postulants	
<i>John Nidecker d 6.20.88</i>		Gregory A Green	
James Teets		Richard E Helmer	
Luke Anthony Nowicki			
<i>John Peter Clark d 2.25.94</i>		and for Associates and Friends of	
William Francis Jones	Mon	the Brotherhood	
Stephen Storen		For Religious Communities	
<i>Thomas Joseph Ross d 12.18.01</i>		Sacramentine & Visitandine	
Tobias Stanislas Haller		Nuns	
<i>William Bunting d 10.12.88</i>		Society of the Atonement	
Edward Munro		Order of Friars Minor	
<i>Charles Kramer d 10.23.06</i>		Community of the Paraclete	
<i>Bernard Fessenden d 8.10.93</i>		Companions of Saint Luke~	
Donovan Aidan Bowley	Tue	Benedictine	
<i>Edward Riley d 9.15.05</i>		Community of Celebration	
Christopher Stephen Jenks		Little Sisters of Saint Clare	
Ciarán Anthony DellaFera		Anamchara Fellowship	
<i>Damian-Curtis Kellum d 10.9.07</i>		Anglican Order of Preachers	
Richard John Lorino		Rivendell Community	
Ronald Augustine Fox		Sisters of Saint Gregory	
Maurice John Grove		Third Order SSF	
Charles Edward LeClerc		Worker Sisters & Brothers of the	
Virgilio Fortuna	Wed	Holy Spirit	
Gordon John Stanley		Camaldolese Benedictines	
Karekin Madtze Yarian		Society of Saint John the	
William David Everett		Evangelist	
Thomas Bushnell		Anglican Oblates of Saint	
Thomas Mark Liotta		Benedict	
James Mahoney		Community of the Transfiguration	
<i>Patrick Ignatius Dickson d 7.20.05</i>		Order of Julian of Norwich	
Robert James McLaughlin	Thu	Order of the Holy Cross	
Peter Budde		Order of Saint Helena	
John Henry Ernestine		Community of Saint John Baptist	
Francis Sebastian Medina		Society of Saint Francis	
Ælred Bernard Dean		For Ministries	
Joseph Basil Gauss		Joseph Richey House	
Mark Andrew Jones		Fessenden Recovery Ministries	
Richard Matthias		Baltimore Int'l Seafarers' Center	
William Henry Benefield	Fri	Saint Paul's Grayson St, San	
Nathanael Deward Rahm		Antonio	
Thomas Lawrence Greer		Aldersgate UMC Dobbs Ferry	
Enoch John Valentine		Saint James Fordham, Bronx	
Ron Fender		Saint Christopher's, Killeen TX	
Michael Elliott		Saint James, Austin	
David Luke Henton		White Plains Hospital	
David John Battrick		Grace Church in Newark	
Will Harpest			
		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, Kenneth Staples,	
		Elizabeth Holton, Richard A	
		Belanger, Brendan W Nugent,	
		Sarah Elizabeth Wells, Sue	
		Bradley, Jack Merryman; Paul	
		Power, William Russell, Mark	
		Domoguen; Elizabeth Mary	
		Burke SSG	
		Fran King	
		Sam Mitchell	
		Kenneth and Rita McCormick	
		David Jordan	
		Lloyd Lacasse	
		Michael Lynn	
		Harvey "Robert" Steele	
		Betty Sherrill	
		James Carr	
		George Blackman	
		Burton "Pete" Schellenbach	
		Bob Hagood	
		Christopher	
		Dickson Brown	
		Kettlyn Vitoria Martins Rosa	
		Joanne Stover	
		Alfred J. Donaldson	
		Selma Long	
		William Germinen	
		Myrna Bartlett	
		George Harold van Pletzen	
		Janet Nicholson	
		Yvonne C. Samedi Fourcand	
		Cass Buscher	
		Randy Heffernan	
		Al Parsons	
		Charles Metcalf Crump	
		Jimmy Shadrick	
		George Geiger	
		Claire Johnson Mottl	
		Gordon Gritter	
		Paul Kikutani	
		Kathy Allen	
		Ashley Wagner	



*(above) Thomas Lawrence Greer makes his life profession of vows to the Minister General.
(right) Mark Andrew Jones after his ordination*



(l to r) Gregory Green, Luke Anthony Nowicki, John Henry Ernestine, Thomas Bushnell and Tobias Stanislas Haller relax during the reception following the festival liturgy.

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.