

HE SERVANT



#218

Epiphany 2011

DWELLING AMONG THE PEOPLE

From the pen of Louis I Newman:

I sought to hear the voice of God,
And climbed the topmost steeple
But God declared: Go down again,
I dwell among the people.

I become more alarmed as I see how we, as a church, have become so embroiled in rules and covenants and regulations—that we have lost sight of whom we serve.

The church is the people: those who pay the bills and tithe (some really do) and those who pledge from their time, talent, and treasure. We worry about so many little things which amount to not very much in the end.

I believe that we are in a time now when God is, in fact, dwelling among the people. We see it in the feeding of the hungry; in the gathering of clothing and other goods for those in need. But I also think that God is challenging us now to move out of our little “church boxes” and be among the people. As I read notes and reports from our brothers, I continue to be humbled by the magnitude of service provided to others. Brothers in this community do things daily that many “in the world” would not dare to do; they move in circles and neighborhoods others dread.

I dwell among the people.... The last line of that poem sums it up. The kings brought gifts to the Christ Child and if we believe that “if you do it to the least of these, you do it to me” our living out of that Epiphany can be “dwelling among the people.” Our motto as brothers in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory is to be “in the world, not of it.” I challenge all of us, brothers, associates and friends to be out there in the world in the New Year. As the kings brought their gifts to the Child, let us bring and give our gift of caring and love to the world. We are servants of the servants of God!

RTB

Here and there with the Brothers

COMMUNITY NOTES

*Constance and Her Companions 2010:
Icons of Inclusivity*

The commemoration of Constance and Her Companions (known as the Martyrs of Memphis) is an annual event sponsored by Saint Mary's Cathedral and other Episcopal parishes in Memphis, Tennessee. This year, the 132nd anniversary of the 1878 epidemic of yellow fever which brought about the tragic deaths of over 5,000 people, was marked by a series of events held at the cathedral and at a number of other Memphis locations. Four sisters of the Community of Saint Mary were invited to participate this year. Their predecessors in that community—Sisters Constance, Thecla, Ruth and Frances—together with the Rev Charles C Parsons and the Rev Louis S Schuyler

are remembered for their selfless service in giving themselves to help the citizens of Memphis up until each of their deaths from the plague that summer and fall. Tobias Stanislas Haller and James Teets were also invited to be part of the pilgrimage. Tobias Stanislas is the writer of the icon of the Martyrs of Memphis which resides in the chapel of that name at Fessenden House in Yonkers, New York and a copy of his icon occupies a place of reverence in the crossing of the Memphis cathedral.

The events honoring the Martyrs of Memphis for 2010 took place from September 9th to the 12th: the first event was hosted by Dean Andy Andrews of the cathedral and took the form of a concert given by the *Vocidell' Anima* Early Music Ensemble, which was followed by a lovely reception. Friday's events began at Saint

Mary's Episcopal School in Memphis, a vast and prestigious institution founded by the Community of Saint Mary, where the pilgrims joined almost 500 of the student body for their first religious service of the new academic year. This was followed by a tour of the facilities. That evening was hosted by the Rev John Sewell, Rector of Saint John's Church, and began with Evensong and dinner, followed by an icon workshop led by Tobias Stanislas. Saturday's events began with a meditation on holy service led



(l to r) Tobias Stanislas, Miriam, Elizabeth Grace, Mary Martha, Mary Grace and James



by Sr Elizabeth Grace CSM in the Sisters' Chapel at the cathedral, followed by the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Dean Andrews and preached by Tobias Stanislas on the theme of the Martyrs of Memphis; James assisted with the readings. A pilgrimage then took the participants to a luncheon at Elmwood Cemetery where the Martyrs of Memphis were laid to rest, followed by a brief service at the graveside of the Martyrs. Evensong that day was at All Saints' Episcopal Church hosted by the Rev Bindy Snyder, Rector, and James again assisted. A fine dinner was provided in the parish hall. The pilgrimage's final events took place back at Saint Mary's Cathedral on Sunday beginning with presentations on the religious life by Sr Mary Grace CSM and Tobias Stanislas, while Srs Miriam and Elizabeth Grace went out to local parishes as guest preachers. The cathedral's high mass was celebrated by Tobias Stanislas, preached by Dean Andrews and assisted by James and concluded with a lovely reception. Several of the eucharistic celebrations were marked with the use of the "Sisters' Chalice" from the time of the Yellow Fever epidemic—a precious relic of those days.

It was a great blessing to spend time not only with the clergy and people of Memphis and sisters of CSM, but also to meet our Associate, Robert Thompson, who joined in the pilgrimage with two sisters of the Rivendell Community who reside in Memphis and hosted our brothers and Associate to a dinner. It was also a joy to celebrate with many of the members of the Daughters of the King from local chapters there who served as part of the arrangements committee which created these events. And free time was also provided for James and Tobias Stanislas to go on their own pilgrimage as they visited the National Civil Rights Museum—which is housed at and preserves part of the now-defunct Lorraine Motel, the site of the assassination of the Rev Dr Martin Luther King jr—and also that other icon of American life, the home and burial place of Elvis Presley and his parents at their beloved Graceland. This last event may seem out of context with the solemn theme of pilgrimage but anyone who has ever visited Graceland knows that Elvis Presley—for all that he represents to American culture—is also remembered for his great philanthropy and the support he lovingly gave to help the poor and the homeless of Memphis during his short lifetime.

Province 1

The Diocese of New Hampshire held its annual clergy retreat from October 20–22 in the northern part of the state, and Charles Edward LeClerc attended. The retreat leader was Dr Robert Jonas, a protégé of Henri Nouwen, who is currently the director of the Empty Bell, a center for contemplation and Christian-Buddhist relations located in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Charles Edward reports that he is part of the interfaith planning team for the World AIDS Day service in Concord, New Hampshire. The team includes the Rev Kate Atkinson, Rector of Saint Paul's Concord, the new Reform Rabbi.

Several members of the Brotherhood are members of the newly-formed North American Chapter (USA and Canada) of the Society of Catholic Priests—despite the name, deacons, seminarians and professed religious are also welcome to join—and Minister Provincial Enoch John Valentine attended the annual conference which took place in New Haven, Connecticut in mid-November. He was excited to be there and reports a wonderful time. The workshops provided included: the history of charitable societies and urban ministry from 1880–1970; a recap of the history of anointing

for healing and at the time of death with a discussion of contemporary use, including ‘where and when’ issues; and Initiation into the Church and “open communion.”

Ciarán Anthony DellaFera continues his medical studies, and is now in the midst of his OB/Gyn rotation.

Province 2

Gregorian Friars from across New York and New Jersey gathered on Saturday, September 18th for fellowship, good food and the observation of the Fall Embertide — though not necessarily in that order!—at the Upstate New York home of Thomas Mark Liotta and James Mahoney. While the day’s activities included both prayer and fellowship, the focus of the four Ember Seasons always presents a strong vocational element and this occasion was quite appropriate for a local New York City enquirer to travel up and visit with the gathered Gregorian Friars.

Tobias Stanislas traveled to London in mid-October for the meeting of the Continuing Indaba and Mutual Listening Process Reference Group, one facet in the communion-wide program of engaged “conversation across difference” now in its pilot phase. The two-day meeting took place at Lambeth Palace and at the Anglican Communion Office at Saint Andrew’s House in London. James Teets had the opportunity to go along with Tobias, and the two of them used a few additional days to tour the city and to take the new express train to Canterbury for a day-long pilgrimage to the cathedral, the ruins of Saint Augustine’s monastery and Saint Martin’s Church. While in London they attended Canon Giles Fraser’s “Forum” at Saint Paul’s Cathedral and enjoyed dinner afterwards with guest speakers Stanley Hauerwas and Sr Frances ASSP, founder of a children’s hospice movement. James and Tobias Stanislas also visited and worshiped at Westminster Abbey, All Saints Margaret Street and Saint Paul’s Knightsbridge, and took in a few museums and other sites, including the Order of Saint John museum in Clerkenwell.

The 234th Annual Convention of the Diocese of New York took place at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine on Saturday, November 13th and the Brotherhood was well represented, as always. Clergy Delegates present for the convention included Tobias Stanislas and Thomas Mark, and James reprised his role as Deputy Inspector of Elections for the convention. Tobias Stanislas was elected as a Clerical



Millard Cook, n/BSG poses for a suitable autumn photograph, during the fall quiet day.



The Presiding Bishop at Saint Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo

Deputy from New York to the 2012 General Convention in Indianapolis, and also to the Synod of Province II of The Episcopal Church—on the first ballot. A sad note for Gregorian Friars in this province was the announcement by Bishop Mark Sisk TSSF that he is calling for a coadjutor; Bishop Mark is also the Sub-Prelate of the Priory in the USA of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem as well as a long-time member of the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis. Of equal sadness was Bishop

Catherine Roskam's announcement that she is also preparing for retirement, to become effective in January 2012.

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori attended the convention of the Diocese of Western New York, and presided at worship at Saint Paul's Cathedral Buffalo. Blane-Frederik van Pletzen-Rands made good use of his short time in the transitional diaconate to assist at the liturgy.

Province 4

Last summer novice Jonathan Severus Turner relocated from Nashville to Chattanooga in order to participate in the ministries to the homeless and hungry which Ron Fender had created or expanded there. Inspired and patterned after the continuing work by Christopher Stephen Jenks at Fessenden House in Yonkers, New York, Ron opened the House of All Souls in Chattanooga earlier this year, and Jonathan Severus saw an opportunity to combine his training and skills with Ron's in order better to serve the need there. Jonathan Severus reports that he is currently serving as site manager for the Family Housing & Learning Centre while volunteering in food preparation at the Community Kitchen and also ministering with Ron and the services provided at the House of All Souls. Our prayers and thanksgiving for your many ministries and boundless energy ascend!

Brothers also assisted in a pre-Advent retreat for the staff of the Community Kitchen. They gathered at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church as the Rev Charlie Hughes, the executive director of the Kitchen, led worship and Eucharist. This was followed by a simple lunch before an afternoon session of lectio divina in small groups. Minister Provincial Ælred Bernard Dean then led a healing service followed by fellowship. A copy of the Brotherhood's icon of Saint Gregory was given to Saint Paul's in appre-

ciation for their hospitality. The Sunday after the retreat, the brothers and Associates went to Nativity, Fort Olgethorpe GA, where Ron was guest preacher. During the Sunday School hour the brothers and Associates talked about religious life in The Episcopal Church. A copy of the Saint Gregory icon was given in appreciation for the support the parish gives to the Community Kitchen and their own ministry to the poor and homeless.

Ron reports that Bishop Charles vonRosenberg of East Tennessee has called together a committee to discern the need for inclusivity and the people of Ron's parish — Saint Paul's Chattanooga — have chosen to begin an Advent series of conversations on that subject. The leaders of the Saint Paul's team include both Ron and Jonathan Severus and the text they chose for the conversations is the book written by Tobias Stanislas, *Reasonable and Holy: Engaging Same-Sexuality* (Seabury Press 2009). Ron states that "it is really wonderful to have such a Gregorian presence at Saint Paul's and here in Chattanooga. I am thrilled to be a part of this important work and discussion." We look forward to hearing more from Ron and Jonathan Severus as the conversation takes shape.

Elred Bernard reports the wonderful news that Valdosta State University has admitted him to its MSW program. It is a hybrid program where most of the work is done online, combined with occasional meetings in Georgia to engage with the faculty and other students in this program. All the best, dear brother!

Novice James Patrick Hall represented his parish—Saint Patrick's Broken Arrow—as a delegate at the Diocese of Oklahoma's annual convention in November at Saint Paul's Cathedral, Oklahoma City. In addition to Diocesan Bishop Edward Konieczny, James Patrick met with Dean of the Cathedral Bishop Steven Charleston, and he also had a chance to get to know Bishop Miguel Tamayo of the Diocese of Uruguay in South America. The Dioceses of Oklahoma and Uruguay kicked off a new Companion Diocese Relationship at this convention and all were delighted to meet Bishop Miguel—who also recently served as Interim Bishop of Cuba—and to get to know him and his wife. James Patrick also reports that he was "able to give witness to the BSG several times throughout the weekend!"

Speaking of South America, Edward Munro and his wife Barbara visited with old friend and former BSG novice Gustavo Mansilla, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Gustavo now serves as Rector of the Anglican Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist there. They visited many of the tourist attractions in the city and the surrounding province, and enjoyed a day trip via ferry to Colonia in Uruguay. They worshiped for two Sundays at the cathedral, meeting many of the people who make up this bi-lingual congregation, as well as tourists who were in attendance. Edward had the honor of delivering the sermon at the October 3 Eucharist.

Province 5

Province 5 held their Fall Embertide Retreat in September, the Saturday portion being held at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, through arrangements made by Ronald Augustine Fox, Assistant to the Dean. All of the brothers of the province were in attendance. The retreat leader was the Rev Dr Sam Portaro, retired chaplain of Brent House, the Episcopal presence at the University of Chicago, and author of numerous books including *Brightest and Best*, a companion to Lesser Feasts and Fasts.

Dr Portaro used his own story of letting God work through him to achieve God's goals as an example of how we may let God use our gifts to spread the Gospel message. The retreat topic was well received and all of the brothers felt that the day was motivating and enlightening. Following the Holy Eucharist, celebrated by Dr Portaro, lunch was served in the Seabury all-purpose room and all were able to engage in a question-and-answer time with the retreat leader. Later that evening the brothers gathered for Evening Prayer and a potluck meal at Joseph Basil Gauss' home. The next evening, some of the brothers attended the inaugural concert of the Chicago Symphony while others traveled to their home states or reclined, exhausted, from the weekend.

Congratulations to Ronald Augustine upon his earning the Continuing Education Certificate for Anglican Studies, an on-line course program offered by the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California. He now continues his Continuing Education by enrolling in the Liturgy and Music Course at Seabury-Western Seminary.

Province 8

"The opposite of the Vow of Poverty is not riches...but power." These words were at the heart of the sermon preached at the Life Profession of Vows of Br Ivanildo in the American Province of the Society of Saint Francis. The liturgy took place on August 25th at the Church of the Advent, San Francisco, and the Brotherhood's Minister Provincial of Province 8, Karekin Madteos Yarian, and postulant Richard E Helmer, joined the procession. Karekin Madteos was also invited to join the Franciscan Life Professed as they extended their hands over Br Ivanildo as the bishop blessed his solemn vows. Franciscan and Gregorian Friars have enjoyed a cordial relationship for decades and we are always delighted to renew that fraternal friendship with the SSF, the Community of Saint Francis and the Third Order SSF.

In addition to being our newest postulant, Richard is the Rector of Our Saviour Mill Valley in the Diocese of California, and he reports that his parish received a special visit from his Minister Provincial, Karekin Madteos, accompanied by Francis Sebastian Medina on Sunday, October 31st. Karekin Madteos was the guest preacher at the main service that day and both Gregorian Friars led an adult education forum following mass as a part of a three-week parochial teaching opportunity entitled "Spirituality in Community." The other two sections of this informative presentation on religious life were led by a Camaldolese Benedictine monk one week and friars from the Society of Saint Francis on the other.

A reflection on changing seasons... of life and the world

YET WITH A STEADY BEAT

It seems the rhythm of one's life has much to say about the rhythms one hears in the community of faith. Here at Stillmarsh there is an overarching cadence which seems to govern most things. There are the usual kerfuffles in one day or another but the stride returns quickly. It is during those kerfuffles that there is a sense of chaos, a

drowning which makes for a moment of breath-holding internal noise rather than easy breathing in quiet.

This summer has had a number of moments like this, always short lived (with one exception) and manageable. As a brother it is an interesting experience to be with our grandchildren because it makes me feel “normal.” To be a grandparent is quite different than being a Gregorian Friar under vows. And yet there they are, running in and out of the cottage trying to see exactly how much stamina Betty and I have. There are moments when that dichotomy seems to bring a dissonance that lasts only a brief time and then leaves as I find myself choosing between grandparent or friar just to simplify my self-identity.

There are those moments of dislocation. We have been at Stillmarsh for eighteen weeks now and have about six more before we pack up the car and return to Texas. There are those moments, especially upon just waking, that location becomes a puzzle—where am I? The one thing that helps is the fact that the bed in Texas is about three feet off of the floor and the futon at Stillmarsh is about six inches. So when my feet hit the floor I have a definite clue to where I am. I am one of those people who needs one place—just one place and yet am so fortunate to have two wonderful homes each offering something entirely different.

But more than this there are moments when I try to remember where something is in the Texas house only to have to start two to three houses prior to work my way to that present dwelling—there have been far too many homes in our lives since 1988 when we married: ten! “Where am I” and “Where have I been” seem to merge in a cloud of unknowing.

And then to add to it the tropical storm that went through and dumped fifteen inches of rain on our house in Texas—only to learn of a week later, and to learn the house is in a shambles with water having poured through the exterior walls. Today begins the professional clean-up which will take about three to five days. The desire to be there just to see what has happened, let alone to verify the estimate of damages, makes me feel dislocated. Thank goodness for the neighbor who, a week after the storm, decided to run over to our house to see how things were and then called us.

And there is the sense of lost time which comes and goes—this is the longer lasting moment this summer. I had put off my colonoscopy for 16 years. I don’t even think I knew of a colonoscopy when I turned 50—which is supposed to be the time for the first such test. But as Frost wrote, way leads on to way, and before I knew it my own physician here in Rhinelander, John Frost, (where else would one have a doctor named Jack Frost?) began promoting the test until this year I knew I had better do this. But, of course, with the 16 year delay, my thinking put one foot in the grave. It was a sudden moment of time catching up with me. I have this sort of dread when driving north in the spring because it is in Rhinelander that I have my yearly physical and I wouldn’t do that except I can’t get my prescriptions renewed without it.

I guess I should explain about another time crashing into me: when I was a wee small boy of four or five, my godfather was Dr Arthur Thorstenson who was my grandfather’s medical partner. Dr Thorstenson was a huge hulk of a man, like John Goodman with a face like LBJ. He would come through the door to make a house call to give me a shot (because I raised holy hell in his office) and there he was filling the door frame. Does it help to tell you that my mother referred to him by his nickname,

“Thor.” At that age I knew nothing of the Norse god of war but in the doctor’s visage I was in the presence of someone who should have been asking me what was in my wallet.

So much in the way of time compresses in upon me in this wonderful setting of Stillmarsh—annual time, long term time and lifetime time. And the rhythm gets derailed again and again. There is a metaphor for all of this: my atrial fibrillation (irregular heart beat for which I take rat poison). As I lie in bed in the very early morning I can feel a brief steady beat and then feel my heart break cadence again and again. My heart has a desire for cadence but it seems to stumble again and again. How’s that for metaphor?


So what does this have to do with my life as a friar? I think the disciplines of the vows offer that clear and steady beat which continues underneath it all, waiting to make life become obvious once again. The vows have a way of gently organizing one’s life even when the repetition dwarfs the significance of it all. Through my own doing, neglect, act of nature or stupidity there is the cadence of the community, truly a mentor who walks with me, step for step.

There was once in my life when I had what is called an “audition”—in the middle of the night I heard my name being called in a darkness which comes from living deep in the forest of Pennsylvania. I sat up in bed quite startled, certain there was someone in the house. Then the voice said, loud and clear, “Peter, everything will be all right.” This was just about a year before my prior marriage broke down in a whimper. Preparing me for the ways and means of life was this audition, walking with me. Many times throughout the coming years I remembered that moment and knew that I was being cared for, mentored by the One who walks with me. In a very similar way the Daily Office, the prayer of the community, the repetition of the Eucharist all are the drum God beats as a continuing “audition.”

I guess this does mean the disciplines of the Brotherhood do not belong to the Brotherhood. They are the gift of the drummer who is outside the community yet so clearly the heart of the community; a drumming which—but not only—sets the beat for so much outside of the community, which originates from a long way off; and all the while creating that rhythm which one must follow no matter how measured and far away its source. It tells me who I am in so many places and relationships—more than a grandparent, more than a brother. It tells me I am someone who lives in time and yet is timeless through a promise. It tells me there is a spiritual woofer sending a cadence into the ground under my feet. upon which I walk every moment of my life. And the Offices are merely the tweeter of that cadence, a descant pulling the words upward into the heavens.

Thanks be to God.

Peter Budde



INTERCESSIONS

For 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

Professed

Richard Thomas Biernacki

John Nidecker d 6.20.88

James Teets

Luke Anthony Nowicki

John Peter Clark d 2.25.94

William Francis Jones *Mon*

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

Bernard Fessenden d 8.10.93

Donovan Aidan Bowley *Tue*

Edward Riley d 9.15.05

Christopher Stephen Jenks

Ciarán Anthony DellaFera

Damian-Curtis Kellum d 10.9.07

Richard John Lorino

Ronald Augustine Fox

Maurice John Grove

Charles Edward LeClerc

Virgilio Fortuna *Wed*

Gordon John Stanley

Karekin Madteos Yarian

William David Everett

Thomas Bushnell

Thomas Mark Liotta

James Mahoney

Patrick Ignatius Dickson d 7.20.05

Robert James McLaughlin *Thu*

Peter Budde

John Henry Ernestine

Francis Sebastian Medina

Ælfred Bernard Dean

Joseph Basil Gauss

Mark Andrew Jones

Richard Matthias

William Henry Benefield *Fri*

Nathanael Deward Rahm

Thomas Lawrence Greer

Enoch John Valentine

Ron Fender

Michael Elliott

David Luke Henton

David John Batrick

Will Harpest

Bo Alexander Armstrong *Sat*

Francis Jonathan Bullock

Novices

Blane Frederik van Pletzen-Rands

James Patrick Hall

Jonathan Severus Turner

Millard Cook

Postulants

Mychal-Gregory LaCombe

Richard E Helmer

and for Associates and Friends of
the Brotherhood

For Religious Communities

Sacramentine & Visitandine Nuns

Society of the Atonement

Order of Friars Minor

Community of the Paraclete

Companions of Saint Luke~

Benedictine

Community of Celebration

Little Sisters of Saint Clare

Anamchara Fellowship

Anglican Order of Preachers

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

Order of the Holy Cross

Order of Saint Helena

Community of Saint John Baptist

Society of Saint Francis

For Ministries

Joseph Richey House

Fessenden Recovery Ministries

Baltimore Int'l Seafarers' Center

Saint Paul's Grayson St, San

Antonio

Aldersgate UMC Dobbs Ferry

Saint James Fordham, Bronx

Saint Christopher's, Killeen TX

Saint James, Austin

White Plains Hospital

Grace Church in Newark

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

Galen Campbell

Dothlin Campbell

Stephanie Helen CT

Lorette G Doyon

Jill

Judith Ward RSM

Laura

Scott Fleming

Nancy

Richard Hyatt

Doug Whalen

Tony Guerra

Kathy Fredell-Grubb

Ben's Father

Tom Munro

Marie Cheski

Eddy Grob.

Don Whelan

Charlie O'Neil

Raymond A Valentine

Harry Weet

Samuel

Jerry Martin

Graham Jones

Austin White

Arthur Lundgren

Katharine

Ella MacDonald

Richard William Yarian

Colin Slee

Elaine Thyberg