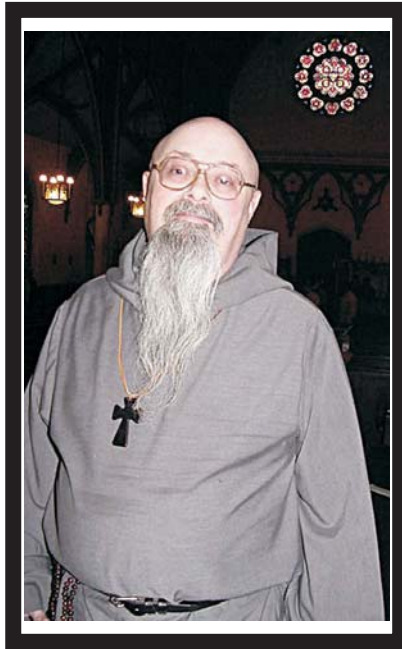


HE SERVANT



Randall Horton

#220
Summer 2011

Publications from the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory

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The Servant

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SUMMERTIME AND THE RAPTURE IS OVER....

You know the rest of the song. “Fish are jumpin’ and the cotton is high.” Well, I write this on the 17th of May – four days from what Harold Camping of Family Radio casts as “Judgment Day” – the day of the catching up of God’s elect and the “shaming of those who are not saved.” There are many in his camp that are really ready and I suppose in a way, so should we. But not for May 21. We should always be ready for the coming of the Christ. But then – while we know that there will, indeed, be a second coming we do not know the hour or the day. I think there are many “comings” when Christ enters our lives in one way or another, making a mark on us and turning us around. Rather than being caught up as the elect, I’d like to think that we are caught up daily; in the service of one another, the church, and the world.

Judgment Day is every day. God watches from afar and sees what we are doing both for and with others. There will be judgment for sure, but not on a date or in a time that we can predict. So I look forward to seeing many of my friends and brothers and associates in the next few days. Pray for those in darkness – who imagine they have the answers to questions of God’s time. Only God knows. And thank God for that!

Richard Thomas Biernacki

Here and there with the Brothers

COMMUNITY NOTES

Spring Council 2011

The Council of the Brotherhood held its first meeting this year on April 1 and 2. As our regular venue of Mount Alvernia Retreat Center was not available to us for this gathering due to previous commitments there, this meeting took place at the Saint Lawrence Retreat Center, a facility maintained by the OFM Capuchin Friars located in Beacon, New York. The Center was still in the process of a major renovation, but warm Franciscan hospitality shone through all the scaffolding and exterior work being done there and we all were comfortable and well-provided-for.

The meeting began with reports from the Minister General, the Ministers Provincial and other officials such as the Directors of Postulants and Novices, of Education, of Vocations and the community’s Treasurer. Two brothers in Annual Vows were presented by either their Minister Provincial or, in the case of Enoch John Valentine, who is himself the Minister Provincial of Province 1, by the Minister General, for Life Profession of Vows: Enoch John (Diocese of Rhode Island) and Ron Fender (East Tennessee). Both were approved for Life Profession by Council and have since also been approved by a polling of all brothers in Life Profession throughout the community. Next, two novice brothers were presented for First Profession of Vows by the Director of Postulants and Novices and their respective Ministers Provincial: Blane Frederik van Pletzen-Rands (Western New York) and James Patrick Hall

(Oklahoma), who were both approved by Council and subsequently approved by the professed brothers in Provinces 2 and 4 — their home provinces. These processes may seem a bit convoluted but we believe it is important for all members concerned to have the opportunity for input.

Next on Council’s agenda came the proposed annual Outreach Grants – these are local programs presented by professed brothers with which they are personally familiar and involved. Council was delighted to approve support for the following programs:

- ☐ Saint James School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, an inner-city youth program founded by Saint Mark’s Locust Street (Robert James McLaughlin);
- ☐ The Crisis Room, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, East Brunswick, New Jersey, a program providing food, clothing and related services to children, families and seniors in need (Richard Thomas Biernacki);
- ☐ Fessenden Supportive Housing in Yonkers, New York, a program for men in recovery from alcohol and drug abuse (Christopher Stephen Jenks);
- ☐ Saint James’ Church, Fordham, Bronx, New York, toward support for The Carpenter’s Kids Program which provides education assistance for children in the Diocese of Central Tanganyika in the Anglican Church of Tanzania (Tobias Stanislas Haller);
- ☐ Care For Real in Chicago, Illinois, a program providing food, clothing and counseling services to those living in the inner-city Edgewater Community (Ronald Augustine Fox, Joseph Basil Gauss and Will Harpest);
- ☐ Chattanooga Community Kitchen of Chattanooga, Tennessee, a multi-faceted program serving the city’s homeless (Ron Fender); and
- ☐ Hart Gallery of Chattanooga, an inner-city after-school program providing tutoring, home work assistance and art therapy under adult supervision “for kids living in one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the city” (Bo Alexander Armstrong).

It is the Brotherhood’s privilege to support these worthy programs serving the needs of some of God’s most vulnerable people, and we are so grateful to be able to help wherever we can.

Council then took up a resolution to discontinue the Brotherhood’s Associate Program. This came after prayer and much discussion, and it was a recognition that the community could not provide the support necessary for this program to thrive. With deep regret at the end of a facet of the Brotherhood dating back well over twenty years, the resolution passed unanimously and took effect immediately. All current and active Associates have already been informed of this decision by Peter Budde, Director of Associates.

The final portion of the meeting took the form of the Annual Meeting of the Corporation, during which the election of the Board of Directors and the Corporate Officers was recorded.

The following day was dedicated to interviewing applicants to the postulancy. Ronald Augustine Fox, the community’s Director of Vocations, oversees this process, which is the culmination of many months of prayer and introspection by each of the applicants. Three applicants were present with the Council for the Daily Office,

meals and social time, and at the end of the series of interviews — three interviewing teams are assigned – the Council meets once more to decide the outcome. It is with great joy that we announce that all three applicants left the Saint Lawrence Retreat Center that day as postulants-prospective of the Brotherhood, and they are invited to attend Annual Convocation 2011 in July, where they will again meet briefly with Council prior to admission as postulants. We are tremendously grateful for the dedicated ministry of Ronald Augustine, and we are thankful to God for continued vocations to our beloved order!

Province 1

Virgilio Fortuna reports his acceptance for candidacy for ordination as a Deacon in the Diocese of Massachusetts. God willing (and the bishop and people consenting), his ordination will take place in June of 2012. This has been a long journey for our brother — as anything worth having always is — and we have traveled with him in spirit and in prayer these many years. Much more to follow!

Ciarán Anthony DellaFera, continuing his medical studies, shared that he had delivered a meditation entitled “Father Forgive Them.” This was “the first reflection during the Three Holy Hours this afternoon at the Massachusetts General Hospital Chapel [where he is doing his intern studies]. I’ve been attending the service for about six years now, and I must say that it’s always very poignant; all of the reflections are offered by chaplains, nurses, doctors, or clinicians of some flavor. I was the first medical student to do it.” As one might imagine, his reflection combined his thoughts about what might have been going on in the minds of all those involved with Jesus’ crucifixion, superimposed upon how those in the healing arts view their particular

roles amid tragedy and grief, and he closed with a personal vignette about a little boy’s suffering and treatment. Thank you, dear brother, for allowing us to join you and your colleagues in this moment of pain and of God’s gift of healing.

Ciarán Anthony was also included in a report in the UMass Medical “Focus” newsletter, in conjunction with an address delivered at the Center for the Advancement of Primary Care by his former IBM colleague, Dr Paul Grundy.



l to r: Dr Ron Adler of CPAC, Grundy, and Ciarán Anthony

Province 2

Bishop Suffragan Catherine Roskam of the Diocese of New York celebrated her 15th anniversary of consecration on May 14th at a huge service at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in Manhattan. Many of us well recall her consecration service in January of 1996, which took place during our Winter Retreat that year — and the terrible winter rainstorm that day offered — as the whole community present traveled down by chartered bus from Graymoor in Garrison, New York to participate

with her. A number of Gregorian Friars were again on hand for this anniversary service as we wished her well as she heads toward retirement at the end of this year. Bishop Cathy has been a good and true friend to all in this diocese and her ministries are many and varied; we trust that our relationship will continue well into the future.

Richard Thomas, our Minister General and the Director of Music at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, East Brunswick, New Jersey, offered his schedule for Holy Week, which resembled that of many of our brothers: “As I prepare to enter into the Triduum with the Methodists, there are many services. On Monday this week I was a participant in a Taizé Service at Christ Church here in town, where I have my membership. It was a very moving start to this holy week. This evening I have Communion, Tenebrae and a choir rehearsal. Tomorrow noon and then at 6:30 pm we will be doing ‘A Journey to the Cross: walking through nine sacred sites’ wherein pilgrims will wash hands as Pilate did, place thorns in the crown on Jesus’ head, drive spikes and feel the weight of the cross. It is a very moving portrayal of the events of the pain and anguish of Jesus. We do not do a vigil but I have two services Sunday morning — children’s choir, adults, and brass. So keep me in your prayers.” Amen, dear brother!

Over the weekend of May 1-2 the Diocese of Western New York celebrated the incoming ministry of their new bishop, the Rev Dr R William Franklin, who had been elected several months ago. Dr Franklin has a long-standing relationship with the Brotherhood dating back to the 1990s when he delivered the community’s annual retreat on the subject of our patron, Pope Saint Gregory the Great, and what his ministry has meant to the church as she developed over the past 1,400 years. Franklin was

an obvious candidate to lead such a retreat, especially given that at that time he was Professor of Church History at the General Theological Seminary in New York City. We continue to benefit from material provided in that retreat as it still lives in the text of the Brotherhood’s training program for postulants and novices. Further connections with him continued as Tobias Stanislas was one of his students during his seminary training for priesthood, and Robert James served with Franklin during his years at Saint Mark’s Philadelphia prior to his election as bishop. Presently Blane Frederik van Pletzen-Rands serves as Canon for Children, Youth and Pastoral Care Ministries on the cathedral’s staff — so our Gregorian relationships continue to deepen!



The Seating of Bishop Franklin; Blane Frederik is to the far left.

The service of Ordination and Consecration of a Bishop took place on Saturday morning, May 1st, at Saint Paul's Cathedral. As normal for such services, the chief consecrator was Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, who was assisted by Bishop J Michael Garrison, Franklin's predecessor, Bishop Mark S Sisk TSSF, Bishop of New York, and Bishop Pierre W Whalon, Bishop in Charge of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, under whom Franklin served prior to his time in Philadelphia. Additionally, several other attending bishops participated in the historic Laying On of Hands section of the consecration ceremony. Particular poignancy happens when the retiring bishop presents the Crozier of the Diocese to his successor, symbolizing the transition in pastoral oversight taking place at that moment.

The following afternoon came the Institution of Bishop Franklin at the cathedral, during which he was officially recognized as Bishop of Western New York. The Bishop's Throne, as it is known, is an ornate and canopied chair and Franklin was officially escorted to it and ceremonially presented to the assembled members of the diocese by the Very Rev N Deliza Spangler, Dean of Saint Paul's Cathedral, representing the cathedral clergy and staff. Large receptions followed each of the two services, which were attended by hundreds of diocesan members and clergy, together with ecumenical guests, and the new bishop's family was an integral part of the services and the merriment of welcome. Blessings, Bishop William, and may you serve long, wisely and fruitfully!

Richard Matthias reports that his ministry opportunities have broadened this spring as he has begun the work of a Lay Eucharistic Minister at his parish of Trinity Church in Cornwall, Ottawa, Canada. To this he has also added the ministry of thurifer, on call as necessary, and we know how satisfying that ministry can be for both the thurifer and the congregation. The work of a thurifer is one of the most complex of assisting positions and we rejoice with him as he develops his skill set!

James Mahoney reports that, at the re-dedication ceremony on May 7th celebrating the culmination of a three-and-a-half-year building program at the Nyack (New York) Library where he is the director, he was honored to give both the invocation and the closing remarks. The ceremony was well-attended by local citizens and political leaders, and he received heartfelt thanks for his perseverance with this huge project from the library's board and regional community members.

Stephen Storen has been elected as Chairman of the Board of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies. The FPWA has been a prominent force in New York City's social service system for over 85 years, meeting the needs of New Yorkers and supporting the agencies that deliver human services. Founded in 1922 to coordinate the efforts of New York's Protestant child care agencies, today FPWA is one of the city's premier social service support organizations.

Tobias Stanislas made use of his background in cross-cultural sensitivity to help prepare and orient the Diocese of New York team for participation in the Indaba process with representatives from the dioceses of Derby, Mumbai and Delhi.

The Community was shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Brother Randall Horton, due to a sudden heart attack. "Brother Randy" had been living and working at Fessenden House in Yonkers NY, a ministry launched and staffed by members of BSG since the mid-90s. He will be much missed, not only in this ministry, but to many for whom he was a spiritual director and fellow-pilgrim.

Province 4

On Sunday, May 22nd, Bishop Charles G vonRosenberg of the Diocese of East Tennessee paid his final visit to Saint Paul's, Chattanooga, and to the Community Kitchen prior to his retirement in early June, to re-commission the "Kitchen" as a Jubilee Center of The Episcopal Church. The bishop brought with him the Rev George Young III, who will be consecrated as successor to Bishop vonRosneberg. Our own Ron Fender was on hand at his parish church and at the Community Kitchen — Ron's primary ministry — as he bid farewell to Bishop Charles and began a new relationship with Bishop-elect George. Brothers from the diocese and our Minister Provincial have been invited to be in the procession for the new bishop, and to participate in the liturgy.



l to r, Bishop-elect Young, Ron and Bishop von Rosenberg.

Province 5

Joseph Basil Gauss took part in the celebration of the Episcopal Lutheran Concordat "Called to Common Mission" at Chicago's Church of the Atonement, serving as crucifer.



Two poems

BEFORE THE BREAK OF DAWN

Within the night well before the break of dawn
As the second hour of the day arrives
The painful memories of my past again become as fresh as grass in rain

And while the waters rise up to my neck the psalmist always sings
Their torrents wash over me, engulf and devour
And I forget the breath of God

Those familiar crashing arrows hurl through the lonely sky of night
And fill already open wounds left so long ago
Their poison forms its concentrated powers once more

And in the midst of battled fear and gloom
My pain and false sense of entitlement begin to dance
Like wicked children before a pagan god

And then their tongues and eyes caress my cheek
With tickles of delight and safety
Do the serpents in the garden myth now approach me?

But God is my shield and buckler the psalmist whispers in my ear
As I remember those lustral waters of my youth
Their saving torrents too wash over me, engulf and devour

And then my Beloved comes to me with eyes of love and only his caress
With his tickles of delight and safety
And the arrows melt like wax before the noonday sun

And through this Grace implanted so long ago
My Beloved finds me once again before the break of dawn
And I remember the saving breath of God

William Henry Benefield

TACHMENT

Buddha
would have me know my attachments
and would teach me
the path to releasing them.

But that's wrong
as if
Buddha
were attached
to my non-attachment.

(Buddha
is not attached to
what is unattainable.)

Christ
would have me be attached
and would teach me
the path to attachment to him.

But that's wrong
as if
Christ
needed
to be needed by me.

(Christ
does not need
what is unattainable.)

My detachment
at the feet of Buddha
is not unattainable.

My attachment
at the feet of Christ
is not unattainable.

Christ and Buddha
ironically twinned
and ironically separate
both desiring and not desiring
both focused and not focused
on me alone
as if
there were nothing else.

What in my life
are the attachments
which keep me
from attaching myself
to Christ?

What in my life
are the detachments
which keep me
from learning
from Buddha?

Buddha and Christ
mystically separate
and mystically twinned
both teaching and not teaching
both followed and not followed
by me, alone,
as if
there were nothing else.

I have spent my life
attached
to what is not attachable
and detached
from that to which I am
attached.

To reverse this,
to turn around,
to find the attachments
to detach from,
to find the detachments
to attach to,
is the task
of a human life.

My past
is a burden
with no weight.

The fear of change
of releasing the burden
weighs around my neck.

My future
is a weight
I need not carry.

The fear of stasis
of it pressing upon me
holds me back.

What is the Eightfold Path
for a Christian
if not
the Beatitudes?

What are the two great commandments
for a Buddhist
if not
compassion and detachment?

How happy are they
who release their attachment.
How compassionate those
who are rightly attached.

In fear
and terror
of losing
myself
can I move
forward?

Is it possible
to move forward
by standing
still?

Thomas Bushnell



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
Ælred 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 Battick
Will Harpest

Bo Alexander Armstrong *Sat*
Francis Jonathan Bullock

Novices

Blane Frederik van Pletzen-Rands
James Patrick Hall
Jonathan Severus Turner
Millard Cook

Postulants

Richard Edward Helmer
Postulants-Pro prospective
Harold Lee Slatore
Eric Lee Shelley
Larry W Reich

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, Kileen TX
Saint James, Austin
White Plains Hospital
The Community Kitchen

For the Departed

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