



HE SERVANT



**LORD, OPEN
OUR LIPS...**

*Millard Cook
officiates at Morning
Prayer*

#222
Epiphany 2012

OCCUPY CHRISTMAS!

As you read this, we are in the season of Epiphany. The rush is over, the shopping and spending is finished and we are all weary. We have allowed that weariness to color *our* holidays; Advent and Christmas. The Occupy Wall Street folks have been trying to make a point similar to mine with the above title. We need to Occupy Christmas and take it back. A few weeks ago, before Thanksgiving, I was shopping in a local chair store, and there it was: "I'll have a blue Christmas, without you...." Indeed before we have even given thanks, we are getting blue! And Christmas blue at that.

The commercials on TV are equally offensive: people being encouraged to give cars and diamonds. With no mention of the reason for this holiday, the Savior, Christ the Lord.

It's too late for this year but next year we all need to Occupy Christmas. Make a note of it now. Resist the temptation to enter in the craziness of stores opening on Thanksgiving Day; opening at midnight before that day called "Black Friday." Resist being pulled into the fray; a place where people end up fighting and bleeding and being sprayed with pepper spray. What would Jesus do? What would Jesus say? What can we say? Shop till you drop... somebody else?

I implore you, make a note for next year—and just to be sure to put it on the calendar on the day *before* Thanksgiving. Occupy the holiday which is ours by right. Observe Advent with the spirit of waiting and expectation; not rushing and wanting and eagerly looking for what is a deal and on sale. And when it comes, Occupy Christmas!

RTB

Here and there with the brothers

COMMUNITY NOTES

The Brotherhood's Council gathered at Mount Alvernia Retreat Center for its annual fall meeting, which included extensive reports from all of the pastoral and administrative officials and the passing of the community's budget for 2012. The body welcomed two new members: Thomas Mark Liotta from Province 2 and Thomas Lawrence Greer from Province 4, both newly elected Ministers Provincial for their provinces. Council received a letter requesting withdrawal from the novitiate from Jonathan Severus Turner which was accepted with Council's sincere thanks for the time he spent with us in formation. Council wished him God speed as he continues his spiritual journey. Following the lengthy application and interview process, Council invited two aspirants from Philadelphia to attend Annual Convocation 2012 as postulants-prospective.

Province 1

Donovan Aidan Bowley participated in the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Maine on October 21-22 and reports that Bishop Stephen Lane sends warm regards to



Shortly after his election as Bishop Coadjutor of New York, Canon Andrew Dietsche (3d fr rt) posed with some of the brothers, next to the state pulpit with its carving of Gregory the Great.

the Brotherhood. Thank you, dear brother; we are grateful to receive your ministry and the greeting of our long-time friend, Bishop Stephen!

Ciarán Anthony DellaFera continues his medical studies, and we are happy to report that the UMass Medical School Family Medicine Department has published another of his reflections, this time on the reality that many medical treatments and therapies can cause considerable pain or discomfort even as they bring healing.

Province 2

The Diocese of New York held its Convention to Elect a Bishop Coadjutor in November and the Rev Canon Andrew ML Dietsche was elected on the third ballot. Bishop Coadjutor-elect Andy has held the position of Canon for Pastoral Care in the diocese for a number of years. Tobias Stanislas Haller and Thomas Mark Liotta were on hand and voting as clergy of the diocese; James Teets exercised his long-standing role as Deputy Inspector of Elections; and James Mahoney and Millard Cook were present and assisting among the many volunteers such massive events require. We brought the congratulations and best wishes of all Gregorian Friars to Andy, and we had the chance for a photo-op with him following the convention's adjournment.

Province 2 held a Quiet Day of Prayer and Reflection at Saint Bartholomew's Church, Manhattan, on Saturday, October 15. The Minister General and several Gregorian Friars attended this event, together with members of Saint Bart's Parish. The day began with coffee and bagels, followed by Morning Prayer in the chapel officiated by Millard Cook, who also led the day's two retreat sessions. The first session, entitled, "The Quest for God in the Rule of Saint Benedict and in the Rule of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory," drew upon Millard's experience as a Benedictine



Members of BSG Province 2 and of Saint Bartholomew's Church gather on the church balcony for a photo op.

prior to becoming a Gregorian. At the center of the day the participants gathered for Holy Communion. Lunch followed the mass, then came the second reflection: “Elijah the Prophet as a model of one who seeks God.” Time was available for discussion of the session topics as well as for fellowship, and by day’s end everyone had had a chance to enjoy the beauty and ambiance of this major historic Manhattan parish church.

The Sovereign Order of Orthodox Knights Hospitaller of Saint John of Jerusalem held its annual Investiture Service in late November, and Richard Thomas Biernacki — a Knight Commander of that order — and Bishop Rodney R Michel were in attendance, as was the Rev Dr David G Henritz.

Stephen Storen, one of our Gregorian Friars who are also confreres of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem — whose American Priory’s main work is supporting St John Eye Hospital in the Holy City and other locations in Gaza City and the Palestine National Authority — was promoted to Commander Brother of that Order and traveled to San Francisco for the annual Investiture in early November. This year’s event was graced by the presence of the Order’s Grand Prior, Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester. The Investiture took place at Grace Cathedral, and Stephen received the decorations of the Commander grade at the hand of the Grand Prior. Brothers Karekin Madteos Yarian and Richard Edward Helmer were on hand to join in the celebration. Social time was found for the brothers following the service which enabled Stephen to touch base with his brothers of Province 8 during



(l to r) Kareken Madteos, Richard Edward, and Stephen

this whirlwind weekend. Our prayers and our sincerest congratulations accompany you, dear brother!

In late November, the Order of St John held a reception for Bishop Stacy F Sauls, Chief Operating Officer at the Episcopal Church Center in New York City, former Bishop of Lexington, and member of the Order of St John. The reception was held in the Presiding Bishop's residence, and though Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori could not be present herself, she sent her best wishes to the Order and to Bishop Sauls. James Teets and Tobias Stanislas were among the many OStJ members in the Metropolitan New York area who attended, and they were delighted to hear Bishop Sauls' comments about his long-standing commitment to ministry in the Holy Land — and especially at the St John Eye Hospital.

From the Anglican Church of Australia, David John Battrick reports that the Diocese of Newcastle held its annual Synod and it "went well and had a good spirit of prayerful unity. I was pleased to be elected for a further three-year term to the Diocesan Council (Standing Committee) and as a member of the Diocesan Incumbency Appointment Board. The synod voted not to adopt the Anglican Covenant. I spoke on the need for translation and not legislation!" Congratulations to you, dear brother, as you continue and expand your various ministries there, and for always being willing to step forward when the Holy Spirit calls you!

Tobias Stanislas has had a long relationship with the Via Media organization in the Diocese of Albany and this year they invited him to deliver the keynote address at their annual meeting, taking place at Saint George's Church in Schenectady, New York. He had just come off a very busy month of international consultations, includ-



Tobias Stanislas addresses the Albany Via Media annual meeting at historic Saint George's Church, Schenectady.

ing the Chicago Consultation / Ujamaa Center conference in Salt Rock, Durban SA, and a meeting of the Continuing Indaba Reference Group in London, and looked forward to an event closer to home. He and James Teets drove up for the weekend as guests of the Rev Paul Blanch and his wife, Margaret. Saint George's is a beautiful colonial church dating from the 1730s and the care the parishioners take of their church buildings and grounds is stunning; the love there is obvious. Tobias Stanislas' presentation

was entitled "Anglican Disunion: Issues behind the Issue," and was described as "bringing us up to date on the state of the troubled Anglican Communion." The address was very well received, and was recorded to be made available to those who could not attend the gathering. He was also the guest celebrant and preacher at both liturgies on Sunday. It was a very full weekend but one worth every moment in terms of the new friends the Brotherhood made there!



Jenny Plane Te Paa and Tobias Stanislas during the Salt Rock Consultation (photo Jon Richardson)

Province 4

Bo Alexander Armstrong has told us of his mentoring Project Canterbury, a new outreach ministry sponsored by Christ Church, Chattanooga among the students at the University of Tennessee's Chattanooga campus. This new ministry has great promise — already about twenty students involved — especially since Episcopal campus ministry is often one of the first areas where short-term budget savings are implemented by dioceses and parishes. We send you and all those at Project Canterbury our assurance of intercessions and support.

David Luke Henton issued an invitation to a time apart for refreshment over the Labor Day weekend at his retreat house in New Mexico, and Ælred Bernard Dean, Ron Fender and Eric Shelley happily accepted. Eric shared with us that on “Saturday we hiked in the desert and Sunday we spent in the mountains at 10,000 feet elevation. Besides the awesome scenery, the time with the brothers was wonderful!” Such opportunities — rare as they are — are occasions for reflection and for experiencing God's powerful presence and majesty in ways we often forget but delight in recalling as we return again to our daily ministries.

Ælred Bernard provides this update: “This semester has been busy...busy and even busier with school, work and my internship. Because of my crazy schedule I no longer have a day off. However, I'm looking forward to winter break when I can relax a bit. My internship is wonderful as I'm doing counseling, both individual and group, at Positive Impact which is a mental health agency that works with individuals who are infected with HIV. This semester I can honestly say that my classes have been self-taught...and that may be the strength or weakness of hybrid classes.” Your vocation is a blessing to many people — even those whom you do not know!

James Patrick Hall shares the following vignette from Thanksgiving Day in Tulsa, Oklahoma: This last week was very busy here in Tulsa, as the little group I am part of gathered turkeys and all the ingredients of a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless. We set up tables and fryers and food lines, eventually feeding about 250 people in a city park. Among other things, my parish donated all the fruit that had been used in our cornucopia display around the altar — apples, oranges, grapefruit, etc. The Altar Guild collected them in several grocery sacks full of fruit, and I took them to the park. We started giving them out as snacks before the main dinner was served. About an hour before we started serving dinner, a small, thin, wrinkled, dirty man came up to me and very sheepishly said something close to “Pastor, is it true? Are you really giving out oranges?” I had not met him before, and he would hardly look me in the eye when talking. I had to bend over to engage him, and I told him that we certainly were giving out oranges and would he like one? He audibly drew in his breath, and said “Oh, yes!” Then he went on: “I am so sorry, and don't want to seem greedy, but it has been *so long* since I have tasted one, may I please have a second one, also?” My heart just melted with his plea and yes, I gave him a second one, and as he took them with his gnarled hands, he cradled them as if they were diamonds. That is when I reached back into the bag and told him that they weren't all that large, so why didn't he take two more and put them in his pockets? He gasped and, with tears in his eyes, accepted this small favor, asking God to bless me. I told him that God already had blessed me, in letting me be friends with him. His smile was worth more than diamonds!” In talking with Ælred Bernard about this, he very succinctly said: “As the



Members of Province 5 gather at the Seabury-Western Campus

Gospel reminded us today to ‘stay awake,’ all we have to do is open our eyes to see the wonderment of creation as we seek and serve Christ in all people.” This year, I am thankful that I was able to give Christ the gift of an orange!

Province 5

The provincial Holy Cross Retreat began in Chicago with Friday Evening Prayer and dinner at a local restaurant. On Saturday morning the retreatants traveled to Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston for a day of reflection and prayer. The seminary’s Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, the Rev Elizabeth Jameson, welcomed the Gregorian Friars and provided the structure for their retreat time, which was focused upon the brothers sharing different aspects of their Christian journey with each other. The day at the seminary came to a close with the Holy Eucharist. Joseph Basil Gauss hosted the group to dinner at his home. On Sunday morning the group reconvened at the Church of the Atonement, where the Rector, the Rev John David van Dooren, presided at a transferred Holy Cross celebration and Ronald Augustine Fox preached.

William Henry Benefield joined the Dean and Cathedral Choir as Precentor for Solemn Evensong on All Saints Sunday at St James Cathedral, Chicago. In October, he taught a course for continuing medical education on Anxiety Disorders in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Province 8

The provincial retreat took place at the Church of Our Savior, Mill Valley, California on Saturday, September 17. This well-attended gathering included provincial Gregorian Friars, a vocational enquirer and parishioners from Our Savior, where Richard Edward Helmer is rector. The day began with Morning Prayer and included two meditations reflecting on the theme of Foundation — this day being within the octave of the 42nd anniversary of the Brotherhood’s Foundation Day, September 14, 1969. Thomas Bushnell delivered the first meditation following Morning Prayer, which was followed by breakout into small groups for discussion. Karekin Madteos Yarian, Minister Provincial of Province 8, delivered the second meditation, which led into an Emmaus Walk. Lunch and the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Richard Edward closed the day, ending with the Jesus Prayer in the Gregorian fashion, including all participants. Karekin Madteos adds: “It was an extraordinary day and a profound opportunity to share the Gregorian ethos with a wider group of people.”

Richard Edward, who attended diocesan convention at Grace Cathedral in late October as a clergy delegate, sent us the following report: “We just concluded a very well-planned and managed Convention of the Diocese of California today, and the Gregorian presence was very much in evidence! Brs Karekin Madteos and Francis Sebastian Medina and I joined the other religious in the diocese, including Franciscan orders and members of the Community of Solitude, in a convention booth that was a first for us and was very well-received. Talk is now of future gatherings of the religious in this part of the church for fellowship and mutual support, especially as our visibility continues to grow locally. I was also elected by convention to a four-year term on Standing Committee, and in short order appointed by that committee as secretary, so I have my work cut out for me. I will have the honor of serving alongside some very dedicated leadership.” Congratulations on your election, dear brother; well done! You make us proud.



Francis Sebastian (l) with members of the Community and Society of Saint Francis, and the Community of Solitude

BY THE WELL

In this conversation with the Samaritan woman, Jesus uses the opportunity raised by her question about the right place for worship to move the conversation away from her to God. In doing this he teaches about true worship. “God is spirit, and those who worship him will worship in spirit and truth.” With these words, he begins to reveal himself as Messiah, and she believes. The change comes because Jesus reveals himself to her, not because she admits her sin. She is changed, not from within but from outside — from above, from Jesus. She is saved *not* because he tells her about her sin; she is saved because he tells her about *himself*. The story continues, and the woman goes to the townsfolk, half proclaiming, half asking: “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! Could he be the Messiah?” Her testimony moves them to seek Jesus out, and as *they* hear Jesus *themselves*, in their own encounter with him, they affirm that he is truly the Savior of the world.

What Jesus does in his encounters is at the heart of John's theology. At the end of the story, many Samaritans will confess Jesus as Savior. But before that happens, Jesus patiently leads one woman in her faith journey. At the beginning, she gives Jesus a name that alienates: Jew. Then she is led to recognize him as prophet, then Messiah, and finally, with her fellow Samaritans, as Savior of the world.

Jesus gives us many opportunities to grow as people of God. Firstly, he calls us to risk doing something against an arbitrary or unjust social norm. He shows us that this is the role of God's people. Jesus was a risk taker; he didn't stand by and ignore injustices. It wasn't so long ago that, in our own country, you had to go to the right water fountain for water. It wasn't that long ago that the color of your skin determined where you could go to work, to school, or to eat. God raised up prophets to upset the status quo and bring change, often suffering for standing up to what was wrong. We are in desperate need of prophets to bring change in so many places. In this story, Jesus is challenging each of us to follow his lead. We are called to be prophets.

Secondly, recognizing and confessing Jesus as Savior, as great as that is, is not the end toward which Jesus calls us. Jesus says again and again that his mission is to accomplish the will of his Father: to point people to God. The most significant aspect of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan is the move from dialogue about spiritual water to dialogue about true worship. It is not arbitrary or coincidental; it is not a ploy orchestrated by the woman to avoid a painful subject. Quite simply, the worship of God in spirit and in truth is at the heart of our theology. Jesus is calling us to move away from narcissistic preoccupation with ourselves, our own needs — even our spiritual needs — and adopt a stance of adoration, of openness before God in true worship. That's why we come here on Sunday, not for what we can get out of it, but to adore God: to come out of ourselves and to worship God. Jesus is telling us that when we take our attention away from *us* and direct it to the worship of *God* in spirit and truth, it is then that Jesus reveals himself to us, and we can truly begin to experience what it means to have rivers of living water gushing up to eternal life.

Richard John Lorino

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 Patrick
Will Harpest

Bo Alexander Armstrong *Sat*
Francis Jonathan Bullock
Blane Frederik van Pletzen-Rands
James Patrick Hall

Novices
Millard Cook
Richard Edward Helmer

Postulants
Harold Lee Slatore
Eric Lee Shelley
Larry W Reich

Postulants-Prospicive
David Kasievich
Andrew Kellner

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

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 SSG, Sue
Bradley, Jack Merryman; Paul
Power, William Russell, Mark
Domoguen; Elizabeth Mary
Burke SSG
James Nichols
Ronald E Gathje*
Noah
Marge Cappetta
Semiramis
Billie Wallace
Robert Patrick McDerrmitt
Gerald Wondra
Lauren Gaines Graham
Ellen Burns
Michelle Dashbach Fast
Jonathan Richie
Bill Parsons
Dolores Guerra
Steve Meikle
Luke Woods
Mary Ann Croisant
Gobel Gadberry
Donna Davis
Midge Gibbons
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Wally Coberg

* corrected from #221