

HE SERVANT



*John Henry Ernestine
delivers a meditation at
the Province 2 Day of
Recollection.*

#231

Spring 2014

Publications from the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory

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GIFTS GIVEN AND RECEIVED

Winter Convocation was a very special time for me. While there are always good times and time well spent together, the retreat this year was a real gift—both for me personally, and for the brothers gathered.

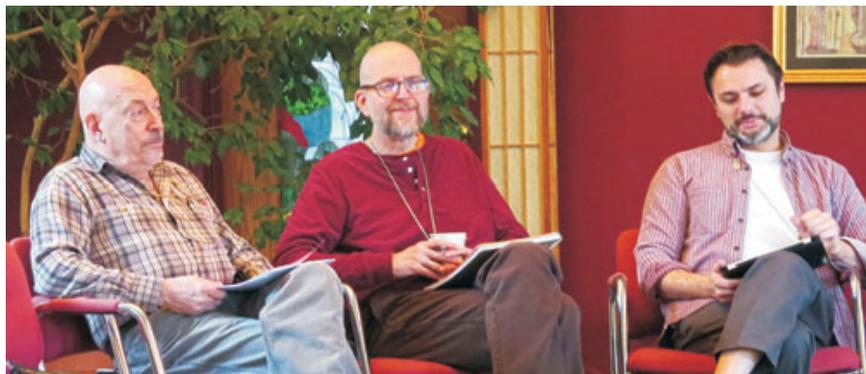
I was especially honored to have the support and assistance of David Luke Henton, who, with many great methods and ideas, helped me in guiding the community assembled in an in-depth study and discussion of our Rule, Constitution, and Customary. At one point I mentioned that it was and is significant to be able to study these documents with me, as the composer of the Rule, and with several senior brothers who contributed so much to the development of the Constitution and Customary.

The retreat was set in an informal, safe, and comfortable context: the printed copies of our documents were available and we began by spending time in intentional silence to read, mark, and inwardly digest. We were given index cards on which to note things in these documents that leaped out at us; things that we found to be discoveries and things we already knew. What followed was simply amazing and exciting.

We assembled in the afternoon; the cards were collected and given to the group. None got their own card back! We then read aloud what was noted on the cards. Discoveries and new learnings emerged. Some brothers who had been around for some time revealed their assumptions that some things were better known than they are; others newer in the community discovered why and how we work and are governed.

Gifts were given and gifts received: The second day, we entered into a conversation with me and other senior brothers; asking questions about how certain parts of our documents came to be; what were some of the events leading to what we do and what we say—and what we wear! It was my gift received in being able to share about the early days—the middle days—and now. The gift given is that those asking the questions and making the comments were receiving the gift of knowledge—open and free—the real commitment to community and trust. Gifts for all!

RTB



Richard Thomas, Joseph Basil, and Richard Edward

Here and there with the brothers

COMMUNITY NOTES

Winter Convocation 2014

The Brotherhood's annual winter gathering again took place at Mount Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls, New York, in mid-January. Gregorian Friars traveled from across the country to participate in this time of retreat which included education, self-study, worship and prayer within an environment of refreshment.



Plenary session with discussion of the governing documents

The first three full retreat days consisted of a study of the Brotherhood's governing documents: the Rule, the Constitution, and the Customary, with focused time for each brother to re-read the complete documents and to think anew about how they fit together as they provide the structure for each brother to live each day in prayer and service to God's people. Richard Thomas Biernacki, Founder and Minister General, led the first day in a plenary discussion of our Rule, where brothers were asked to highlight a portion of the Rule and then talk about their experience of that portion in daily life. Small groups then gathered to further the discussion, always with the purpose of opening each individual to new potentials through insights provided by others as they live out the same Rule. The afternoon session provided the Founder with the opportunity to talk about his experiences during the community's early days, and for newer members to ask questions about those days as



John Henry reflects as Will, Larry Walter and Mark look on.

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Laura Katherine CSJB explores the Enneagram with members of the Brotherhood.

they sought enlightenment to the Brotherhood's living history. Many found it both instructive and quite helpful for the senior brothers to respond to questions about how specific sections of our governing documents were developed, as well as sharing experiences with Gregorian Friars who now pray for us in the nearer presence of God.

David Luke Henton led the second and third retreat days. He began with charging all present to read the Constitution and Customary in their entirety—all 24 pages—and to write responses to questions along the way. When the group assembled again, the written responses were collected and redistributed to other brothers, who read them aloud and began conversation about the topics that arose. Many present were surprised to hear the comments “with new ears” and to be able to rethink about matters long accepted as written in stone! The third day continued the conversation, which was rich in ideas and insights, and David Luke brought the day to a close with a discussion about how the Rule and the Constitution complement each other in providing leadership oversight and spiritual development.

The final two retreat days were structured around a continued exploration of “The Enneagram,” which began at Winter Convocation 2013. Our dear friend, Sr Laura Katherine of the Community of Saint John Baptist, presented three advanced sessions of study of this model of human personality typology—a helpful means toward both self-understanding and community relationship development. We were delighted to have Sr Laura Katherine with us again and hope that she enjoyed sharing her studies and experience with us.

As always, the daily retreat sessions were set within each day's round of prayer as formed by the Daily Office and the Holy Eucharist. The masses were celebrated by Richard Edward Helmer with the assistance of deacons Edward Munro and Gordon John Stanley, together with other members of the community. As always, fine preaching highlighted each day's mass, with sermons by Joseph Basil Gauss, Richard Matthias, Ron Fender, Richard Edward and novice William Carl Van Doren, and the daily music and hymnody provided by Nathanael Deward Rahm, Enoch John Valen-



Richard Thomas, Richard Edward, and Edward distribute Communion, as James and Luke Anthony receive.

tine and Richard Thomas at the keyboards kept spirits high throughout the mid-winter days.

As with all Brotherhood convocations and retreats, the sound of laughter is gently mixed in our memories with the prayerful solemnity of the Holy Eucharist and our times spent in intercession and reflection in chapel together. These annual times apart provide the refueling of our hearts and our spirits as we go out to meet Our Lord in the faces of all whom we see and work with. To God alone the glory!



Brothers share fellowship in the “snack room.”

Province 2



On Saturday, December 7, the parish of Holy Trinity, South River, New Jersey welcomed 22 of the faithful for a day of silence, music and reflection. Titled “A Day of

Meditation, Reflection and Prayer in Advent,” the day began with a light breakfast, followed by Morning Prayer and the first meditation. A second meditation and a “Prayer of Advent” were delivered by John Henry Ernestine, while Intentional silences and discussion and reflection punctuated the events of the day. Lunch was served and the Holy Eucharist celebrated by the Rev Greg Bezilla. The Daily Office officiants were William Francis Jones, Edward Munro and Robert James McLaughlin, while Richard Thomas Biernacki served as musician using the music of Taize between the meditations. All present recalled that Holy Trinity was the parish where Sr Elizabeth Mary Burke SSG was a dedicated member, chorister and faithful friend to many; her ashes keep silent witness in the Memorial Garden there.

Province 4

Ælred Bernard Dean is thriving at the School of Theology of the University of the South, Sewanee. Midway in his first year of seminary studies toward a Master of Divinity Degree, he informed us that he was honored to be selected by the Dean of Community Life to be part of the pastoral care team, and elected by the student body to be the student trustee to the Board of Regents at the University.

Mark Williams is working as director of personal housing for Matthew’s Place, a new outreach of the Chattanooga Community Kitchen providing housing for eight formerly homeless people. He is also continuing his work with the House of All Souls nearby.

Province 5

Several brothers took part in the ordination of the Rev Anthony Vaccaro, MD in Chicago late last year. Nathanael Deward Rahm was one of his presenters, and Ronald Augustine Fox served as an assistant vergar. Also seen in the photograph is the Rev James Dunkerley, retired Rector of St Peter’s Church, and now assisting at Atonement.



INTERCESSIONS

For the Brotherhood

Episcopal Visitors Sun

Rodney R Michel
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

Edward Riley d 9.15.05 Tue

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

Gordon John Stanley Wed

Karekin Madteos Yarian
 William David Everett
 Thomas Bushnell
Patrick Ignatius Dickson d 7.20.05
 Robert James McLaughlin
 Peter Budde
 John Henry Ernestine
 Francis Sebastian Medina

Ælred Bernard Dean Thu

Joseph Basil Gauss
 Mark Andrew Jones
 Richard Matthias
 William Henry Benefield
 Nathanael Deward Rahm
 Thomas Lawrence Greer
 Enoch John Valentine
 Ron Fender

Michael Elliott d 2.8.12 Fri

David Luke Henton
 David John Battrick
 Will Harpest
 Bo Alexander Armstrong
 Francis Jonathan Bullock
 Blane Frederik van Pletzen-Rands
 James Patrick Hall
 Millard Cook
 Richard Edward Helmer

Novices Sat

Eric Shelley
 Larry Walter Reich
 William Carl Van Doren

Postulant

Mark Williams
 Postulants Prospective
 Donald J Sutton III
 Thomas Luther Curnutte

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
 Oratory of the Good Shepherd
 Community of Solitude
 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
 Cathedral of St John, Providence

The Profession of Life Vows of
 Sister Sally of the Grace of God,
 Episcopal Carmel of Saint Teresa

For the Departed

Benefactors, Friends & Associates:

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