



THE SERVANT



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in Chicago*

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Publication	Description	Cost	Qty	Total
<i>Music of BSG</i>	Simplified Anglican Chants; full setting for Noonday including Psalmody with Gregorian tones for every day of the week; Compline, settings of <i>Phos</i> , <i>Magnificat</i> , and <i>Nunc</i> ; and music for Communion. 36 page booklet.	\$ 3.00		\$
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<i>The State of the Religious Life</i>	... in the Episcopal Church and elsewhere, including history, possibilities for renewal, and challenges. 64 page booklet. Available on-line for free download!			
<i>God First: A Tithing Catechism</i>	Extensive history of the tithe, answers to frequent questions. Script for the award winning audio cassette. 24 page booklet. Available on-line for free download!			
<i>What Bishops and Clergy Should Know about Religious Life</i>	A brief overview, with commentary on the canons governing religious communities in the Episcopal Church. 8 panel brochure; updated with changes from 1994 and 1997 General Conventions, available on-line for download.	Free with a self-addressed stamped envelope	(Limit 3 copies)	
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DON'T LOOK BACK!

As they were going along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."



Really? As I answer that question for myself, I am taken back a good many years to the summer of 1969. It was a time when I knew, deep down inside, that a voice was calling, asking, "Will you follow." And it wasn't just an internal voice. I'm no Joan of Arc. A monastery of Visitation nuns were the chorus asking me where I was going. There were also a couple of extern sisters asking the question in differing ways. But then there was Sr Margaret Mary, whom some of you knew later as Helen Marie Joyce. She—yes she—asked that question, in her own very calm and quiet way. Behind a grille, as we discussed what would become the Brotherhood of St Gregory,

she asked, "If we"—you—do this, will you follow wherever God leads you through this vision?" My brothers, you all know the answer—and don't think it was a snap—was Yes! I was afraid; I was uncertain, and I was, frankly, mad as a hatter! The readings today speak to me and to all of us: those examples of wanting to turn back, because there were other things to do. But enough of that—this is not about the distractions, but the question: Will you follow? We have a clear question from Jesus: Will you follow me? It's an easy question to interpret; it's an even easier one to answer—but is the answer always true and honest?

We have had the joy and challenge this week as we learned more about ourselves and our governing documents. We learned, I hope, that these words and rules and phrases are all designed to help us to do what we promise, to follow Jesus wherever it takes us. We learned about letting go and moving on: in many ways, that has taken place with the admission of postulants yesterday, and today the taking of vows. All of these are ways of letting go and moving on.



“No one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” Are you ready to follow the Lord wherever he leads you? Wherever you stand in this community, wherever you are on that journey in following Jesus, along with the call from God comes the grace to respond and to follow to the end. When a would-be disciple approached Jesus and said he was ready to follow, Jesus told him it would require sacrifice. He meant the sacrifice of certain creature comforts, of choices that might have been. Jesus appealed to the man and told him to detach himself from whatever would hold him back.

Then we heard about the plowman. He turned back, causing his furrow to become crooked. This is another great example for us here today. There will be crooked fur-



The new postulants with the Bishop Visitor and Minister General

rows—trust me—but if we are true to the promises we have made and make today, we will move on, let go and move on!

As for the man who wanted to go home and bury his father—it was the same. If we decide to follow Jesus, he wants us to count the cost and choose freely, choosing to give up those other choices. We here today have made that choice—some of us for more years than I would like to count, others just setting foot on the path!

So now, some warnings. You who have just entered the postulancy—you are knocking at the door. You are in a time of searching and being asked, “Will you follow me?” You can say yes and you can “be sure” but you will be watched and supported and assisted. But remember that if your vocation and call to this community is real, you will not turn back. Forge on and learn; make mistakes and fall. God is always in charge, supporting and caring. This comes at the cost of other paths not taken. For we as a community—like Jesus with his “easy yoke”—may seem to ask little; but what is required is just that: required. The good news is that God’s grace—the other side of the true call—is sufficient and his love is strong. There is nothing greater we can do with our lives than to place them in the service of the Lord and Master of the universe. We cannot out-give God in generosity. Jesus promises that those who are willing to part with what is most dear to them for his sake, “will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.”

So now, to my brothers about to make first profession of vows. You have knocked at the door as postulants. We did not shut it on you! You got your foot in—that is what novitiate is, getting your foot in the door—and with God’s gracious help and the work of your mentors and provincials, you grew as Gregorians, following this particular path as your choice, turning away from other possibilities. You have answered the question, “Is there anything holding you back from pursuing the Lord and his will for your life?” Ignatius Loyola said, “Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my whole will. Give me only your love and grace—with these I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more.” Ignatius had it



Brothers make their first vows: Eric...

spot on. And while our life as Gregorians is different from Jesuits, we have set our feet on a way that forsakes those other possibilities, giving them up because, as Gregory admonishes, we are to be in the world but not of it. Through our vows we give up and take on and move on. We let go and let God!

So what does the story of a plowman have to do with the journey? Simple: a plowman who looks back while plowing causes his furrows to be crooked. He had to look straight ahead in order to keep from going off course. Sound familiar? Likewise, if we look back on what we have freely left behind to follow the Lord, our path will diverge and we’ll miss what God has for us. The gospel does not record the response from this man and the others in the story. We are only left with the question, a question which Jesus intends for us as well.



...and Larry Walter.

Jesus said “Follow me,” and now I ask you the postulants—will you follow Jesus—wherever he leads you? And those making first vows—will you continue to follow Jesus—wherever he leads? And all of the rest of you here—some who have answered the call for many years—are you prepared to continue to follow Jesus—wherever he leads? No one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God! Do I hear an amen?

RTB

Here and there with the brothers

COMMUNITY NOTES

Annual Convocation

Gregorian Friars gathered at Mount Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls NY in late July for prayer, retreat and study, and celebration of the 45th anniversary of the foundation of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory.



The community's Education and Retreat Planning Committee worked hard to put together a number of workshop session offerings for the brothers, to heighten their various ministries and to study and learn about the community's history, in part from the mouths of those who lived it. The first session served as an extension of part of the retreat program from this year's Winter Convocation in January, which was related as extremely helpful to those who attended. At this convocation session, all those who



were present in January served as a “committee of the whole” as they reviewed the earlier work on the community’s Rule, Constitution and Customary. As in January, everyone was charged with reading through all three documents prior to arriving at Mount Alvernia, and this expanded session brought new questions, new thoughts and most importantly, new life to those foundational documents which guide, direct and support our daily life of worship, prayer, service, and thanksgiving. The conversation was rich, thoughtful and animated.



Thomas lights the candles at the Gathering Service.

Proceeding into the week, with two retreat sessions each day, Nathanael Deward



Nathanael Deward and Joseph Basil lead a workshop.

Rahm and Joseph Basil Gauss facilitated a conversation titled, “Letting Go and Moving Forward.” The Minister Provincial of Province 5 and the community’s Infirmarian were well qualified to lead us in considering all that takes place when a person confronts a major change in life, be it work-related or health-related. The goal is always to accept the reality of any situation with

grace, thanksgiving and prayer, and to begin to live into the new situation with understanding and patience, as a gift of God.



Peter challenges the brothers.

Peter Budde took the bull by the horns and shared his considerable experience with his usual candor and wit, as he presented a retreat session on “How to Listen to a Sermon.” Some will recall a BSG convocation retreat compellingly offered by Bishop Christopher Epting which dealt with the writing and presentation of sermons, and Peter’s retreat session provided the long-expected response to the bishop’s offering.



Bishop Michel celebrating...

The final retreat session involved every person present, as Francis Sebastian Medina and David Luke Henton dealt with “Names and Naming in Religious Life.” Opening with a presentation on the history of the taking and receiving a name at baptism and, in some cases, at admission to novitiate. Each person present, including Episcopal Visitor Rodney R Michel, and the five men who would enter the postulancy later that week, described in as much detail as they could recall how they came to bear the

name they do and what it has meant to each of them. With almost 50 people having the opportunity to speak, this session was quite lengthy, but when it was over every person there knew each of their brothers in a deeper and more personal way.

The retreat sessions were set into the morning and afternoon schedule, amid the Daily Office and the Holy Eucharist. A number of business meetings also found their space within the very full schedule each day, including the annual Chapter Meeting, meetings of the five provinces, and meetings of the Education and Retreat Planning Committee, and the BSG Benevolent Trust Board. Council also met during the week, and noted the withdrawal from the community of Will Harpest and Blane Frederik Van Pletzen-Rands, both of whom were wished well in their future endeavors and spiritual journeys. In addition to such gatherings, there were also opportunities for private conversations and meetings, including those held for renewal of annual vows, with the Minister General, the Minister Provincial and the brother renewing his vows for another year. If such a schedule sounds a bit hectic, be assured that all was accomplished in good spirit and in order.



...and preaching.

The daily Eucharist is the central point of each convocation day, and this particular week featured celebrations of some of the major saints and liturgical events of the church year and the Brotherhood’s custom: the feast of Saint Mary Magdalene, the annual Healing Service, the commemoration of Saint Thomas á Kempis, the feast of Saint James the Apostle, and the Convocation Solemn Eucharist with first professions. Celebrants for the week included our Bishop Visitor, Rodney R Michel, Tobias Stanislas Haller, Mark Andrew Jones, David John Battrick and Richard Edward

Helmer, assisted by deacons Edward Munro, Charles Edward LeClerc, Virgilio Fortuna and Gordon John Stanley together with a number of other brothers who rounded out the services. And as always, excellent preaching at the masses was a mainstay; this year's preachers included Bishop Rodney, the Minister General, Thomas Bushnell, Peter and William Carl Van Doren.

Friday at Evening Prayer is traditionally our liturgy for admission of postulants, and this year we welcomed Donald J Sutton III (Diocese of Massachusetts), Thomas L Curnutte (Southern Ohio), Michael J Piper (Iowa), Max B Steele jr (East Tennessee) and Scott M Pomerenk (California). Brothers elected or appointed for particular service within the community were commissioned at this office, and these were: Minister Provincial of Province 4, Thomas Lawrence Greer (Tennessee); Director of Education, David Luke Henton (Texas); and the Minister General's Representative to Council, Richard John Lorino (New York). Our congratulations and our thanks for their willingness to serve accompany each



William Carl preaching

brother as he carries out his ministry among us and on our behalf!

The Convocation's Solemn Festival Holy Eucharist on the closing day drew us together as we approached being sent forth to do the work God has called us to accomplish within his church and among his holy people. A focus of this liturgy is the first profession of annual vows. Eric Shelley (Southwestern Virginia) and Larry Walter Reich (East Tennessee) made their first annual profession in the presence of the community assembled and



Eric and Larry Walter prostrate themselves as Gordon John sings the litany.

with the blessing of our Episcopal Visitor. Each brother prostrated in the center of the choir as Gordon John sang the litany, and then each knelt before the Minister General to profess his vows among us, signing a document to testify to those vows in the midst of the assembly. God bless our newly professed brothers with every blessing

and a sufficient sense of success as their vocations further develop in the future! We were again delighted to welcome our long-time friend, Br Robert Sevensky OHC, among us for this powerful liturgy and we thank him for his presence and support as we journey together.

Province 1

Ciarán Anthony DellaFera has completed a one month rotation in Sports Medicine at UMass Medical in Worcester. The job hunt and interview trail for attending physician positions has started. He graduates from residency in June 2015, and is looking to practice at a Federally Qualified Community Health Center (FQHC) in the Boston/Cambridge area.

Enoch John Valentine has answered the call to serve as the new Organist and Choirmaster of Our Lady of Good Help, Mapleville RI. He has been engaged to expand the existing adult choir and reinstate and expand the children's choir. He is further beginning a program of four concerts a year to assist in the support of these endeavors.



Enoch John at the Mt Alvernia console

Donovan Aidan Bowley continues at St. Thomas in Camden ME, participating in weekly Bible study, co-mentoring the EFM group, singing in choir, and serving as lector. He is also researching midcoast Maine history, with several papers in preparation for publication, and assists in local historical societies.

Province 2

Tobias Stanislas has continued his work on the Theological/Biblical subcommittee of the General Convention Task Force for the Study of Marriage. The Task Force has issued a resource for use by congregations or other gatherings to explore some of the issues concerning marriage. *Dearly Beloved* is available at the General Convention website.

Province 4

While in Albuquerque, New Mexico recently, David Luke took the opportunity to visit the Bosque Conference and Spirituality Center, the new conference and retreat center of the Diocese of the Rio Grande. Bishop of the Rio Grande Michael Vono happened to be on the premises at the time and delighted in giving a personal guided tour of the facility. During their time together, David Luke was able to give Bishop Michael an update on ministry activities at the Church of the Ascension in Cloudcroft, New Mexico where David Luke is developing a retreat ministry.

Eric Shelley shared some good news in June: "...after several months of studying, this morning I sat for the certification exam (CNOR) for Operating Room Nursing

and passed! I am now a certified OR RN. I am grateful and relieved that it is done.” Eric now adds another set of professional letters following his name—following BSG, of course!. Congratulations, dear brother!

Also a registered nurse, our Minister Provincial 4, Thomas Lawrence Greer, announced that he has been promoted to teach Advanced Medical/Surgical Nursing in the trimester which began in late August. Our brothers join your colleagues in the health care field in rejoicing!

In July, Mark Williams withdrew from the postulancy, though he remains in our prayers as he continues his journey in response to Christ’s call.



Brothers commissioned to service: Thomas Lawrence, Richard John, and David Luke

Province 5

(see cover photo) Joseph Basil Gauss was crucifer leading the Corpus Christi outdoor procession at Atonement, Chicago. The acolytes are Norlan Stadler and Amy Youngkin.

Australia

David Luke visited Australia in early July for a combination of work and visiting with David John, his family, and both Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle — where David John holds a canon’s chair — and as a guest preacher at David John’s parish — Saint Peter, East Maitland. David John was the officiant at Evensong at the cathedral and David Luke accompanied him, and on July 5th, David Luke was very warmly welcomed to Saint Peter’s by the clergy and a growing and lively congregation. During

his visit with David John, Luisa, and their family, David Luke was treated to whale watching, visiting a farm and petting a koala, and “Luisa’s extraordinary cooking” — though not necessarily in that order!



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*

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

Christopher Stephen Jenks *Tue*
 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

Joseph Basil Gauss *Thu*

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

David Luke Henton *Fri*
 David John Battrick
 Bo Alexander Armstrong
 Francis Jonathan Bullock
 James Patrick Hall
 Richard Edward Helmer

Eric Shelley

Larry Walter Reich *Sat*

Novice
 William Carl Van Doren

Postulants

Donald J Sutton III
 Thomas Luther Curnutte
 Michael J Piper
 Max B Steele
 Scott Michael Pomerenk

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
 Oratory of Saint Mary and Saint
 John

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
 Agnes Catherine Connally

Temples

Blair

John Walsted

Michael Reeves

Ella Rose Evans

Ellen Aitken

Anthony Turney

Walter Plazewski

Linda Brown

Constance Lineman

Sami Totah

Florence Ella Jagers McNeil

Lillian Aiken

Thomas

Michael Miqueli

Nickolas Protos

Thomas Wartell

Lucy Shetters, CSM

Michael Bossi

Robert C Hirshfeld

Sam Gibson

Frank Mocerri