



HE SERVANT



#235

Eastertide 2015

Publications from the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory

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<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		\$
<i>In Love and Service Bound</i>	<i>The First Forty Years of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory</i> . 182 pp illustrated history of the founding and development of the Brotherhood. By Karekin Madteos Yarian BSG	\$15.00		
<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!			
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Note to our readers. Due to increased availability of ready access to the internet, as well as feedback from readers who view this newsletter online, this will be the last year for a print version of *The Servant*. Anyone interested in being added to a mailing list to receive — or receive notice — of the web version should send an email indicating this wish to servant@gregorians.org.

NEVER TOO EARLY, NEVER TOO LATE

Easter was early this year—the hymns have been sung and the trumpets have been forgotten until next year. The lilies are gone and all that remains is the remembrance of that sweet smell that says “Easter.” Ascension Day is near and then Christ is gone from view.

Gone from view? Only for those whose faith is as shallow as their vision! We all know that the words, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age,” are not shallow. They are filled with power and promise. The disciples knew the loneliness of Jesus’ absence. They knew him at Emmaus in the breaking of the bread and at the next moment he was gone.

We too know these same moments: some call it “the dark night of the soul” and others “the desert.” Some simply feel that these are dry periods, when God seems all but gone both from our lives and thoughts. We sense an uneasiness similar to the child who has lost his or her mother in the supermarket. What we need to keep in mind is that God—Christ—the Holy Spirit—is never very far from us. Like our parents who are no longer near when we grow up and are on our own, and whose words and training still affect us, God’s influence and teaching are always there. God is still guiding.

There are times when the absence of God in our lives seems unbearable and we are tempted to question his goodness and concern. It is at these moments that God surrounds us with his love which confirms within us a sense of security. He allows us to be on our own; to test our wings and gain maturity. Just like a parent, God leaves us alone in order that we may develop and grow. God has an uncanny way of bringing blessing to us in ways we may not expect or desire or consider possible. In the faithful living of life in trust and obedience, his will is fulfilled in our lives. He is never too early, never too late.

RTB



COMMUNITY NOTES

Winter Convocation 2015

Blizzards and inclement weather have always been possible for each year's Winter Convocation, and this year was no exception. During the time set aside for the annual winter retreat at Mount Alvernia Retreat Center in upstate Wappingers Falls, New York, two winter storms took hold of the Northeast and caused a degree of havoc for those traveling from as far away as Australia. But travel and gather they did, and though the numbers and the time were constrained, those able to attend enjoyed a very rewarding time of retreat, worship, and prayer—and no small amount of fellowship and refreshment.

David Luke Henton, Director of Education, developed an ambitious retreat schedule, and this year's attendance was up from last year, even considering the cancelled and delayed travel plans. The overarching retreat theme this winter was Ministering to One's Self, and the titles of the daily sessions—part lecture, part response, and part group and small-group conversation—produce an overview of the extensive material covered by the session leaders:

"Dearly Beloved: Exploring Marriage in all its Forms," by Tobias Stanislas Haller, made use of the resource produced by The Episcopal Church's Task Force on the Study of Marriage, in a 90-minute session exploring important themes concerning marriage, both as an institution and as personal experience.

"The Idolatry of Health and the Idolatry of Life"—two separate sessions, the first led by the Brotherhood's Infirmarian, Joseph Basil Gauss, and the second led by both Joseph Basil and Thomas Lawrence Greer. Both of them are registered nurses who bring a wealth of personal experience and insight to the issues of end-of-life planning and awareness of mortality.



"Self-care in Gregorian Life and Ministry"—also presented in two sessions, both led by David Luke, a Clinical Assistant Professor and the Director of Field Education for the School of Social Work at Texas State University in San Marcos; Joseph Basil also joined in leading these sessions.

"Anxiety and Depression," by William Henry Benefield, a Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Pharmacology at the University of Texas at Austin. This talk and conversation focused on the inventories and instru-



ments used to diagnose anxiety and depression, noting particular issues in the DSM-5, as well as addressing treatment options that are available, and their relative advantages as therapy.



As in other fields, the Brotherhood is greatly blessed to have a number of members who minister and serve in the healthcare professions, and are always willing to share their knowledge and experience with the community. The discussion was lively, and members felt

much better informed by the end of the week on a number of key life issues that touch many of us directly, and that all of us must face.

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



Tobias Stanislas and David John Battrick with the assistance of deacons Edward Munro and Gordon John Stanley, together with other members of the community.

Fine preaching highlighted each day's eucharist, with sermons by Tobias Stanislas, Thomas Bushnell and Nathanael Deward Rahm. Daily music was provided by William Henry, Nathanael Deward and Enoch John Valentine at the console, and it served to keep spirits high throughout these 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.



Province 1

Ciarán Anthony DellaFera reports that he has accepted a full-time job as an attending physician at Greater Lawrence [Massachusetts] Family Health Center, where he is doing his residency. It involves full time attending with seven clinical sessions (four hours each) per week, seven hours per week for information technology research, and five hours of administrative time. The Center also offered him the title of Assistant Director of Health Information Technology, where he will make excellent use of the skills gained in his earlier career in the computer industry. This new position will begin in early September.



Province 1 observed its annual pre-Thanksgiving gathering at Virgilio Fortuna's home with good fellowship, prayer and a sumptuous dinner prepared by Virgilio and Barry. Brothers present (see picture, left) were William David Everett, postulant Donald Sutton, Ciarán Anthony, Virgilio, and Minister Provincial Enoch John Valentine.

Donovan Aidan Bowley was re-elected president of the Hope (Maine) Historical Society. He continues work on a history of the late colonial to early republic period of Midcoast Maine, and assists inquirers in genealogical research in this area of the state. For the Appleton Historical Society, he has submitted a successful proposal for listing the 166-year-old Appleton Union Meetinghouse on the National Register of Historic Places.

Province 2

A recent issue of *Crossings*, the newsletter of Mount Calvary Episcopal Church in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, includes a get-acquainted article about our own Luke Anthony Nowicki, who has served at that parish for a number of years. The article is titled: "Who's that man who looks like a monk? I didn't know The Episcopal Church had monks!" and rector Duncan Johnston introduces Luke Anthony with the following answer—"If you're new to Mount Calvary and have had the pleasure of seeing Brother Luke at the 8 am service, then you may have found yourself thinking these questions. If so, here is a word from Brother Luke himself." From this point onward, Luke Anthony tells a bit about himself and about The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory; just enough to inspire further questions! Well done, dear brother!

The New Year began with a ministry update from Richard Matthias. He has assumed the outreach ministry to the local hospital for Trinity Anglican Church, Cornwall, Ontario, and requested that the parish initiate an outreach ministry for those in the community suffering from mild Alzheimer or dementia. He has been working with the local Alzheimer's Society and hopes for parish involvement. He also hopes to implement a small ministry for children based on a child-sized altar and furnishings, to acquaint the small number of children at the church—which has no

Sunday school, with the liturgy. He feels that this is a good beginning toward a youth program. Richard is also in discernment for the diaconate, and has had his first interview with the Executive Archdeacon.

From the far reaches of Province 2 in the Philippines, Maurice John Grove reports that the set of stations of the cross painted by George Benner while he was with the community in upstate Mexico, New York, have been installed at St Barnabas Tagaytay, where they fulfill the mission of moving the hearts of the faithful. (Christ Before Pilate is at the right.)



Province 5

Southern Ohio postulant Thomas L Curnutte has been volunteering, as his schedule allows, with an after-school homework program at an Episcopal parish in Columbus that primarily serves children of immigrants and their families. It is a small and dedicated group, and he is happy to be offering what he can to them.

Francis Jonathan Bullock's parish, All Saints (Indianapolis), is blessed to have in its midst two other religious, and one oblate representing three Episcopal communities as well as a solitary. These include Community of the Gospel, Order of Saint Francis, and the Order of Julian of Norwich. During a recent forum after worship, each gave a

brief description of their community and their experience of religious life. Francis Jonathan began the presentation with a brief description of the canons that establish the presence of religious orders, Christian communities, and solitaries in The Episcopal Church, followed by a brief history of the Brotherhood, its charism, and its formation



process. He also shared his own experience with religious life, in which being a brother and living under vows is an attempt to bring intentionality and context to the promises made at Baptism. It is also a desire to see more clearly, to follow more nearly, to love more dearly the God of his desire. (In the photo above are Steven Jamison OSF, Gordon Chastain ObjN, and Francis Jonathan).

Peter Budde (r) and David Luke Henton (l) met William Henry Benefield (c) at his San Antonio home in December — with James Patrick Hall connected by telephone — to begin plans for the creation of BSG Province 7. Onward and upward!



INTERCESSIONS

For the Brotherhood

Episcopal Visitors

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

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

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

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

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

David John Battrick
 Bo Alexander Armstrong
 Francis Jonathan Bullock
 James Patrick Hall
 Richard Edward Helmer

Eric Shelley

Larry Walter Reich

Novice
 William Carl Van Doren

Postulants

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

Aspirants

Angel M Roque
 Jonathan Buckner Wheat

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 Gospel

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, Harry Domoguen; Elizabeth Mary Burke SSG

Richard Edward Dunn

Nancy Riley

John J Negrotto, ObCSJB

Anthony Pigott

Juanita B Ivey

Skylar James Killian

Henry Cumming Twiggs

Joan Mary Twiggs

"Bud" Elliott

Stephen Gerth Sr

Thomas Palermo

Al Ferlo

Clifford E Shelley

Ian MacDonald

Monte

Nora Cleveland

Rod McKuen

Taj

Robert Pollack

Sandra

Nicholas

Mike Higaes

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