

# HE SERVANT



*Convent of the  
Community of the  
Transfiguration,  
Cincinnati OH*

**#236**

*Summer 2015*

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*Publications from the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory*

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		\$
<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. <b>Available on-line for free download!</b>			
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**The Servant**

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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](mailto:servant@gregorians.org).

## **AN IMPORTANT SUMMER FOR THE COMMUNITY**

Many of you, our readers, are aware that the Brotherhood was founded at the Visitation Monastery in Riverdale, the Bronx, NY. That house of the order was closed many years ago and the sisters dispersed to other houses across the country. This summer, during our Annual Convocation, the brothers are going by bus to what is now the Cardinal O'Connor Residence for Priests. It will be the first time I have been there in more than forty years and it is an opportunity for the community and me to see and feel the spot where we began in 1969. It was earlier that summer when I met the two extern sisters, Rose Angela and Mary Rose. They saw something. They were the ones who said, "You must come and meet Mother." And so I did—and it all began.

Summer—a time for refreshment and rejuvenation. That summer a seed was waiting to germinate, and when I met with Mother Mary Anduze and Sr Margaret Mary—the seed was watered and cultivated—by Margaret Mary, later Helen Marie, VHM. The seed sprouted and grew, and in time bore fruit, fruit that we pray will last. The sisters grew as well, as I conducted choir rehearsals for them—with the Hymnal 1940. And we brothers grew from that point, too. Many years later, we heard that the house would close. As I write this in early May, I came across the history of that house, "Story of a Monastery," where it is recorded that on March 24, 1901, Archbishop Corrigan told the sisters who were waiting word of their new home, "Your new monastery will be in Riverdale; the contract was signed yesterday."

It was May 1 of that year when the sisters took possession of the new monastery. This was a new day for them; a new life in a new place. I feel the connection keenly—it was May when I met the sisters in 1969—out under the big oak tree; it is May as I write these words. The stone for the monastery was quarried from the land on which it stood, and some of the sisters were known to say, "The monastery grew out of the ground." The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory "grew" out of that place—that spirit of foundation and nurture.

We—my brothers and I—share in the Salesian spirit. Many of us wear the sets of side beads that the sisters in Riverdale gave us. Mine have Helen Marie's spirit on them; they were hers and she goes with me. Pray for us as we visit the place of our birth. Pray for the sisters in their several houses across the land. We thank God for the vision realized at that time in that place. We are humbled and thankful.

Vive + Jesu—Live + Jesus

Soli Del Gloria—to God Alone the Glory

*RTB*

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### *Spring Council Meeting 2015*

The Brotherhood's Council met at the Saint Lawrence Retreat Center of the Capuchin Friars in Beacon, New York, in mid-April. As usual, this meeting contained a hefty agenda, including the vote to accept the formal requests from David Luke Henton (of the Diocese of Texas), David John Batrick (Newcastle, NSW, Australia) and Francis Jonathan Bullock (Indianapolis) for life profession of vows. (Shortly after the Council Meeting, in accordance with the Brotherhood's constitution, all life professed brothers were polled regarding these life professions and solidly endorsed them.) We send David Luke, David John and Francis Jonathan our warmest congratulations as they now prepare for this liturgy of commitment to take place during Annual Convocation in mid-August!

The election of officials for the community took place at this meeting, as follows:

- ☒ Director of Postulants and Novices: Francis Sebastian Medina (California)
- ☒ Director of Public Relations: James Teets (New York)
- ☒ Treasurer: James Teets (New York)
- ☒ Director of Convocation Liturgy and Music: Nathanael Deward Rahm (Chicago)
- ☒ Convocation Infirmarian: Joseph Basil Gauss (Chicago)

All terms are for three years and begin as of Annual Convocation 2015.

Elections took place for the officers and the board of directors of The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, Inc.

A major feature of each Spring Council Meeting is the annual approval of Brotherhood Outreach Grants. The following charitable organizations received approval for their grant requests:

- ☒ Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Chattanooga, toward the ongoing response ability of the Chattanooga Outreach Fund in providing response to the homeless and the hungry in their area;
- ☒ Fessenden Supportive Housing, Inc, in Yonkers, New York, which cares for men in addiction recovery;
- ☒ Saint John's Episcopal Church in South Salem, New York, toward the development and maintenance of their music program;
- ☒ Saint James School in Philadelphia, toward their general operating expenses; and
- ☒ Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in South River, New Jersey, toward the general operating expenses of their Calico Threads Thrift Shop, which serves the wider community.

Though the Brotherhood is not primarily a charity—rather it is a religious community which provides support for the ministries of its members—but it is a great pleasure to be able to provide financial grant support in response to requests by our brothers, toward ministries in which they are personally involved.

Spring Council adopted resolutions creating two new provinces—Province 3 and Province 7, aligned with The Episcopal Church's provinces—which increases our in-

ternal structure to a total of seven provinces. Both of these new provinces will meet and elect ministers provincial during Annual Convocation this summer, and these elections will add two new members to Council.

Confronting the questions of file and document retention, Council appointed Tobias Stanislas Haller (chair) and John Henry Ernestine to start a committee to draft guidelines addressing these important matters. As can be imagined, a community such as the Brotherhood, which owns no real property, has a number of issues regarding file retention and archival storage, and hopefully this new committee will come up with some creative answers that will aid us all.

Council received and accepted the request for withdrawal from the community of Charles Edward LeClerc. He remains in our prayers as we wish him Godspeed in his continued journey in Christ Jesus.

Council interviewed two more applicants to the postulancy. One has chosen not to continue the process, but the other is now a postulant-prospective; this means that, God willing, the Brotherhood will admit a total of three to the postulancy at Annual Convocation this summer! Congratulations all around!

### Province 2

In January, Saint John's South Salem NY celebrated "Brother Rick Day" observing 25 years of Richard John Lorino's ministry there, 23 of those years as organist and choirmaster. Following the special liturgy, there was a wonderful coffee hour with sumptuous treats and a delicious cake that read "Brother Rick makes our hearts sing Rejoice"!



### Province 4

Ron Fender reports on his new ministry in Chattanooga: "We are in the process of beginning a prayer ministry at Saint Paul's Church and I will be very involved. I will be spending time at the church in prayer once a week as a volunteer. Anyone who needs someone to pray with will be welcome to come; I will also be offering the Daily Offices in Saint George's Chapel there. We are also forming a prayer circle of people who will be united in serving the congregation and community in this ministry. Our church is in a time of transition and I am so thankful to be able to serve in this small way.



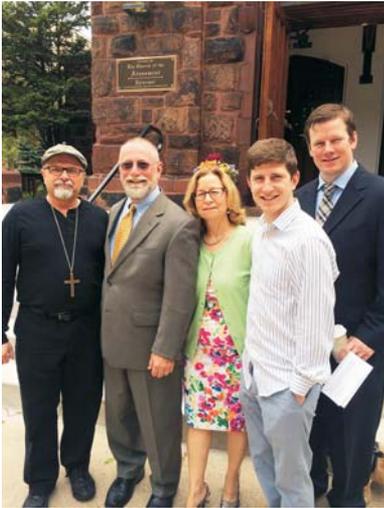
May 9th marked the ordination and consecration of Peter Eaton as

*Larry Walter Reich and Ron Fender relax in the garden at Saint Paul's Chattanooga, on the Second Sunday of Easter.*

Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Southeast Florida, and the Brotherhood was on hand to participate and to congratulate. The Brotherhood has had a close and warm relationship with Bishop Leo Frade since the 1980s, when Leo was Bishop of Honduras. (Our Minister General, Richard Thomas Biernacki, and our Treasurer and Director of Public Relations, James Teets, were both made Honorary Canons of that diocese in those days.) The Brotherhood was part of the large welcome that was mounted by the Diocese of Southeast Florida in the year 2000 when Bishop Leo was elected to that diocese. Now, as he approaches retirement, we continue to be pleased to be a part of his life and that of his wife, Diana, also a longtime friend of BSG. Our Bishop Visitor, Rodney Michel, was on hand for the consecration of Bishop Eaton, as was our ‘local brother,’ Mark Andrew Jones and his wife, Diane, and also one of our postulants prospective, Mr Angel Roque. We take this opportunity to again wish Bishop Eaton every blessing as he begins a new and exciting ministry, and we assure Bishop Leo of our continued love and gratitude for all that he means to the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory!

*Province 5*

On the Feast of Saint Gregory the Great (March 12th) Minister Provincial Nathanael Deward Rahm, Ronald Augustine Fox and Joseph Basil Gauss gave a presentation on Gregorian life and the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory to the Oak Park Deanery in Chicago, as part of their 2015 Lenten series.



*Ronald Augustine, Mark Andrew, Diane, Ian and Dr. Drew Jones.*

Mark Andrew Jones and his family were in Chicago in May to celebrate his son Drew’s graduation from law school. While there they worshiped with Ronald Augustine at the Church of the Atonement.

In February, Thomas L Curnutte withdrew from the postulancy of the Brotherhood.

Over 40 members of the Conference on Anglican Religious Orders of the Americas and the National Association of Episcopal Christian Communities met in late April at the Convent of the Transfiguration in Cincinnati. The Brotherhood was represented by Ronald Augustine, the community’s Director of Vocations. This was the third such joint meeting, and the first in Ohio; previous meetings were in Racine WI and Toronto Canada.

Each day opened with Morning Prayer and *lectio divina* in small groups, with participants from both organizations in each gathering. There was daily Eucharist and Evensong.

Jamie Coats, Director of Friends of SSJE in Cambridge MA led a workshop on “The heart that God gave Jesus,” on two days of the conference.



*Members of the Religious Orders and other Christian Communities*

Ronald Augustine reported that it was great seeing old friends and meeting new ones. Bishop Tom Breidenthal of the Diocese of Southern Ohio and his wife Margaret spent one evening with those assembled, and stayed after dinner for a “hymn sing” that was enjoyed by everyone.

### *Province 8*

Karekin Madteos Yarian provided expertise for the creation of an online course, “Why Pray Online?” for ChurchNext. It provides resources on the benefits of prayer in the digital age, with a focus on creating online communities, praying the Daily Office and other devotions, digital journalling and Scripture study. ChurchNext provides online video courses for The Episcopal Church on a variety of subjects by experts from around the church. Karekin Madteos was pleased to have been sought out as a leading expert on digital resources and models for prayer in the digital world.

Karekin Madteos has also undertaken the work of expanding his Spiritual Companionship practice in the San Francisco Bay Area into a full-time ministry. One of his spiritual companions says this about his ministry: “I have worked with Brother Karekin for many years now. He has seen me through some very intense times of discernment of my calling as a deacon and as a religious. What is the most important part of his presence is not only the love and support but the challenging that I need in order to really think, pray, articulate and move forward on my journey with God. Spiritual work, properly done, is hard. Karekin’s presence has been vital!”



*At Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, in March:  
Joel Pomerenk (Scott’s brother); postulant  
Michael J Piper; Erica and postulant Scott M  
Pomerenk and Karekin Madteos Yarian.*

# 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  
 Virgilio Fortuna  
 Gordon John Stanley

Karekin Madteos Yarian *Wed*

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  
 Michael J Piper  
 Max B Steele  
 Scott Michael Pomerenk

## Aspirants

Angel M Roque  
 Jonathan Buckner Wheat  
 David Thomas Hedges

## 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  
 Saint James Church Fordham  
 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  
 Brent Weiland  
 Katherine Taylor  
 Bobbi Rafter  
 Orris G Walker  
 Paul Carter  
 Melba Beine OP  
 Letha Greek  
 Jean Palcanis  
 Rolf Smedvig  
 Mason Anthony Vigan  
 Andrew Colquhoun OHC

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