



HE SERVANT



*Richard John Lorino
celebrates his 25th
anniversary as
Organist and Music
Director at St John's
South Salem NY*

#240
Summer 2016

A REFLECTION ON PSALM 100

This psalm calls for all people to praise the Lord God. The image is of people coming to God's house for worship. Serve the Lord with gladness. All people are called to worship the Lord, taking joy in doing so. Unfortunately, for many Christians this service becomes servitude, often dull and unhappy. We should want to praise the Lord with hearts full of gladness! We are God's people. Worship involves our recognizing God as the giver and sustainer of all life. We need to remember that we are God's and not our own. We are, in fact, sheep in a pasture whose owner is the Lord God: we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Give thanks to him, bless his Name. We possess so much that it is often difficult to remember to give thanks. When we come into God's presence, we should do so with truly thankful hearts. It is important that our worship be offered in a spirit of thanksgiving. God's steadfast love endures forever. God is good, with a goodness that is eternal and unchanging. Just to think of that greatness should overwhelm us. No matter what we do, we encounter that "steadfast love"—that unchanging and unceasing concern and care for us as children of God. Though our faithfulness may falter, it can be restored when we receive the grace to say, "God is with us." Psalm 100 has relevance for all times—not just the times of external and liturgical worship, but in the inner and spiritual worship we carry on in our hearts.

RTB

Here and there with the brothers

COMMUNITY NOTES

Religious Life Conference



Laurie Joseph Niblick SSG with Karekin Madteos Yarian

In April 2016, the Conference of Anglican Religious Orders of the Americas (CAROA) and the National Association of Episcopal Christian Communities (NÆCC) met in joint retreat and conference in Racine, Wisconsin. The two organizations represent the broad range and varied expressions of religious life in The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. The focus of the retreat portion was environmental justice and how it relates to our care for the poor, as discussed in Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si."

There were over thirty communities represented by their members in attendance, and Karekin Madteos Yarian represented the Brotherhood. During both separate and joint meetings, the community members discussed the future of religious life in the church and the necessity of organizations such as CAROA and NÆCC to work more closely together in support of new expressions of religious life and strengthening the witness of the communities that now exist.

In a lively and heartening discussion, traditional religious orders and newer Christian communities found common ground and purpose and outlined broad hopes for the future. Three new orders in formation were present: the Community of Saint Hildegard, the Society of Sam Shoemaker, and the Companions of Our Lady of Walsingham. This opened the opportunity with conversation with the more established communities.

The future of religious life in the church is robust. Please pray for all of the communities as they seek to live the gospel and serve others in the Name of Christ.

Council Meeting

The Brotherhood's Council held its Spring Meeting at the Saint Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon, New York on April 15th and 16th. The meeting included a hefty agenda, as always, including the vote to accept the formal requests from Bo Alexander Armstrong (of the Diocese of East Tennessee) and James Patrick Hall (Colorado) to make their 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 endorsed them.)

In addition to the election of the corporate board of directors, the following were elected to three year terms: Director of Vocations, Ronald Augustine Fox; Administrator, Robert James McLaughlin; and Secretary, Thomas Bushnell.

Council approved the annual Brotherhood Outreach Grants to the following charitable organizations:



(l to r) Laurie Joseph Niblick SSG, David Bryan Hoopes OHC, and Masud Syedullah TSSF

- † Episcopal Church of the Atonement in Chicago, to augment current efforts to obtain card tables and chairs for Epworth Men’s Shelter and hygiene kits for area shelters;
- † The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence on behalf of the Companions of Dorothy the Worker in San Francisco, to assist them with the CDW Referral Hotline to provide resource referrals to members of the LGBTQ community for housing, legal, trans-advocacy, substance and alcohol abuse recovery, and suicide prevention; the Sacred Table Fellowship Program, a monthly event addressing topics of spiritual concern to the LGBTQ community, along with food; and supplementing the costs of advertising the Hotline and the Sacred Table Program;
- † Camp Bishopswood in the Diocese of Maine, to support replacing of the septic system at this summer facility for children;
- † Saint Thomas Church in Camden, Maine, to provide training in the “Living Compass” methods of health ministry to this congregation;
- † Fessenden Supportive Housing, Inc. in Yonkers, New York, assisting with the many issues related to their moving into a new facility;
- † Grace Place Campus Ministry in DeKalb, Illinois, toward the purchase of hymnals and contemporary Christian music for use by local students from diverse cultures and languages;
- † Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church in Chattanooga, toward the ongoing response ability of the Chattanooga Outreach Fund in providing for the needs of the homeless and hungry in their area.

The charitable outreach of the Brotherhood is not its primary work, but it is a joy to be able to consider such grants submitted by our members toward ministries with which they are personally involved or familiar.

Council received reports from Ministers Provincial and from all of the officials of the community, with sincere thanks for their continued diligence and commitment, and it passed resolutions which established a committee to assemble a schedule of activities and events for the observance of the Golden Jubilee of the Brotherhood in 2019, and approved a team to work on a new video in celebration of the fifty-year history and the many ministries of individual Gregorian Friars.

As is their responsibility, Council interviewed four applicants to the postulancy: two from Miami, one from Nashville and one from Portland, Oregon. All four candidates were accepted and enrolled as Postulants-prospective; God willing, the Brotherhood will admit them to the Postulancy during Annual Convocation this summer. Additionally, Council approved Postulants Michael J Piper (Iowa), Angel M Roque (Southeast Florida) and David T Hedges (Chicago) for Reception into the community’s novitiate at that time, as well as the renewal of annual vows of Richard Edward Helmer (California), Eric Shelley (Southwestern Virginia) and Larry Walter Reich (East Tennessee).

Province 2

On Saturday, April 23rd, Minister General Richard Thomas Biernacki was invested as a Knight in the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem. He belongs

to the Templars' Priory of Saint George, which is located in the State of New Jersey. We wish him well as he furthers his charitable and chivalric endeavors!

Province 3

The Brotherhood's Episcopal Visitor, Bishop Rodney Michel, sent the following Easter note: "To all the Brothers of Saint Gregory: Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Easter blessings to you all from Saint Paul's K Street in Washington DC, where I am serving as bishop in residence for Holy Week and Easter. You were each remembered in my mass intentions tonight at the Easter Vigil and will be again on Easter morning."

On Thursday, June 9th, James Teets and Tobias Stanislas Haller traveled to Washington DC to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting of the US Priory of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, of which they are both Officer Brothers. The luncheon and the meeting were held at the University Club in downtown Washington, and the day was well-attended by Confrères from around the country. It was an occasion to see new and old friends and to get an update on the operation of The Order of Saint John over the past year; to receive a report on the new work being done in support of the Saint John Eye Hospital and clinics in Jerusalem and throughout Israel and Palestine on behalf of the Order; and also to hear about new opportunities for service and fellowship in the several regions of the USA. Of particular interest is a new outreach in service to and with veterans, in partnership with the VA.

Province 5

Postulant Michael J Piper chanted the part of Pilate at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, Des Moines, Iowa on Good Friday, as he has for the last seven years. For the last few years they've been using an arrangement of the Passion by Craig Phillips, with chant for the principal characters and SATB for the responses of the crowd.

We are delighted to announce that on Saturday, May 21st, Francis Jonathan Bullock and the Rev Derek Parker were married at the Episcopal Church of All Saints, Indianapolis. The celebrant of the Holy Eucharist and the officiant at the wedding was the Rev E Suzanne Wille, Rector of All Saints, and the assisting priest was the Rev Tom Honderich. Among the large attendance at the liturgy were the Minister Provincial Nathanael Deward Rahm, together with Ronald Augustine Fox, Joseph Basil Gauss and David Luke Henton.



(l to r) Joseph Basil Gauss, Ronald Augustine Fox, Francis Jonathan Bullock, Derek Parker, Suzanne Wille, David Luke Henton, and Nathanael Deward Rahm



Derek Parker and Francis Jonathan Bullock at the end of the liturgy

Ministry focus

MASS AT THE MARGINS

I've only been in Denver for about eight months, but I have discovered and been fortunate to become part of one of the most interesting church services in the city. At 8AM, every Sunday morning at the Saint Francis Center, we gather for a celebration of the Holy Eucharist that is shared with people in the shelter.



This service has been going on since the early 1980s. Most Episcopalians would easily recognize what goes on, but might be a bit surprised about the ambient noise of our congregation. We have music, readings, a priest who blesses the bread and wine for us, and we gather in a line to take communion. But the similarities belie a deeper truth: this is a very different sort of community, a very different kind of service.

The congregation consists of folks who live on the streets of Denver. They may not be wearing the latest fashion, but their smiles are genuine and their hugs are warm. The altar is just a beat-up old table set up in one corner of the room, but it is covered with a cloth that follows the colors of the church seasons. Inexpensive candles burn brightly during our service, but no great Bible sits on a lectern. Instead we have the lectionary printed on paper and handed out by some of the guests around the room full of conversation and activity. Our hymnbooks are also printed out on copy paper, and distributed by our guests.

Music has been provided faithfully for years by Barbara Shaw on an electric keyboard, gifted to the community by the Rev Becky Jones. Tony Blando recently joined her with an acoustic guitar. It is such a blessing to see the faces of the folks who gather there every Sunday as they join in familiar old hymns, or learn newer songs. Sometimes they just sit and listen and let the music provide the kind of peace it can be hard to find on the streets.

Sometimes our readings are a little hard to understand or hear, because a guest volunteer will make it to the microphone and struggle to proclaim God's word in halting language. The "Word of the Lord" may not be quite as clear as we hear it in our parishes across the city, but it is good to hear from the lips of the poor.

Many of our volunteer priests are retired, and occasionally their hands might shake when distributing the Bread. But to me, that is a very powerful image, years of faithful service meeting the shaking hands of a homeless person, seeking connection with God. For my part, I am often privileged to share the Chalice during the service. It is amazing how many times people come to the Cup with tears in their eyes, and when I say "the Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation," they respond with "Thank you." Other times a guest will join the altar party and share the Chalice with his friends.

Before the service starts, while Tony is playing some hymns, and Barbara is getting everything ready and setting up the altar, I'm blessed to walk out into the community and pray with people, hand out cheap crosses or rosaries, small devotional books, and Bibles gifted to us by Saint Andrew's. I am getting to know the folks who show up most weeks; mischievous Carlos, Diana and her concern for others, and Jackie, with her big smile and questions about the Bible. It is one of the most fun things I do every week.

There is one story which truly communicates the power of this communion to me. Ever since I have been going to mass at Saint Francis, there is one lady who comes and sits near the front, but wouldn't talk to me or anyone else. Every week I try to engage her at least a little (respectfully, of course), but she remained impassive and would not respond to me at all. This last week, however, as Fr Steve Weston was consecrating the sacrament, her face changed, and she started to cry. I was astounded; this was the first emotional response from her that I had ever seen.

This week, when I went up to talk to her, she responded for the first time, telling me her name, and we had a nice little chat which included even the briefest of smiles. What a beautiful picture of God's Spirit breaking through some of our deepest pain. I don't know what has happened to this woman in the past, but it is wonderful to start to get to know her.

Every Sunday morning at 8AM this faithful group gathers, and the Body and Blood of Christ infuses them with new and unending life. If you want to experience the Real Presence of Christ, come visit him in his poorest children, who are also some of his richest. *Ecce verum corpus Christi*—behold the true Body of Christ.

James Patrick Hall

from the Mustard Seeds Blog of St John's Cathedral, Denver

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
 Elred 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 d 1.29.16
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

Novices *Sat*
 Max Steele
 Scott Michael Pomerenk

Postulants
 Michael J Piper
 Angel M Roque
 David T Hedges

Postulants-Pro prospective
 Javier D Garcia
 Russell W Gallagher
 Tommy Mandri
 James C Petersen

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
 Companions of Dorothy the Worker
 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, Killeen 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

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 Katy Roe
 Daniel Sullins
 Steve Theis
 Frederick S Thomas
 Norman Van Walterop
 John Ward

Where there's a will
 You can assist and further the ministries of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory by remembering the community in your will. If you choose to do so, the following form of wording is appropriate:

I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, Inc., a New York State not-for-profit corporation and its successors for ever \$_____ and / or _____ percent of my estate to be used in such a manner as determined by its Directors.