

HE SERVANT



*Lord, you make
the common holy.*

#242
Epiphany 2017



We note with sadness the death of the Rev Margaret Guenther, teacher and spiritual guide. She is shown here leading a workshop for the members of the Brotherhood at their Annual Convocation 1998. May she rest in peace.

The Servant

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Minister General, Richard Thomas Biernacki

Editor, Tobias Stanislas Haller

Community Notes Editor, James Teets

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*Snail mail to: 305 West Lafayette Avenue
Baltimore MD 21217 USA*

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PRESSED TO GROW

Dios aprieta, pero no ahorca — God squeezes but he never chokes.

This wonderful phrase, given me by our dear friend Mickie, has been a watchword for me for several years. As this year opens before us, we face some very serious trials: not just the election which presents challenges in many ways; not just the political strife which takes many forms. The entire fabric of our society is changing right before our eyes. The church is not exempt! In many places in the land churches are losing members; they are not growing, and I believe God is squeezing us. He is applying pressure to change; to adapt, and to look at what the church will be in the years to come.

I think one of the issues we face is reflected in something I have taught the members of the Brotherhood over the years: it is our task to build bridges and cross those bridges to carry out our various ministries. When those ministries reach a time that we are spent and there are others trained to carry on, we need to move on and leave the work to them. One of the challenges we face in the church today is summed up in six words: WE HAVE ALWAYS DONE IT THAT WAY. Those words, though not spoken out loud in many of our parishes, are nonetheless at work. When new people come to the parish, they need to be welcomed and involved. I believe we are not always willing to help new members cross the bridge and take on tasks and ministries. We are, in many places, afraid and unwilling to integrate new members.

As the New Year unfolds before us, let us resolve to help the church to grow by helping others, both new and present members, to take on some of the work which we tend to hold onto because — *we have always done it that way!* The Brotherhood is an example of how this has worked. We were called the Flexible Friars by Bishop Paul Moore. We have allowed God to squeeze — and while he has changed us, he has never choked us. Be assured that change and growth are signs of life!

RTB

Here and there with the Brothers

COMMUNITY NOTES

October Council

The Brotherhood's Council held its Fall 2016 Meeting at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, Maryland. This was our first such meeting at that venue, chosen because of its excellent location in terms of air and rail travel. All but two regular attendees were able to be present for the sessions.

The meeting included a hefty agenda, with reports submitted by the seven ministers provincial, detailing the ministries of each member of each province, as well as updates on provincial gatherings, quiet days and retreats. During the report provided by Minister Provincial Nathanael Deward Rahm, Council voted to release Michael Julian Piper from the novitiate; we all thank him for his time with the Brotherhood and we wish him very well in the future.

David Luke Henton, Director of Education, reported on the activities of the Education Committee and plans for the programs during upcoming convocations. Francis Sebastian Medina, Director of Postulants and Novices, provided a detailed report on the community's five novices and four postulants. Ronald Augustine Fox, Director of Vocations, updated Council on the two interviews conducted during this session. James Teets, Treasurer, provided an overview of the community's finances, together with the third quarter closing, and the draft proposed budget for 2017 — which was adopted in a unanimous vote. Richard Edward Helmer, the community's Webmaster, reported on his activities, which included his continuing development of our extremely popular Daily Office app, now in version 6.

New Business included discussion concerning the interpretation of the term “male” as it occurs in Article VII.A.1 of the Brotherhood's Constitution. The following interpretation was adopted: “a cis male or trans male, stable and secure in a male gender identity, regardless of gender expression.” Council also approved that the Secretary obtain and act as administrator for an access code for the *Safe Church* training program, to facilitate new members' certification as required for members of communities, and for other ministries which may require the same.

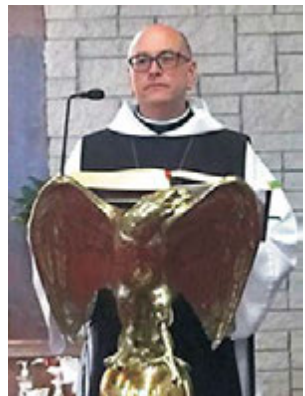
Lastly on the agenda was the Council's interview of two applicants to the postulancy, both of whom were invited to attend Annual Convocation 2017 this July for further discernment.

The twice-annual Council meetings also provide an opportunity for Council and other officials to refresh their relationships and to get acquainted with the new applicants, now candidates — all important facets of our life together in community!

During Advent, James Petersen withdrew from the postulancy. We wish him well in his spiritual journey.

Province 2

During the liturgy on Sunday November 20th, John Henry Ernestine was commissioned as Associate for Liturgy and Spiritual Life at his parish, Holy Trinity, South River, New Jersey. The new staff position will occupy John Henry in coordinating the activities of the Eucharistic ministers, acolytes, lectors and others as they seek to expand



*John Henry reads a lesson at the commissioning.
(Photo D Steigauf.)*

their ministries and broaden their service throughout the parish and into the surrounding community. John Henry's capabilities have long been recognized by his rector, the Rev Gregory Bezilla, together with the wardens and vestry of his parish, and this new position came to birth as the Holy Trinity leadership seek to grow in love and service.



In one of his regular ministries, John Henry assists at Baptism.

Province 3

Minister Provincial Edward Munro led a group of Gregorian Friars to Camp Hill PA in early December for a visit with Luke Anthony Nowicki. Present were James Teets, Tobias Stanislas Haller and Eric Shelley, joined by the rector of Luke Anthony's parish and a member of his congregation. After praying the Noonday Office together, the group went out to enjoy leisurely table fellowship at a local restaurant, which all enjoyed.

The Rev Timothy E Kroh, Rector of the Church of the Advent, Federal Hill in Baltimore, welcomed James Teets and Tobias Stanislas Haller to assist with the work of the Sesquicentennial Committee as the parish prepares to observe its 150th anniversary of foundation on the First Sunday of Advent 2018. Your prayers are very welcome!

Province 4

The Rev Alejandro Hernandez, Rector of Todos los Santos Episcopal Church, Miami, appointed postulant Tommy Mandri to direct the parish Advent retreat in December. Tommy adds: "I'm proud because I'm doing something special for every person who wants to be closer to our God." And we're so proud of you, too, for stepping up to such a challenge — which is also an opportunity to present and expand your vocation through your parish!



Tommy Mandri, Angel Gabriel Roque, and Mark Andrew Jones, in an Advent selfie

Province 5

The brothers of Province 5 met together for retreat time and Evening, Morning, and Noonday Prayer in mid-September at Church of the Atonement, Chicago. Ronald Augustine Fox, Gordon John Stanley, Joseph Basil Gauss, Nathanael Deward Rahm, Francis Jonathan Bullock and Novice Michael Julian Piper were in attendance. The Rev Dr Robert Petite — retired chaplain of Montgomery Place, nationally recognized clinical pastoral education supervisor and assistant at Church of the Ascension, Chicago — was the facilitator for the retreat, which focused on family systems structure and methods of good communication.

Francis Jonathan has taken up a ministry crafting bread for communion (see front cover). He shared this prayer from the Greek Orthodox tradition, used during the process of making bread.

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, only-begotten Son of the Eternal Father, who has said, Without me you can do nothing: O Lord, my God, with faith I accept your words. Help me, a sinner, to prepare the bread of offering, that the works of my hands may be acceptable at the Holy Table and may become through the works of your Holy Spirit, the communion of your Most Pure Body for me and all your people. In the Name of the ✠ Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the ✠ Holy Spirit. Amen.



*Gordon John, Francis Jonathan, and Nathanael Deward.
(Photo Joseph Basil)*



Province 7

Minister Provincial Peter Budde, together with William Henry Benefield and David Luke Henton gathered at Saint Brigid's Rest, the home and retreat ministry of David Luke Henton and Tim Kruse in Cloudcroft, New Mexico, on December 8-11 for a provincial retreat. Joining the Gregorian Friars and Tim were Peter's wife Betty, and the Rev Susan Hutchins, Vicar of Saint Luke's, Deming, and Coordinator of Borderlands Ministries for the Diocese of Rio Grande. In ad-



(l to r) Tim Kruse, William Henry Benefield, The Rev Susan Hutchins, Betty Budde, David Luke Henton, and Peter Budde. (Photo Kevin Stewart)

dition to celebrating daily Eucharists and joining in the Daily Offices, Susan shared stories of her life and ministries on the border, and celebrated and preached at a Saturday Vigil Holy Eucharist for the congregation of the Church of the Ascension in Cloudcroft. William Henry provided musical accompaniment both for that liturgy and for Morning Prayer on Sunday.

Friday was a desert pilgrimage day, and participants visited three of our late Brother Ron Fender's favorite New Mexican "thin places." They visited Saint Joseph's Apache Mission (Roman Catholic) in Mescalero, where they admired Robert Lentz' icon of the Apache Christ and prayed Morning Prayer in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. They then journeyed to the Three Rivers Petroglyph Site outside Tularosa, where they hiked to a butte along a trail peppered with pictographic art from the Jornada Mogollon people (~800–1,400 AD). After Noonday Prayer, the Eucharist and a picnic lunch, they departed for White Sands National Monument, where they enjoyed a guided walk into the sand dunes with a National Park Service ranger. On the way back up the mountain to Cloudcroft, they were treated to a spectacular and vivid New Mexico sunset.

Saturday was a "mountain day" with the brothers relaxing in Cloudcroft and the surrounding mountainside. In addition to celebrating the Eucharist and a potluck meal at Ascension, they visited several scenic overlooks en route to Bluff Springs Waterfall via the Sunspot Scenic Byway. After Sunday worship at Ascension and brunch together, all departed for El Paso and flights home to Austin and San Antonio. An unexpected late afternoon detour allowed David Luke, Peter and Betty to reconnoiter briefly with Susan in Columbus NM on the border with Palomas, Chihuahua. (Palomas is the home of the Women's Cooperative that produces artisan crafts sold throughout the Diocese of the Rio Grande, many of which have been purchased by Gregorian Friars over the years to support David Luke's participation in Borderlands Ministries.) The brothers especially thank Susan for her presence with and ministry to them during their retreat, and the Episcopal Church of the Ascension and the Diocese of the Rio Grande for welcoming them to Cloudcroft.



Regis panel discussion (Photo Garrett Rimer)

James Patrick Hall took part in a panel discussion for the Regis College/Regis University Student Government Social Justice & Spirituality Committee, explaining positions on State Questions. He followed up on his earlier advocacy to urge a Yes vote on proposed Amendment T, to remove an exception to slavery in the state Constitution.

Province 8

James Teets and Tobias Stanislas Haller traveled to Los Angeles in mid-Advent as guests of Thomas Bushnell and at the request of Canon Mark A Weitzel, Rector of Saint Mark's, Glendale. Tobias Stanislas was guest preacher at both masses on Advent 3, and James and Thomas assisted at the high mass; all three participated with the parish clergy at Advent Lessons and Carols the same evening. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet so many people at the parish, and to witness the beginning of Thomas' transition to San Francisco, where he moves in January to take up a new work assignment. This is a bitter-sweet time for both Thomas and the parish he has loved and served for several years, and we can confidently attest that sense of love and respect is deeply held for him at Saint Mark's.



(l to r) Andrea Maier; Robert Sammis; Susie Fowler; James Teets; Tobias Stanislas Haller; Mark A Weitzel; Thomas Bushnell; and Jim Prendergast (Photo Brandon Jarratt)

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
 Angel Gabriel Roque
 David Benedict Hedges

Postulants

Javier D Garcia
 Russell W Gallagher
 Tommy Mandri

Postulants-Pro prospective

Jason Carroll LaFollette
 Robert Parker (Beau) Surratt III

For Religious Communities

Sacramentine & Visitandine
 Nuns
 Society of the Atonement
 Order of Friars Minor
 Community of the Paraclete
 Companions of St Luke~
 Benedictine
 Community of Celebration
 Little Sisters of St Clare
 Anamchara Fellowship
 Anglican Order of Preachers
 Rivendell Community
 Sisters of St Gregory
 Third Order SSF
 Worker Sisters & Brothers of the Holy Spirit
 Camaldolese Benedictines
 Society of St John the Evangelist
 Anglican Oblates of St Benedict
 Community of the Gospel
 Community of the Transfiguration
 Oratory of the Good Shepherd
 Community of Solitude
 Companions of Dorothy the Worker

Oratory of St Mary and St John
 Order of Julian of Norwich
 Order of the Holy Cross
 Order of St Helena
 Community of St John Baptist
 Society of St Francis

For Ministries

Joseph Richey House
 Fessenden Recovery Ministries
 Baltimore Int'l Seafarers' Center
 St Paul's Grayson St, San Antonio
 Aldersgate UMC Dobbs Ferry
 St Christopher's, Kilean TX
 St 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 Gudrum, 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 Wells SSG

Shirley Achterhoff
 Claude Blosser
 James Boyden
 David and Danny Craigg
 Jessie Mae Darnell
 Henry Ernestine
 David Evans
 Sterling Gambino
 Deborah Gerlach
 Nan Gillingham
 Evan Massey Gray
 Richard Grinestaff
 Margaret Guenther
 Shirley Lambert
 Harold Lorom
 Peter Menkin
 Joseph Mundingor
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 Thomas Segal
 Rosemary Smith
 Kit Thomas
 Patricia Walker-Sprague
 Beth Winans
 Sten Witzel
 Goldie Zinamen

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.