

# HE SERVANT



*Ave Maria*



*Mandala on the  
name of Mary*



## #244

*Summer 2017*



 *The Servant*

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## **ROCH CIANDELLA — A ROCK OF HOSPITALITY AND FRATERNAL LOVE**



*Fr Roch's requiem liturgy at the Mount Alvernia Chapel of the Stigmata*

It is many years now since the first time members of the Brotherhood visited Mount Alvernia Retreat Center. Still, I can keenly remember my first meeting with an amazing Franciscan Friar, Fr Roch Ciandella, OFM. The center was under construction and Roch guided us through the building — he became a friend that very day.

The Brotherhood was in search mode, looking for a new place that could accommodate the growing community gatherings for Convocations and Council. We looked at three facilities. Mount Alvernia was the third that day, and both the building and Roch were the favorite — hands down. Later — in our Chapter meeting — we presented three videos of the places we visited. Mount Alvernia was the winner!

Thus began close to fifteen years of wonderful time there with Roch as welcoming host.

Roch was very careful, each time we invited him to spend some social time with us, to point out that this was *our* “fraternal time.” He was a gracious host who never sought to intrude, but always gave welcome, and he maintained this respectful attitude all through the years. On that first visit he opened the doors — literally — to the house. The chapel, the sacristy, the meeting spaces — were ours to use, and we were rarely interrupted or thrown off schedule. Roch knew true Franciscan hospitality and he lived it; and we benefitted from it.

We will miss him; it will seem very different when we are there this July for our Convocation — the first without his graceful welcome. His spirit and love will remain in that place — and we will remember his presence.

Fr Roch — Rest in Peace — and Rise in Glory

*RTB*

## Community Notes

# HERE AND THERE WITH THE BROTHERS (AND OTHERS)

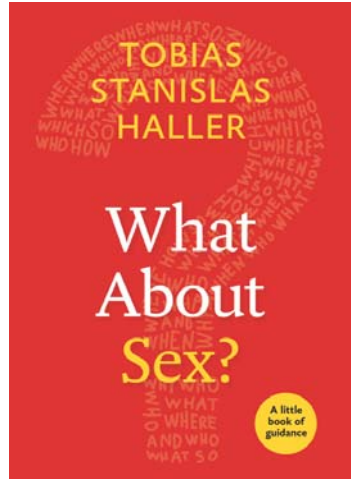
## New Resource

For all who are involved in parochial education of any kind, and all who are interested in expanding their knowledge of The Episcopal Church and the faith, Church Publishing is about to release a new series of books: *Little Books of Guidance*. We mention this as our own Tobias Stanislas Haller is one of the authors in this series. The titles are self-explanatory:

“How Can Anyone Read the Bible?” by L William Countryman; “What Happens When We Die?” by Thomas G Long; “Why Go to Church?” by C K Robertson; “What About Sex?” by Tobias Stanislas; “What is Christianity?” by Rowan Williams; and “Who Was Jesus?” by James D G Gunn.

As you can see, the list of authors includes a former Archbishop of Canterbury (Rowan Williams), the Canon to the Presiding Bishop (Chuck Robertson), three seminary professors (Bill Countryman, Thomas Long and James Gunn) as well as our own Tobias Stanislas! Here’s what the publisher says about the series: “These *Little Books of Guidance* help the reader find answers to life’s big questions. Concise, authoritative and affordable, these little books allow one to grasp the essentials in less than an hour! All books in this new series are \$8.00, paper, 5x7, 64 pages, and will release in August 2017.”

We’re delighted to pass along this information to each of our readers, and some will find opportunity to share these titles with adults approaching baptism and confirmation, as well as in other congregational and individual settings.



## CAROA / NÆCC Annual Meeting

Religious brothers and sisters from the US and Canada gathered at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park NY in May for the annual gathering of the National Association of Episcopal Christian Communities (NÆCC) and the Conference on Anglican Religious Life in the Americas (CAROA). The Rev Joanna Manning, a priest of the Anglican Church of Canada, a theologian and educator with extensive knowledge of the religious life, led a workshop on understanding the new cosmology and how it challenges our faith. Ronald Augustine Fox, the Brotherhood’s Director of Vocations, attended as our representative.



*Representatives of Religious Orders and other Christian Communities gather for a group photo.*

### *Rest in Peace: Nancy L Marvel*

Nan Marvel served for many years as an associate and then executive director of The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief (now Episcopal Relief and Development). Nan's was a well-known face all around the world when it came to emergency and disaster relief needs — as things often do — and she will be missed by countless former colleagues and friends internationally. Our own Richard Thomas Biernacki, James Teets and Tobias Stanislas Haller are among our Gregorian Friars who served with her and who valued her personal friendship. Nan was always there when a flood or a hurricane or an earthquake struck anywhere in the world; she was an important presence throughout the worldwide Anglican Communion for many years. We salute her faithful steadfastness and we wish her the joy of eternal rest in the nearer presence of our Lord.



*Nan Marvel and James Teets serving together at General Convention*

### *Rest in Peace: Roch Ciandella OFM*

Fr Roch Ciandella OFM was the long-time Retreat Director at Mount Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls NY. Richard John Lorino represented the Brotherhood at his funeral in the chapel there, a joyful celebration of a life well lived in Christ's service. He died on May 11, 2017, in the 49th year of his profession of vows.

As the Minister General mentioned in his Forum in this issue, a small group of Gregorians visited Mount Alvernia for the first time during the summer of 2000, when we were present in the area for Annual Convocation at the nearby Graymoor Friary of the Society of the Atonement in Garrison NY. We were looking for a new home for our convocations after a number of years at Graymoor, and we were told that Mount Alvernia was under expansion and renovation. Fr Roch met the group for a pre-arranged tour of the facility and we were most impressed — impressed by the scope of the renovation process then under way, and also impressed by Roch's welcome and his joyful attitude. We fell in love with Mount Alvernia right then, and Roch was an integral part of that attraction. The Brotherhood continued at Graymoor for Winter Convocation 2001, and in July of that year we came to Mount Alvernia and to Roch's welcoming arms.

May God grant Roch Ciandella OFM a gracious rest following many years of service and love for his order and for his ministry, and may we all meet again in that heavenly choir.

### *Council Meeting*

The Brotherhood's Council met at the end of March at The Maritime Institute, near Baltimore. The meeting included a hefty agenda, as always, including the vote to accept the formal requests from two novices to make their first profession, which were ratified by the candidates provinces in the weeks following the session. In addition, Council approved novices entering their second year novitiate, and postulants entering the first year thereof. These rites will take place during Annual Convocation and the assembly of the whole community in July.

David Luke Henton was elected to an additional term as Director of Education, and in a separate session the community's board of directors elected the annual slate of officers and board members.

Council also approved the annual Brotherhood Outreach Grants, as part of its charitable outreach in assistance to ministries in which members of the Brotherhood play a leadership or serving role:

- ☐ Fessenden Supportive Housing, Inc. in Yonkers NY — which cares for men in addiction recovery — assisting them in addressing issues related to their moving into a new facility;
- ☐ Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Chattanooga, toward the ongoing response ability of the BSG Chattanooga Outreach Fund in providing for the needs of the homeless and hungry in their area;



- ☒ Saint Nicholas Episcopal Church in Pompano Beach FL, for “The Holy Grill” ministry which provides food for the homeless and hungry in their area; and
- ☒ Rio Grande Borderland Ministries, an agency of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande which provides food, clothing, infant and child care supplies and other services to those in need on both sides of the US/Mexico border.

Council received reports from the Ministers Provincial and from other officials of the community, with sincere thanks for their continued diligence and commitment, and it passed a resolution which recognized and gave thanks for John Henry Ernestine’s efforts regarding the community’s archives in terms of moving them to a storage facility much more accessible to members of the community than its former location. John Henry contracted on behalf of the Brotherhood with a new facility and moved the boxes of documents and other related items, plus their shelving.

Council interviewed two applicants for postulancy — one from the Diocese of Ottawa in the Anglican Church of Canada and one from the Diocese of Central Florida. Both candidates were accepted and are now considered postulants-prospective. They will attend Annual Convocation this summer for further discernment and possible admission.

### *Province 3*

Minister Provincial Edward Munro, James Teets, and Tobias Stanislas Haller traveled to Rising Sun, Maryland in the Diocese of Easton in late April for a visit to the Episcopal Carmel of Saint Teresa, and the dedication and blessing of the new Carmelite hermitage there. The sisters’ monastery opened in June 2006 and since then they have created a guest house and now a hermitage on their grounds in rural Maryland. Two sisters live at the monastery — Prioress Sister Teresa Irene OCD and Sister Barbara OCD — and they are supported by local Carmelite Oblates and Associates. Taking her first vows in 2003, Sister Teresa



*Edward Munro (center) and James Teets (facing him with “witness shirt” hood raised, in the rainy weather at the new Carmelite hermitage, Rising Sun MD*



*James at the hermitage dedication*

Irene “is the first Episcopalian to take vows under the Carmelite Rule in the tradition of Saint Teresa of Avila since the Reformation.”

The day was cool and rainy but many friends came out to share this major event in the life of this Carmelite foundation. The community’s Episcopal Visitor, The Rt Rev James Shand — who is also an Associate — was the celebrant and preacher at the liturgy, and the Rt Rev Santosh K Marry, Bishop of Easton, presided at the dedication and blessing of the hermitage, while the congregation of religious, clergy and friends of the monastery witnessed these events and added their voices to the day’s hymnody. A fine “tea” was provided on the monastery’s porch which sheltered from the rain and gave opportunity for many new friends to get acquainted. We thank Sisters Teresa Irene and Barbara for their warm hospitality and we wish these good Carmelite nuns every blessing and a sufficient sense of success into the future.

Edward, James, and Tobias Stanislas staffed a display table on behalf of the Brotherhood at the Diocese of Maryland’s Convention in May. Such opportunities are always a joy, providing the chance to see old friends and to make new ones, and to chat with people about religious vocation. (While parish ministry and service are what Gregorians focus on, that does limit the opportunities to see



*James, Bishop Sutton, Tobias Stanislas, and Edward, at Maryland’s Diocesan Convention*



what other parishes are doing and to re-connect with clergy and laity in other churches, even in one's neighborhood.) The convention worship featured Presiding Bishop Michael Curry as celebrant and ELCA Bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod William Gohl jr as preacher. Bishop of Maryland Eugene Sutton came by our display for a visit and we enjoyed chatting with him. Hopefully we'll make BSG's presence at diocesan conventions a standard feature in the future.

### Province 4

Novice Angel Gabriel Roque of Saint Mary Magdalen, Coral Springs, has been elected for a second term as vice-president of the Verger's Guild of the Diocese of Southeast Florida. He reports, "Our Eucharist in Spanish and our Hispanic/Latino ministries are growing a lot. I translate sermons and help the clergy when needed. I'm blessed that I will be the preacher on Palm Sunday."

Postulant Russell Gallagher served as "gatekeeper" to the Vigil at the Altar of Repose overnight (Maundy Thursday-Good Friday) at Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville, where he watched over admissions from 9:00 pm until 7:00 am. This is the second year of this service for him and he enjoys it greatly. He continues his regular service by assisting in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Sunday School program for children from age 3 to first grade; he officiates at



*After the spring Council meeting, Bo Alexander Armstrong (Minister Provincial of Province 4) stayed with Edward Munro (Minister Provincial of Province 3) and attended his parish on Sunday morning. The two brothers are seen here with Fr Randy Callender, Rector of Saint Phillip's, Annapolis.*

Morning Prayer every Monday, Tuesday, and (temporarily) Friday at the cathedral; and he serves as a lector once a month and for special services.

Postulant Tommy Mandri has been elected junior warden of Todos los Santos Episcopal Church, Miami, where he continues his service as organist while assisting the Altar Guild and serving at the altar...hopefully *not all at the same time!* He certainly has caught the 'Gregorian Bug' in a big way and we sincerely congratulate him!

### Province 5

Francis Jonathan Bullock attended the ordination and consecration of the Rt Rev Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows as the Bishop of Indianapolis, at Clowes Memorial Hall at Butler University. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry was the officiant of a

service that included 43 other bishops, including the Rt Rev Catherine M Waynick, the retiring Bishop of Indianapolis, and the Rt Rev Barbara Harris, the retired Bishop Suffragan of Massachusetts.

*Province 7*

James Patrick Hall commented on his Easter observance: “This Holy Week has been wonderful, as was our Easter service at Saint Francis Day Center (in Denver). Our bishop came and presided for our homeless friends and it was really nice. Tony Blando played the guitar and found out the bishop plays, as well; who knows, they may do a duet someday?!”

“Easter Sunday at the Saint Francis Center was particularly nice this year with our Diocesan Bishop, Robert O’Neill, presiding. At 8:00 am we celebrated the Resurrection with second-hand altar vestments and white linens covering our old beat-up table altar. Our friends from the streets did the readings while candles burned brightly between some lilies. It was a wonderful morning and a huge blessing to me that when our bishop arrived, he knew folks by name, and they knew him. Our little congregation consists of folks who live on the streets of Den-



*Ronald Augustine Fox served as master of ceremonies at Bexley Seabury Seminary Federation’s commencement.*



*Tony Blando, James Patrick Hall and Bishop Robert O’Neill of Colorado lead an Easter Day service at Saint Francis Day Center. Photo credit: John Gerkin.*

ver. They may not be wearing the nicest Easter clothes, but their smiles are genuine and their hugs are warm.

“Saint Francis Day Center for the homeless is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado and was established in June of 1983. I am in charge of organizing the Sunday morning service and have been for over a year. Tony Blando plays guitar each week, provides recorded music before the service, and also assists guests in singing, as well. Sometimes they even write their own songs! Not just Easter, but every Sunday morning at 8:00 am this faithful little group gathers, and the Body and Blood of Christ infuses those who come with new and unending life. It’s my favorite service in town.”

James Patrick preached the following sermon at the request of the Mary Queen of the Angels Ward of the Society of Mary (an Anglican devotional society), at Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Denver.

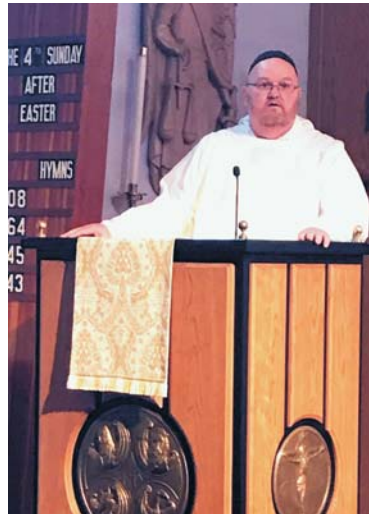
*A Sermon on the Blessed Virgin Mary*

**AVE MARIA**

We call Mary our mother, for she is the mother of the faithful, our spiritual mother as well as the mother of God. Saint Ambrose says, “She is mother of the church, for she brought forth him who is the head of the church.” I believe that Mary is perhaps our clearest example of what it is to be a Christian, a true follower of Christ.

Luke tells us how Gabriel, an angel from God, comes to Mary and tells her that she has been chosen to be the mother of the Christ. It’s pretty powerful stuff to realize how, in those few lines, the world changes. Mary answers the angel, “Here I am, the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be to me as you have said.” In that electric moment of acceptance by Mary, the Incarnation breaks into this world in a way that we humans have a hard time fully comprehending. The Word became flesh. Divinity took on humanity and was so closely bound together in Jesus, Son of Mary, that they would never be separated again.

Her life at the time was constrained to the locality, seemingly of no more consequence than the thousands around her. She could have been as young as 14. I certainly wasn’t that mature at 14, but then that was a very different culture than we have today. The Scriptures tell us very little about her and then generally only when her life and the life of Jesus connect in various





ways. Somehow I think that is very telling. She never seems to draw attention to herself, but is God's handmaid, humble and an example to us all. Jesus is the important One, and her last recorded words in the Gospels are, "Do what he tells you." Those words apply to us as well as they do to the servants at the wedding banquet.

When Jesus gives her to the apostle John and tells him, "Behold your mother," he is, in a way, giving her to the whole church as our mother. In Revelation some have seen her figured as the woman crowned as with stars on her head and with the moon under her feet. Many scholars feel that the idea of Mary as the queen of heaven is tied in with a concept of the royal household. Because the king had many wives it was impossible for one to be queen. Therefore the king's mother

served in the role. The queen mother sat on a throne at the king's right hand. Access to the king would often be through the queen mother and she would ask favors from the king for those who asked her. In Luke's account, Mary is told that God will give her son "The throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." If we understand Jesus to be the everlasting king of the kingdom of David, also called the kingdom of heaven, then I feel it is an easy step to see Mary as the queen mother of the kingdom of heaven. Since this kingdom will never end we understand that her reign as queen mother at his right hand will also never end. It is an eternal kingdom.

Most of our early traditions about her come from those fathers of the church closely associated with John. Irenaeus seems to have been born in the same town and listened to the sermons of John's disciple Polycarp. He is among the first to describe how Mary must be granted a certain role in the mystery of our salvation by explaining that Mary untied the knot of Eve's disobedience by her obedience. "For what the virgin Eve had bound fast through unbelief, the Virgin Mary set free through her faith." Justin Martyr is another church father who lived for a time in the same Christian community where tradition tells us that John lived with Mary. He also tells us that "Christ became man by the virgin in order that the disobedience that proceeded from the serpent might receive its destruction in the same manner in which it derived its origin."

So from the earliest days of the church, Mary is called out as someone who deserves our honor and respect. She was especially chosen to be Theotokos or God-bearer. I see that as an extraordinary fact that we should always remember. Of course Mary is a creature and wasn't the origin of God, who is without beginning or end. But the Son of God, the second Person of the Triune Godhead chose her to be the vehicle in which he truly became the Son of Man. She was real, young and most likely quite scared, yet willing to collaborate with God. How

many of us faced such fear and danger, yet willingly laid our lives down? She was willing to hear and obey the word of God.

Christ models this behavior for us as well. In the garden, he doesn't opt out of his humanity; he makes a normal human response to the horrible upcoming trials, asking if the bitter chalice that we humans were going to force him to drink might pass. Yet even with a terrible understanding of what was about to happen, he said, "Not my will, but yours be done." We hear an echo of his mother's words at the Annunciation. Such perfect submission to God's will! Something it seems that he learned from his blessed mother. In the great temptation, he was offered the world and all its riches if he would only agree to worship the creature rather than the Creator. I wonder how many over the centuries have been called by God to spiritual greatness only to have fallen for this temptation? They ride out ahead of victorious armies conquering much of this world, but lose everything that may have been gained for God's kingdom. We shall never know, but we do know this, that Jesus, the Son of Mary, knew better than to fall for the wiles of the evil one.

We all have another mother, Eve, the mother of all humanity according to the flesh. As Justin Martyr tells us, "Eve, who was a virgin and undefiled, having conceived the word of the serpent, brought forth disobedience and death." Mary conceived the Word of God; Eve conceived the word of the serpent. What a contrast between the two women. What a contrast in our own lives.

And so, here are our two mothers, Eve, our mother according to the flesh and Mary, our mother according to the Spirit. Both women are emblematic of our human and spiritual natures which Saint Paul so eloquently describes in Romans 7. I recommend reading this chapter where Paul discusses the war between our human nature and our spiritual desires. That struggle is something we all know, and our mothers also knew quite well.

Recently I've seen a pen and ink drawing of the Annunciation where Mary is at a well preparing to get some water. Imaging her at a well is a very ancient view of her encounter with the angel. Many of the earliest images we have of her show this scene. The drawing is made of the moment just before she hears the angel's voice. It's a moment of anticipation; perhaps she hears the first rustling of the wind, or maybe there is a tingle in the air as the angel is approaching her. This drawing got me to thinking of that moment just before Mary made her choice. There's always that moment just as we begin to make our choices, to decide which way we will go. We all intimately know that moment of choice. Once, long ago, in that moment with the hissing words of the serpent echoing in her heart, Eve had a choice and we know which way she went. We have all followed her in our own ways. Each and every one of us knows that voice and knows that moment of choice. Think of it, two moments in time each full of potential, each one we are also quite familiar with and have personal experience with.

Which of our mothers' examples shall we follow?

*James Patrick Hall*





# 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  
 Ælfred 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

Russell W Gallagher  
 Tommy Mandri

### Postulants-Pro prospective

Jason Carroll LaFolette  
 Richard Nash Smith  
 William David Crockett

### 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, Kileen 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  
 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

Frederick Houk Borsch

Danny Callahan

Roch Ciandella OFM

David Collins

Jeff Ezell

Dick Farr

Carlson Gerda

Robert Hibbs

Larry

Marc Marchewka

Nancy L Marvel

Tony Sarjant

Bill Swartz

Gail Weido

### 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.*