

# The Servant



*Saint Joseph's  
Apache Mission Church,  
Mescalero NM*

#262

*Epiphany 2022*

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### *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.*



*Brothers of Province 3 (and Bishop Rodney Michel) at Noonday Prayer in the Saint Charles Borromeo Chapel at Saint Mary's Seminary, Baltimore*

## The Kings still search

Epiphany is a time of searching and finding. It seems to me that we are in the midst of a very unusual search as a church. We have been through a desert with COVID-19 and just as we almost come out of it — and then plunge back in — we find that we are still searching. We may not yet realize this; we do not know what the church will look like, what it will sound like. Organists take note! I don't think we will know for some time, but the Sunday church these days is not the same as it was, and may never quite be again.

My favorite writer, a true proclaimer, is Grace Bush. She writes:

So many roads to travel,  
That lead to the east or west,  
Who knows what lies around the bend?  
Who knows which road is best?  
So many roads to travel  
That lead to the south or north,  
Luring me eager to go  
Ever and ever forth.

I have been on my own search for several weeks, as I have had to end my fifty-eighth year as an organist-choir director, for medical reasons. My search is to find the new “me.” My new world is one without practice, planning, and weekly rehearsals — so the future looks very different for me. I pray that we all will recognize how much some of the “church” is already well on its way on the road to change. The Brothers of Saint Gregory are often called flexible friars, and we will be watching and waiting along the paths we take. Like the Three Kings of the old Epiphany story, we will walk onward, waiting, and watching for arrival at the sign we seek.

“So many roads to travel... who knows which road is best?” In all the journey, we keep in mind that the church belongs to God. God will show the way.

RTB

## Here and there with the Brothers

## Community Notes

### *Fall Council Meeting of the Brotherhood, 2021*

Council met via Zoom on October 23, and ratified Jason Peter Seta's (Pennsylvania) petition for first profession and William Edward Gallop Jr's (Southwestern Virginia) for reception to the novitiate, to take place during Winter Convocation 2022. (Jason Peter's petition for profession was later ratified by the professed members of his province.) Council also released Michael Anthony Yates-Stallone from the postulancy.

In other business, Council approved the budget for 2022, and moved on to the need for a venue for our future plenary Convocation gatherings, due to Mount Alvernia's difficulties in maintaining staff due to the pandemic. A committee consisting of James Teets (Maryland), Tobias Stanislas Haller (Maryland), Ronald Augustine Fox (Chicago), Thomas Bushnell (New York), and Eric Shelley (Southwestern Virginia), Chair, had been appointed earlier in the year, and had completed its work. After compiling a list of twenty priorities for a Convocation site — via a survey of the entire community — the committee developed a list of thirty-two possible sites from around the country, ranked in terms of how well they met the desired criteria. From that list they found three that contained all or almost all of the requirements, and the Council approved the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington, NY, as a site for the next two Convocations in January and August.

### *Province 1*

Province 1 held a pre-Thanksgiving dinner on November 14 at the residence of Virgilio Fortuna in Taunton, Massachusetts. Those present were Virgilio, Donovan Aidan Bowley (Maine), William Francis Jones and Christopher Stephen Jenks (both in Rhode Island), Ciarán Anthony DellaFera (Massachusetts), and Minister Provincial Enoch John Valentine (Rhode Island). Virgilio prepared a wonderful traditional New England Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings, and pies were served for dessert. It was a wonderful evening of food and fellowship.

✠ In mid-December Ciarán Anthony traveled to the Diocese of Iowa to attend the consecration of the new Bishop of Iowa, friend and now the Rt Rev Elizabeth Lockwood Hawley Monnot — known now by her nickname, 'Bishop Betsey.' Ciarán Anthony reports that he saw many familiar faces at the consecration liturgy, and met many more at the reception afterwards. One of those familiar faces — who also participated in the liturgy among the consecrating bishops — was Bishop Christopher Epting, who was the predecessor of Bishop Betsey by two. Bishop Chris is a long-time friend and colleague of members of the Brotherhood, from his time as Director of the Ecumenical Office of The Episcopal Church. Bishop Chris came to be with the community at Winter Convocation 2004, to deliver a retreat on the art of preaching..

### *Province 3*

On December 3-5 all members of Province 3 came together in Baltimore to participate in an Advent Retreat at Saint Mary's Seminary and University. The Brotherhood's Episcopal Visitor, Bishop Rodney R Michel, was present for the entire three-day retreat, and he provided the second of four meditations. The meditations were:

- ✠ Advent Antiphon Meditation, by Jason Peter Seta (Pennsylvania),



*Jason Peter*

- ⌄ New Beginnings, as outlined in the Holy Scriptures, by Bishop Rodney,
- ⌄ New Beginnings/New Relationships, by Christopher Robert Werth (Maryland), and
- ⌄ Anticipation: A Guided Advent Meditation, by William Edward Gallop Jr (Southwestern Virginia).

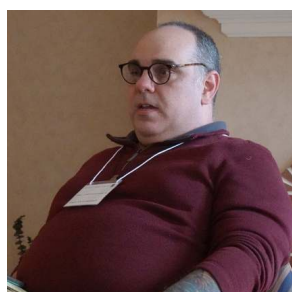


*Bishop Michel*



*Christopher Robert*

As with all Brotherhood retreats, the Daily Office and the Holy Eucharist provided the spiritual focus for this time together. Tobias Stanislas Haller (Maryland) was the celebrant and preacher on the Saturday, while



*William Edward*

Bishop Rodney celebrated and preached on Sunday; Minister Provincial Edward Munro was deacon on both days; and the acolytes were James Teets (Maryland) and Eric Shelley (Southwestern Virginia) respectively. The daily schedule, including the meditations, was assembled by the committee of the postulant William Edward and novices Christopher Robert and Jason Peter.



*Peter Budde has been leading a study group on “Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton” at Christ Episcopal Church in Martinsville, VA.*

#### *Province 4*

On Saturday, September 25th, the brothers participated in a virtual meeting via Zoom. Those who attended Annual Convocation at the Maritime Center in Baltimore provided feedback on their experience; this input was noted for the next Council Meeting. Richard John Lorino (Diocese of Central Florida)

shared a powerful reflection on the vow of obedience and its implications for life in community. This prompted a good discussion and some of the senior members offered insights from their own experience. That fruitful discussion was followed by Evening Prayer.

✠ Ælred Bernard Dean (Diocese of Lexington) began his ministry as priest-in-charge at Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Middlesboro, Kentucky, in July 2016, and we are delighted to report that he has recently been named rector. We share his joy, and that of all of the parishioners at Saint Mary's! We also note that that parish's website opens with this statement: "Saint Mary's is fully vaccinated, fully alive, and fully following Jesus in the Way of Love." What more can anyone say?

✠ On September 17 the Minister Provincial Bo Alexander Armstrong announced that Isaac Ruiz-Solá withdrew from the Brotherhood's postulancy.

✠ Two of our brothers joined in the Saint Francis pet blessing at Saint Bernard de Clairvaux Episcopal Church in North Miami Beach. In the accompanying photo are Tommy Mandri and novice Carlos Roberto Fernández with Fr Gregory Mansfield (with the stole) and Dn Charles Humphries. And Daphne the dog.



### *Province 5*



Minister Provincial Nathanael Deward Rahm (Chicago) returned to the organ bench at Saint Peter's Church — a seat he had previously occupied for twenty-two years — for an open house organ recital on November 7. Nathanael Deward (shown here assisted by Joseph Basil Gauss, also of Chicago) joined with

parish organist Charlie Carpenter, Atonement organist Charlie Segal, and Holy Name Cathedral (RC) organist David Jonies in the concert. The congregation returned to the church on September 26 for their first liturgy after three and a half years of "worshiping and wandering," as noted by rector Shane Gormley. The church underwent an extensive renovation after the parish hall was sold, and the church re-purposed the space for worship, offices and social activities.

✠ Ronald Augustine Fox completed a course at the Liturgical Institute of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake, "Figures of the Liturgical Movement," conducted by Eusebius Martis, a monk of Marmion Abbey in Aurora, Ill. The course covered Prosper Gueranger, Columba Marmion, Lambert Beauduin, Virgil Michel, Pius Parsch, Justine Ward, and Dorothy Day, among others.



⌄ Joseph Basil was a delegate to the 184th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Chicago, held virtually on November 20. This was his fourth diocesan convention serving as a delegate.

### *Province West*



*William Henry, James Patrick, Tim Kruse, David Luke, David Benedict, and Richard Edward*

The brothers gathered for a September 24-26 provincial retreat in Cloudcroft NM at Saint Brigid's Rest, the seasonal hospitality ministry offered by David Luke Henton (Rio Grande) and his spouse Tim Kruse. Participating in the weekend were James Patrick Hall (Colorado), David Benedict Hedges (Arizona), Richard Edward Helmer (California), and Minister Provincial William Henry Benefield (West Texas). In that official capacity, William Henry met with brothers individually throughout the weekend. (He also brought gourmet coffee, which the brothers enjoyed.)

The retreat began with Evensong offered to the church at large via Zoom and Facebook, as part of Saint John's in Alamogordo's Daily Office prayer group, of which David Luke has been a part since the beginning of the pandemic. Group members reported that they enjoyed Evensong, at which Richard Edward officiated. He also officiated at the Eucharist on Friday evening, after which the brothers enjoyed an early supper and Compline together.

After a leisurely breakfast, the brothers went down (from 8,700 to 4,500 feet) to Alamogordo and the nearby White Sands National Park, where James Patrick officiated at Morning Prayer in the heart of the sand dunes, followed by a picnic and walk on the dunes' boardwalk trail. From White Sands, the brothers traveled to nearby Saint Joseph's Apache Mission Church, Mescalero, where they viewed the well-known icon by Robert Lentz titled The Apache Christ, before singing Noonday in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel dedicated to

Blessed Katari Tetakwitha. Returning to Cloudcroft via the high mountain meadows of the Mescalero homelands, the brothers celebrated the Eucharist at the Church of the Ascension, where Tim is administrator and frequent worship leader. David Benedict was celebrant, and David Luke deacon. All then returned to Saint Brigid's Rest for Evensong, supper and Compline.

Sunday morning, David Luke left early after officiating at Morning Prayer at Saint John's in Alamogordo where he serves as deacon at the early Eucharist. The brothers then joined rector Michael Drinkwater and David Luke for a lively formation hour discussion on Leviticus, as the people of Saint John's gradually work their way through the Pentateuch. William Henry served as pianist at the 10:15 Eucharist, playing a prelude and hymns, and a Communion anthem arrangement of *Blessed Assurance* for voice and piano. For the Offertory, David Benedict, Richard Edward and William Henry sang Tobias Stanislas Haller's *Nunc Dimitis* from his "Mountain Vespers," which the brothers frequently use when in Convocation. James Patrick served as crucifer and acolyte for the Eucharist, with Fr Michael celebrating and preaching, Saint John's senior deacon, the Rev Dr Aileen Walther, proclaimed the Gospel and led the Prayers of the People, and David Luke set the table with the assistance of James Patrick.

Throughout the retreat, but especially in the Offices and Eucharist, the assembled brothers remembered members of the province unable to be present, Francis Sebastian Medina (Northern California), Scott Michael Pomerenk (Colorado), and Angel Gabriel Roque (Rio Grande). Special thanksgivings were offered for Francis Sebastian's safe return home after a harrowing evacuation due to the wildfires which threatened his home in the Lake Tahoe area. It was a glorious weekend of prayer, fellowship and worship, and the brothers are already looking forward to gathering again in Tucson for their spring retreat.

## Making Room

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*"Here in time we make holiday because the eternal birth which God the father bore and bears unceasingly in eternity is now born in time, in human nature. Saint Augustine says this birth is always happening. But if it does not happen in me, what does it profit me? What matters is that it shall happen in me." — Meister Eckhart*

The day has been long,  
and here I lay down my weary bones.

Like layers of clothing,  
I shed the pains of the day:  
the heartache,  
the unreconciled relationships,  
the unfinished conversations,  
what should have been done and wasn't,  
what was done and shouldn't have been...



That being part of a broken world  
wheeling relentless through time  
and the bruises of effort  
to piece it back together:

tie it up with string  
and sweat  
and bailing wire  
a swear or two  
and a spare band aid,

those gauzy efforts  
ridiculous in the light of day  
and fumbling in the dark of the night.

All this I put down,  
one garment at a time  
and wonder at the limits of my senses  
fading memory  
ears dulled with use,  
eyes ever needing greater correction.

But you are not interested in what I achieved  
or failed to achieve, even in your Name.  
As though I could move myself closer to You  
by sheer force of will  
any more than I could bind the whole earth  
and heal her millennia of pain  
or alter the day's news bad  
or catch the stars in my hand  
or command the ocean or wind.

So I shed it all like another layer  
commanding nothing,  
not even asking for rest...  
and find You near at hand,

Demanding no reckoning,  
no spreadsheet,  
no message,  
no explanation,  
no justification.

Just quiet.

Enough so that a soul laid bare  
has room for You.

*Richard Edward Helmer*



## *Gregorian Photo Pages*

*With a new year, a new feature for The Servant — more photos!*



*Brothers of Province 3 with Bishop Michel, at the Advent Retreat*



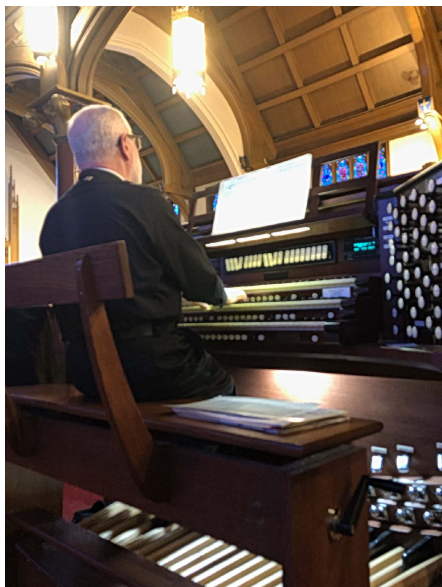
*Province 3 at the meal table...*



*...and at the worship table*



*Bishop Michel presents a reflection on New Beginnings for the Advent season.*



*Nathanael Deward Rahm at the console...*



*Bishop Michel preaching*



*...and with colleagues Segal and Carpenter*



*Carlos Roberto Fernandez and Tommy Mandri at Saint Bernard of Clairvaux in North Miami Beach, October 2021*