

IN CŒNACULO

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF SILVERSTREAM PRIORY
Benedictine Monks of Perpetual Adoration of the Most Holy Sacrament
Stamullen • Co. Meath • Ireland CHRISTMASS-EPIPHANY 2015



A Letter from Father Prior

DEAR OBLATES, FRIENDS, AND BENEFACTORS OF SILVERSTREAM,

I AM WRITING YOU on a cold, grey Advent morning but the liturgy of this blessed season gives warmth and light to every believing heart. Tomorrow evening we will intone *O Sapientia*, the first of the Great *O* Antiphons:

“O WISDOM COMING FORTH FROM THE MOUTH OF THE MOST HIGH GOD, YOUR LORDSHIP IS OVER ALL THAT IS, STRETCHING FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END, YOU WHO ORDER ALL THINGS WITH MIGHT AND WITH SWEETNESS, COME TEACH US THE PATH OF PRUDENCE. MAKE KNOWN TO US YOUR WAYS.”

The seven *O* Antiphons, sung at Vespers from December 17th through the 23rd, are immense cries of desire wrung out of the Church’s innermost depths. Nowhere in the liturgical year do we experience more powerfully what Saint Paul teaches concerning prayer: “The Spirit also helpeth our infirmity. For we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit himself asketh for us with unspeakable groanings. And he that searcheth the hearts, knoweth what the Spirit desireth; because he asketh for the saints according to God” (Romans 8:26–27).

The Church goes forward in desire, waiting to fix her gaze on the face of the King of Peace. The opening antiphon of Christmas has us sing: “The King of Peace is magnified, whose face the whole earth desireth to see”. May this Christmas season bring you and all your loved ones more deeply into the light that shines from the Face of the Infant Christ, “the human face of God”.

In wonderful ways God fulfils the holy desires that He Himself inspires. We have had ample evidence of this since sending you the last issue of *In Cœnaculo*.

In August and September 2014 our community responded to the gracious invitation of Abbot Diego Maria Rosa, O.S.B. and Dom Bernardo Maria Gianni, O.S.B. to visit the abbeys of Monte Oliveto Maggiore and of San Miniato al Monte in Italy. First for our novices and, then, for Dom Benedict and myself, the experience of prayer, work, and fraternal charity among our

Sir 24, 5; Sap 8, 1; Is 40, 14

♩. II d

O Sa-pi-énti-a, * quæ ex ore Alt-íssimi pro-

dis-ti, at-tingens a fi-ne usque ad fi-nem fór-ti-ter,

su-á-vi-ter disponénsque ómni-a: ve-ni ad docéndum

nos vi-am prudénti-æ. E u o u a e.



“The Human Face of God”



D. Benedict's First Mass

“THE MONASTIC VOCATION NEVER GROWS OLD; IT IS A WELLSPRING OF JOY, RENEWING THE CHURCH IN EVERY AGE AND PLACE.”



Benedictine brethren of the Congregation of Saint Mary of Monte Oliveto was a grace that we shall always treasure. Our affinity with the Olivetan Benedictine family derives from the burning desire of one its most illustrious members, the saintly Abbot Celestino Maria Colombo, O.S.B. (1874-1935), to see, one day, the birth and development of a monastery of “sons of the Host to the Host, Benedictine Adorers”.

On October 25, 2014, the feast of Saint Miniato and Companions, Martyrs, I gave our Benedictine habit to Mr André Goibaiyer, a native of Cape Town, South Africa, naming him Michael in honour both of Saint Michael the Archangel and of our own Bishop Michael Smith. Having begun his noviceship, Brother Michael joins Brothers Finnian and Elijah in those “hard and rugged paths” (*Rule of Saint Benedict*, Chapter 58) by which a monk runs towards Christ, his heart’s first love and the joy of his heart.

On November 1, 2014, the feast of All Saints, His Lordship, Dr Michael Smith, Bishop of the Diocese of Meath, ordained our own Dom Benedict Maria Andersen to the holy priesthood. The rite of ordination took place in Saint Mary’s Church, Drogheda. On the following day Dom Benedict offered his First Solemn Mass in Saint Kevin’s Church, Harrington Street, Dublin. Dom Benedict’s ordination to the holy priesthood was a signal grace for Silverstream Priory.

A number of men from different places and backgrounds are seriously preparing for entrance to our community. Every week I respond to inquiries from God-seeking men. The monastic vocation never grows old; it is a wellspring of joy, renewing the Church in every age and place. Our hospitality to diocesan priests is going forward quietly and bearing fruit. We face the future, therefore, with complete confidence in God and with an immense hope.

Our most urgent needs are financial. As this letter goes to press we have not yet attained the full amount needed to close on the purchase of Silverstream. Our trust in Divine Providence and in the generosity of our friends and benefactors is unwavering. Once we have Silverstream, we will, with your help, face the challenge of renovating the monastery, beginning with the priory church and the kitchen.

Be assured that we remember you, your family and all your intentions daily in the Holy Sacrifice, the Divine Office, and adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. We wish you a blessed Christmas and a New Year in the grace and peace of Our Lord and His Most Holy Mother.

Ever gratefully yours,

DOM MARK DANIEL KIRBY, PRIOR



DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST, PRAY FOR

**DOM BENEDICT MARIA
ANDERSEN, O.S.B.**

ORDAINED A PRIEST OF JESUS CHRIST
FOR EVER, ACCORDING TO THE
ORDER OF MELCHISEDECH

*By His Lordship, the Most Reverend
Michael Smith, Bishop of Meath*

*At the Church of Saint Mary, Drogheda,
Ireland, on the Feast of All Saints
1 November 2014*

ECCE, jam non in umbra, nec in figura, non in typo, sed
in veritate lux aperta resplendet ... sed facie in faciem te
mihī, Christiē, demonstrāsti; in tuis te invenio sacramentis.

SEE, NO LONGER in shadows, no more in symbol, no
more in image, but in truth radiating light ... Face to
face, thou hast made thyself known to me, O Christi; I have
found thee in thy Mysteries.

SAINT AMBROSE OF MILAN (†397)



Sermon at the First Mass of Dom Benedict Maria

BY DOM MARK DANIEL KIRBY, PRIOR

DOM BENEDICT, dearest son in Christ, as you ascended to the altar for this, your first solemn offering of the Most Holy Sacrifice, the Church placed on our lips the mysterious words of Mardochai in the book of Esther: *Everything, O Lord, is at thy disposal, none can thwart thy will.* Indeed, it must be said, with Saint Paul, that, *We know that to them that love God, all things work together unto good, to such as, according to his purpose, are called to be saints* (Romans 8:28). If you have ascended to the altar this morning, it is because, in God's mysterious plan for your life, in His unsearchable providence, in His will that cannot be thwarted, you were born for the altar, and destined for the altar from your mother's womb. You were born for the altar, and destined for the altar from your mother's womb. The Apostle says, *It pleased Him, who set me apart from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me* (Galatians 1:15).

If you have ascended to the altar today, it is because the Father, who set you apart from your mother's womb, called you by grace to be a living revelation of His Son, a true image, a veritable icon of His Son engraved and written indelibly in your soul by the the Holy Ghost, the Finger of God's Right Hand, and this, in the midst of the Church, in the sight of angels and of men. You will ascend to the altar again and again — may God, the Father of Lights, grant you this ineffable grace for many, many years to come — and each time you do so, you will do well to say in your heart, *For this was I born, and for this came I into the world* (John 18:37). *I shall go up unto the altar of God, to God who giveth joy to my youth* (Psalm 42:4).

You, Dom Benedict, are set apart to be, not only the image of Jesus Christ, the Father's well-beloved Son — such is the grace of all the baptized — you are set apart to be, in your very person, the image of Jesus Christ, Priest and Victim; Jesus Christ, the Sacrificer and the Lamb sacrificed; Jesus Christ, the Mediator who stands between God and man, saying to God, "Here, Father, are Thy children, here is the Body of Thy Christ", and saying to men, "Here is your God."

You prayed in the second collect of this Holy Mass: *not for any deserts of my own, but because thy mercy knows no bounds, thou hast appointed me to serve Thy heavenly Mysteries, make Thou me a worthy minister of Thy sacred altars, and let the words I utter be hallowed and ratified by Thee.*

Dearest Father Benedict, you begin today the exercise of your priestly office. Today, for the first time, you appear before us as a living icon of the Eternal High Priest, who, lifted high upon the altar of the Cross, makes of Himself



a Victim immolated and offered to the Father. In a few moments we will intone the Offertory Antiphon of today's Mass, which, by a singular coincidence, is the occasion of a cameo appearance of the holy prophet Job. Job appears at the Offertory of the Mass today as an ante-type of the suffering Christ. We will sing of Job and in him recognize a veiled presentation of the Passion of Jesus Christ, *the man of sorrows, acquainted with suffering* (Isaias 53:3).

If suffering has, in any way, marked your life, dear Father Benedict, it is because it was essential that you should be thus prepared for the mystery of the victimal priesthood. It is written concerning Our Lord Jesus Christ: *And whereas indeed he was the Son of God, he learned obedience by the things which he suffered: And being consummated, he became, to all that obey him, the cause of eternal salvation, called by God a high priest according to the order of Melchisedech* (Hebrews 5:8–10). Recall this when, in the years of priestly service that lie ahead of you, you will find yourself buffeted by temptation, surrounded by obscurity, and marked by infirmity. Suffering is not an obstacle to your priesthood; it is, rather, an essential part of it,

a participation in the immolation of the Lamb that, day after day, you will make present at the altar. Yours it is to be not only the priest who offers, but also the victim offered.

All of this the Father will make divinely fruitful. Although yours is a monastic priesthood, hidden and shrouded in silence, it is a priesthood in the heart of the Church and for the whole Church, a priesthood whose effect touches the very ends of the earth, and causes the radiance of the Blood of Christ to shine from the rising of the sun to the setting thereof, making hope spring up in the hearts of the hopeless, and opening streams of joy in this valley of tears.

In order that your priesthood may be protected, confirmed, and inflamed with Divine Love of the Sacred Heart, I entrust you to the all-pure Mother of God. She who accompanied her Priest-Son to the altar of the Cross is with you, at the altar, today. May she be for you today and until the hour of your death, your life, your sweetness, and your hope. ❀

Our sincerest thanks to Mr Paweł Kula for the beautiful photos of the Ordination and First Mass.

HOW TO HELP THE MONKS OF SILVERSTREAM PRIORY

■ [OUR FRIENDS IN THE E.U. & THE U.K.](#) can send us a bank transfer (which we prefer, as our bank exacts a large fee for cashing cheques). Our bank information is as follows:

Bank of Ireland, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin,
IBAN: IE02 BOFI 9035 4196 4472 87
BIC: BOFIE2D

Alternatively, you can send a cheque, payable to "Silverstream Priory", and post it to: Silverstream Priory, Stamullen, Co. Meath, Ireland.

■ [OUR FRIENDS IN THE U.S.A.](#) can send us a bank transfer to the Monastery of Our Lady of the Cenacle Foundation:

Bank Name: Bank of America
Acct: 3050 0499 5780
ACH Routing: 103000017
USA Wire ABA/Routing: 026009593

Or you can send a cheque, payable to "The Monastery of Our Lady of the Cenacle Foundation", to: 20315 South Hwy 75, Mounds, OK 74047.



Or, donate online via Paypal at
WWW.CENACLEOSB.ORG