

MANCIPIA

Number 36, January 2005

THE REPORT OF THE CRUSADE OF SAINT BENEDICT CENTER

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OUR SUPERIOR

By Br. John Neumann, M.I.C.M., Tert.

We are sorry to have to inform Third Order members that our beloved Superior, Brother Francis, had to be taken to the hospital on Friday, December 3rd — the feast of his patron, St. Francis Xavier — with a serious heart condition. The problem was made more threatening by kidney and liver failures, all having been aggravated by years of diabetes.

On Sunday, his condition having been stable, he was transferred to Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, in Lebanon, New Hampshire, where he had a pacemaker implanted. By the next Saturday, his doctors believing the pacemaker will stabilize his heart at least for a time, he was able come to home. However, it appears that Brother, now in his 92nd year, had suffered a heart attack earlier. And with the damage his other vital organs already have suffered, the doctors do not expect a long-term recovery.

Indeed, on Saturday, December 18th, Brother had to be readmitted to Cheshire Medical Center with pneumonia in both lungs and other complications.

We therefore ask members and friends to keep in their prayers our dear Brother, and also to relate this unfortunate news to other friends whom we may not be able to reach ourselves for the same purpose of obtaining prayers. †

IHM CHAPEL

By Br. Louis Marie, M.I.C.M., Tert., Sr. Mary Monica, M.I.C.M., Tert., and staff

Saint Benedict Center has contracted with Warrenstreet Architects of Concord, NH to assist in moving us from the conceptual to the design stage. This firm of architects and engineers is drafting designs for redeveloping all the grounds of SBC. For it is obvious that our quarters are no longer adequate for us. Once the first planning stage is finished, our fundraising endeavors will be more in evidence. We thank our patrons, St. Joseph, Blessed Frere André, and our namesake, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for their help. †

CELEBRATING WITH GRATITUDE OUR CHAPLAIN

By Br. John Marie Vianney, M.I.C.M., Tert. Church, on October 21st. And he

insists all Catholics should do likewise. Personal praise is something abhorred by our chaplain of several decades, Father Michael Jarecki (pronounced Ya-ret-ski). So let me begin by begging his forgiveness, as we simply could not miss the opportunity to rejoice with him while he celebrates the 60th year of his priesthood! For, even with all his deep personal humility, I think Father will not object too much, after all, to our holding up for example and emulation his pious practices and sound Catholic principles.

He was born on October 6, 1917, seven days before the Miracle of the Sun, hence his lifelong association with Our Lady of Fatima. But the retired cleric from the Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, prefers instead to observe the anniversary of his baptismal day, his birth into the

two brothers (David and John). At age 14, in 1931, his father died. His mother, a convert who came to the Truth Pre-Cana classes after reading the book of Tobias and seeing what the Protestant Bible — and religion — were missing died in 1971.



As a young man, Michael so loved Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament that he would steal away at night to make a visit to a nearby Church. He attended the minor seminary at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg, settled in 1749 by French missionaries and trappers. (Wadhams Hall closed in June 2002.) He graduated from St. Bernard's, a major seminary in Rochester whose 1893 founder, Bishop Bernard John McQuaid, was an educational pioneer bold and innovative in his vision of theological education. (The motto on the bishop's

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coat of arms was *Salus animarum lex suprema*, “The salvation of souls is the supreme law.”) Father Jarecki often makes reference to conferences given at his seminary by a visiting priest who had left an indelible impression — Father Leonard Feeney.

Michael Jarecki was ordained on June 3, 1944, the same year the Third Secret’s contents were conveyed in a sealed envelope by Fatima’s Sr. Lucia to the local bishop. As a parish priest, he spent much of his time in the New York area. His devotion to the sanctity of human life was publically exemplified when he was a retired pastor of Saint Mary’s Church in Brushton, New York. He added his signature to the famous and courageous Defensive Action Statement. It said in part, Awe, the undersigned, declare the justice of taking all godly action necessary to defend innocent human life including the use of force. We proclaim that whatever force is legitimate to defend the life of a born child is legitimate to defend the life of an unborn child . . .

Father Michael’s charity and selflessness were also illustrated when his six-year-old nephew, Robert Shake, was in danger of death due to a weak kidney. Father came forward and donated one of his kidneys to the boy.

Despite age and physical infirmities, even now he often travels to Constable, New York, to assist Father Nicholas Gruner with the Fatima Crusade. In that regard, we note that our chaplain is responsible for our traveling Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which was made in Fatima and blessed by three bishops. In recent times, Father entrusted the statue to the care of our Third Order, and

we loan it out to various areas of the country for veneration.

His devotion to Mary has become legendary. No matter what the subject of a sermon, he never fails to make Our Lady the focus of his closing thoughts. In one on the subject, And who humbles himself, he said: At first, we must empty ourselves of our lazy, slothful ways to get the fullness of grace God wants us to have. Mary was perfectly humble. The Angel did not say to Her, “Hail Mary!” He said, “Hail full of grace!”

At the Consecration By Father Leonard Feeney

I thought the rising sun upon
The rim of sky and sea
Would be the morning’s fairest gift
Of vision unto me.
Until I caught a glimpse of God
When He was raised in air
Above the white horizon
Of an old priest’s hair.

Recently encouraging the Three Hail Marys devotion, he required that all interested come to the sacristy one by one, and promise to practice the devotion before he would give us the holy card with the information on it. The devotion consists of reciting the Hail Marys morning and evening. Father asked us to offer the first Hail Mary for the intention that we never commit another mortal sin; the second that we never commit another venial sin; finally, the third Hail Mary for the intention of conforming our will to Hers in order that we not be like spoiled children who always wish to have their own way!

His great devotion to Our Lady began when he was but a young boy.

When beset by problems and temptations, he would quickly start reciting the Litany of Our Lady of Loreto, which he committed to memory, and just recently asked us all to do the same. Mary always has been, and remains, an essential aid to him.

Not unlike Sts. Jerome and (Padre) Pio, our formerly redheaded pastor has a very human nature. I remember once, when upset by someone failing to pick him up as had been pre-arranged, he went off by himself to recite a Rosary to counter his temper.

It was Fr. Feeney who first asked Father Jarecki to help at Saint Benedict Center in Still River, MA. Father offered Fr. Feeney’s Funeral Mass. When Br. Francis started working toward founding the Center in Richmond, NH, Father Jarecki asked him, Aand who is going to be your priest? Br. Francis replied with child-like simplicity: You, Father. Father agreed.

At Mass, Father’s sermons are some of the most memorable one will ever have an opportunity to hear. Here are just a few select thoughts from them: “Do you know how Our Lord died? Jesus died of a broken Heart! Wisdom is seeing things as God sees them. How does he see them? He sees and knows them all at once. Be happy when you are corrected. One way to abuse a child is not to correct him! Regarding criticism of the Holy Father, God will ask, AHow did you treat my Vicar? The answer is to treat him as Our Lord and Our Lady did (Peter). At the judgment of many, AGod will say: “I tried. I gave you what was necessary, but you said you didn’t want it!”

Continued on next page

In True Devotion to Mary, St. Louis Marie de Montfort writes, “The power of Mary over all the devils will especially shine forth in the latter times, when Satan will lay his snares against Her heel; that is to say Her humble slaves and her poor children, whom she will raise up to make war against him. They shall be little and poor in the world’s esteem . . . and persecuted as the heel is persecuted by other members of the body. But in return for this, they shall be rich in the grace of God, which Mary shall distribute to them abundantly”.

CELEBRATING WITH GRATITUDE

I especially love to hear Father leading the Leonine prayers after Mass, which he always begins with: For the *real* conversion of Russia. He beckons to his patron when he loudly intones: A Saint Michael the Archangel . . . And at the very end, after invoking three times the mercy of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, he never fails to add the ejaculation I wait for each day, A most Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!

He is in the confessional before and after Mass, and is always available to hear a confession — or administer anywhere to a needy soul — at any time. While known to be impatient at times in mundane matters, he only displays great patience, kindness and care in the performance of his priestly duties especially in the confessional.

We will close with a letter from an issue of Our Sunday Visitor. A Father Michael Jarecki, Constable, N.Y., and Richmond, N.H., is an indefatigable warrior for Christ. In his mid-eighties, he travels far and wide to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. People shake their heads in wonder that Father Michael continues at a pace of a much younger man, while at the same time realize that it is God's Grace guiding him on his mission. †

Let us all, therefore, as Father Jarecki advises earlier, strive to be Mary's humble Slaves.

POTPOURRI

- Every day we make the Act of Perfect Consecration to Jesus Christ the Incarnate Wisdom, through Holy Slavery to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, according to the method of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort. Little blue cards with the entire prayer are available. Write to Br. John Marie Vianney, M.I.C.M.
- M.I.C.M. Tert. Br. Galgani de Montfort, 37 Marginal Road, Nahant, MA 01908, reported exceptional success in the Rosary repair apostolate mentioned in our last Mancipia. In a surprise move, he donated the monies he received to the Third Order. Once again, Our Lady helps us.
- Please pray for the Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer and Outreach Group in upstate New York run by a friend of Saint Benedict Center, Deborah Cucchiara.

OUR RELIGIOUS

By Br. John Marie Vianney, M.I.C.M., Tert

The Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary continue to grow. Two new Sisters entered the order on June 27, 2001 (Our Lady of Perpetual Help). Jacinta McCann and Deborah Sturgeon then took temporary vows on March 25, 2004 (The Annunciation), and became Srs. Mary Joseph and Maria Perpetua. Both teach the primary grades, cook, seamstresses, and go book selling.

There are currently six M.I.C.M. Sisters; Sr. Mary Bernadette, (Prioress Emeritus), Sr. Marie Thérèse, (Prioress, principal of the Immaculate Heart of Mary School, teacher and head of the kitchen), Sr. Maria Philomena (Vice principal), Sr. Mary Peter (school teacher, kitchen duty and supervisor of boarding students.) Although there are currently five prospects for new Sisters from around the country, there is only one room left in the Sisters' quarters. "Our Lady will have to provide," Sr. Marie Thérèse says.



Two new Brothers and a *donné* have been added. On May 13, 2003 (Feast of St. Robert Bellarmine), Joseph McCann and Patrick Sullivan became postulants, taking the names Brs. Louis Marie and Maximilian Maria. They entered the novitiate on October 12, 2003 (Feast of Our Lady of Pillar). To become a Brother, they must complete a six month postulantcy followed by a two year novitiate. At three years the Brothers will take their temporary vows. Br. Louis, the facilities manager humbly calls himself the janitor, and Br. Maximilian, a self-described computer geek, is officially called a computer technician.

Joseph Bryan entered the St. Rene Goupil *Donné* Program on August 1, 2004. This program is for males who agree to work for the Center for a period of six or twelve months in exchange for room and board. The program aids the *donné* in the discernment process of a religious vocation, though one not inclined to such a vocation is still eligible for the program. For more information on the program contact Br. André Marie.

The Brother's quarters currently house six, including Father and Redemptorist Br. Martin Temple, C.Ss.R., and are also pressed for space. They are seeking a solution. (See contact information below for all those mentioned in this newsletter.) †

QUIZ QUESTIONS

See how many of the following you know. The answers will be in our next issue. Send in any ideas for this column to the editor.

1. We talk about "sisters" but, do you know the difference between a nun and a sister?
2. Why do we call some priests by their first name and others by their last name?
3. Who was the first canonized saint?
4. When is a scapular not a "scapular?"

OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCES

By **Br. John Marie Vianney, M.I.C.M., Tertiary**

The consensus is that this year's conferences were among the best ever. Both the Leadership and regular Annual Conferences in August were well-attended. Brother Francis opened the Annual Conference at the Royal Plaza in Fitchburg, Massachusetts by dedicating it to the memory of Father Feeney, Sister Catherine and all the Brothers and Sisters who remain faithful to the (Crusade) to the end of their lives. Emphasizing the fact that Father Feeney wanted our Crusade to become a school of thought, Brother chose as a motto for the conference Our Lord's words, I am come to cast fire on the earth, and what will I, but that it be kindled. St. Luke, Chapter 12, Verse 49. He said When the Faith is undermined, everything in the world is undermined. Brother remembered the Center's Brother Hugh and Mother Theresa, and said, AlIt is good for us to be together. It inspires and encourages us. Thank you for the sacrifice C a whole weekend!

Two men joined the Third Order at the Annual Conference, Br. Issac of

New Hampshire, and Br. Augustine Mary of Virginia.

The wonderful talks of the speakers were memorable. With the small space we have, there is room but for a few remarks by some of the speakers. We will provide more in our next Mancipia.

Dr. Hickson: Paper will put up with anything written on it! Gary Potter on terrorism: War against a method is ridiculous. The War Against Terror is like a War Against the Blitzkrieg! Gerry Matatics on the Old Covenant: A God never leaves an option to stay with the Old Covenant! That's backsliding; cutting yourself off from God's (New) Covenant! Gerry encouraged us to memorize Jeremias, Chapter 31, Verse 31: ABehold the days shall come, saith the Lord, and I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah.

We sincerely hope you can be with us this year on the weekend of July 28 to July 31, 2005, for our next conference!

See this month's special insert for the Necrology of the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



Mancipia Staff

Editor-in-chief:

Br. André Marie, M.I.C.M., Prior

Editor:

Br. John Marie Vianney, M.I.C.M., Tert.

Contributors:

Sr. Mary Monica, M.I.C.M., Tert.

Proofreaders:

Br. Anthony Mary, M.I.C.M., Tert.; Br. Paul Marie, M.I.C.M., Tert.; Br. John Neumann, M.I.C.M., Tert. Sr. Margaret Mary, M.I.C.M., Tert.; Sr. Zelig, M.I.C.M., Tert.;

Page Layout:

Sr. Judith Marie, M.I.C.M., Tert.

To contact the officers of the third order,

write to us at:

*Saint Benedict Center,
P.O. Box 627*

Winchester, NH 03470

or e-mail us at:

info@fromthebousestps.com.

Make sure to indicate for whom the correspondence is intended.

Br. Anthony Mary,

Prefect

Br. Joseph Mary,

Local (Richmond, N.H.)

Director

Br. Paul Marie,

Membership Director

Br. John Marie Vianney,

National Director

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www.catholicism.org

www.sai-cs.org

Editor's Note

The Mancipia is sent to Third Order members and those who request it. Thank you to those who sent donations to assist in defraying the printing and mailing costs. If you wish to join the Third Order, communicate with Br. Paul Marie, Membership Director.