



# Via Sacra

VOLUME VI, NUMBER 1

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. JOHN CANTIUS

APRIL 11, 2004

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## FROM THE SUPERIOR'S DESK

March 25, 2004

The Annunciation of the Lord

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Praised be Jesus Christ! A common greeting among Catholics, especially of certain ethnic backgrounds, yet this greeting takes on a special meaning in that, these were the first words Father Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R. spoke since his near fatal accident earlier this year. I ask that each of our readers continue to pray for Father Benedict, who

is one of our Spiritual Advisors for the Society of St. John Cantius and who has given much encouragement and advice to me in the formation of the Society.

In the midst of the clergy scandals that we have read and heard about, we must remember that there are so many more holy, faithful and dedicated priests who are

true spiritual guides and leaders. I would like therefore to dedicate this edition of the *Via Sacra* to all those priests who have been faithful and dedicated to the Church and Her teachings. I would especially like to single out Father Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R., whom I mentioned above, and the deceased Father Edwin Karlowicz, C.R., who was stationed at



*On December 23, the feast of St. John Cantius (1970 calendar), Br. Brendan Gibson professed his final vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in the Society of St. John Cantius. Symbolic of this death to the world, he lay prostrate before the altar covered with a black funeral shroud, while other members Society chanted the Litany of the Saints. Superior/Founder, Fr. Frank Phillips, C.R. (center) officiated at the ceremony assisted by Deacons Jim Isaacson (left) and Dennis Kolinski (right).*

St. John Cantius, during the initial years of the Society's formation and who was confessor for many of the men who are now members of the Society.

Each month of the new year has provided wonderful opportunities for the community and in this short article I will highlight only some of them. But where does one begin?

Let me start by looking at the continued growth of the Society. Two men received the habit on December 23, 2003, the Feast of St. John Cantius (1970 calendar)—Scott Haynes, who came to us from the Fraternity of St. Peter and Joshua Caswell, who hails from Canada. Brother Scott already has many of his seminary classes “under his belt” and therefore, he is able to share his vast knowledge, as well as his talent in music, with the community.

During Mass that same day, on the Feast of St. John Cantius, Brother Brendan Gibson professed perpetual vows. Hearing the prayers, observing the ceremonies and hearing the public profession of vows by the candidate within the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we see how the beauty of consecrated life unfolds. Brother Brendan continues his studies at Holy Apostles seminary and will be ordained to the Order of Deacon in May. He was also elected president of the student council at Holy Apostles for this academic year.

On Friday, January 2nd, Cardinal George joined the men of the Society in singing Solemn Vespers and then had dinner with them. Afterwards, the Cardinal spent



*On December 23, the feast of St. John Cantius (1970 calendar), Brothers Joshua Caswell (left) and Scott Haynes were vested in the Roman collar, fringed sash and Rosary by Fr. Frank Phillips, C.R. This ceremony marked the end of their Postulancy and the beginning of their Novitiate.*

a leisurely evening with the men of the Society in discussions relating to a variety of topics. One of these was his reflections on Religious Life. Being a Religious himself, he shared insights about Religious Life and the implications for it in today's society.

#### C a r d i n a l

George also gave permission for Father Eduardo Garcia of the Diocese of Ponce, Puerto Rico to be accepted as a Novice into the Society. Father Garcia is now in the midst of his canonical novitiate while still assisting the Archdiocese of Chicago in the Hispanic Ministry and in the promotion of Eucharistic Adoration.

Cardinal George informed us that he would eventually like the Society to assume pastoral responsibility of another parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago. On January 22nd, Father Al Tremari, Father Eduardo Garcia and I visited the present pastor to introduce ourselves and see the parish plant, as well as to offer any assistance to him, which he may need at the present time

This year we were fortunate to have Father Brian Mullady, O.P., conduct a week of classes on the Moral Virtues for all our men. Understanding the Moral Virtues is a key to living the Religious Life, but it is also a necessary preparation for future confessors. In addition to formal teaching in his classes, Father Mullady, brings an informal way of teaching through a wealth of stories and experiences from his Priesthood, which bring humor and realism to an understanding of the Religious Life and the Priesthood.

On a lighter note. After our men departed for the seminary in January to begin the second semester, the members remaining in Chicago visited the home of Mr. Jasper Sanfilippo in Barrington, Illinois. Mr. Sanfilippo has the largest collection of mechanical musical instruments known in the world, plus countless other musical items. One of them is the largest Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ in the world. Brother Scott Haynes, an accomplished organist, was permitted to play this instrument during our visit.

This past February, Brother Alexander and I visited Holy Apostles Seminary. The rector of the seminary



*Br. Brendan Gibson (center) signs his pre-ordination oaths during the Oath Taking Ceremony on February 23 in the chapel of Holy Apostles Seminary.*

asked that I present the weekly Rector's Conference. I accepted the invitation and spoke about the Sacred Liturgy based on the conference, which Cardinal Arinze gave when he spoke at Holy Name Cathedral this past October.

When we arrived in Connecticut for our visit, Brothers Jim, Dennis and Brendan had just finished what is known as their canonical exams (exams for the priesthood). Then, on February 23rd Brother Brendan was admitted formally into the first stage for Priesthood, which is known as Candidacy.

While we were in Connecticut, Brothers Jim, Dennis, Alexander and I were able to tour some of New England and we visited a number of beautiful churches. One of them was St. Anthony's Church in New Bedford, Massachusetts, which was slated to be closed years ago. But thanks to the present pastor, who restored the entire church structure (and continues to do so, even as he enters into his Golden Anniversary of Priesthood), it remains open. We also visited Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island. Thanks to the Choral Director, Mr. Don St. Jean, we were able to visit their School of Music (previously an elaborate private mansion), as well as the main administration building (which is also a former private mansion).

This past January, Brother Scott Haynes composed a Mass in honor of St. Mary Magdalen, which was presented to Magdalen College on the occasion of the 30th year of its founding. Mr. Thomas Zeman, our composer-in-residence and organist, Brother Alexander and myself visited Magdalen College during their mid-winter break, which they call "St. John's Rest." During this time Mr. Zeman and I taught the newly composed Mass to the students, which they then sang that Sunday. It is always refreshing to visit Magdalen College and be with the students to see and experience their enthusiasm for learning, their love for the Church and their living of the common life.

Brother Chad has been busy with the Holy Innocents Choir which now sings once a month at Sunday Mass and is preparing to sing at the Institute on Religious Life Conference the weekend after Easter. Br. Chad is also



*On December 20, three sisters and a brother(center) of the late Fr. Edwin Karlowicz, C.R. presented his chalice to Fr. Frank Phillips, C.R. and members of the Society of St. John Cantius. Fr. Karlowicz grew up in St. John Cantius Parish and also served there as assistant pastor for several years during the period when the Society of St. John Cantius was forming.*

spearheading an Art Show, which will be held the second week after Easter in our parish hall. Local artists submitted art works for the show and as far as I can see, it promises to be an exciting event.

Lent has kept everyone busy at St. John's and our Lenten observances have kept everyone in check. We are fortunate to have received permission from the Rector of the Seminary to have Brothers Jim, Dennis and Brendan home for the Holy Week services. Their assistance will be very welcome during these days of Grace—but also days, which require extra hands to do much work.

As I write this letter, Father Al Tremari is preparing to leave for Aho, Arizona to preach and conduct Forty Hours devotion for Father J. Rego in the local parish. You may ask, where is Aho? Well, if you look too quickly you may miss it on a map. Some say that it is at the edge of the world.

Finally, progress is being made in Lawton, Michigan. The electric company, septic company, and all the other companies involved in building the new retreat center have been coordinated. Fees have been paid, permits have been secured and we are ready to begin building. Thanks be to God!

On behalf of the members of the Society of St. John Cantius, I extend Easter Greetings and Paschal Blessings to each of you. May Our Risen Lord grant you the peace, which He alone can give, and in the midst of this confused world may you continue to place your trust and confidence in Him. Be assured of our continued prayers for our friends and benefactors, especially during the Novena of the Divine Mercy.

Rev. C. Frank Phillips, C.R.  
Founder-Superior

**You are invited to attend**  
**The Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving**  
**of**  
**Father James Isaacson, S.S.J.C.**  
**Thursday, May 20, 2004**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**St. John Cantius Church**

**and**

**The Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving**  
**of**  
**Father Dennis Kolinski, S.S.J.C.**  
**Sunday, May 23, 2004**  
**12:30 p.m.**  
**St. John Cantius Church**

**In lieu of gifts, donations may be made to:**

**The Society of Saint John Cantius**  
**825 North Carpenter Street**  
**Chicago, Illinois 60622**

# **THE SOCIETY OF ST. JOHN CANTIUS**

invites you to the

## **RITE OF ORDINATION**

**Thursday, May 18, 2004**

**7:30 p.m.**

**St. John Cantius Church**

**Through the power of the Holy Spirit  
and the imposition of hands  
by Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
for the Archdiocese of Chicago**

**Brother James Isaacson, S.S.J.C.**

and

**Brother Dennis Kolinski, S.S.J.C.**

**will be ordained to the Holy Order of Priesthood  
as members of the Society of St. John Cantius**

**Brother Brendan Gibson**

**will be ordained to the Holy Order of Deacon  
as a member of the Society of St. John Cantius**

**As you have shared in the preparation of these men to Holy Orders  
by your prayers and support, you are invited to share  
in the joy of their ordination**

**Reception in the parish hall after the Ordination Mass**



*The path along the Way of the Cross, which leads around the St. Anne Chapel at the Society of St. John Cantius retreat center this past winter.*



*This past December, before rolling up their sleeves to do some work in Lawton, Michigan, members of the Society of St. John Cantius posed in front of a 30 foot cross, which stands at the entrance of their future retreat center. While working on the St. Anne Chapel, artist Michal Batkiewicz made the cross in the same style as the Stations of the Cross, which he had made for the retreat center.*



*The St. Anne Chapel at the Society of St. John Cantius retreat center this past winter.*



*On February 11-15, Fr. Frank Phillips, Superior of the Society of St. John Cantius, visited Holy Apostles College and Seminary. During his stay, Fr. Phillips delivered a special presentation on the liturgy for all of the seminarians (as shown here).*

## WELCOME

We welcome Msgr. James Turro, Ph.D. as a new member of our Board of Spiritual Directors and Advisors. He received his Licentiate in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and has taught Sacred Scripture for many years at Holy Apostles College and Seminary where members of the Society are receiving their seminary education. Msgr. Turro is also Library Director at Seton Hall Seminary and teaches at Saint Joseph's Seminary at Dunwoodie. He is a regular contributor to the *MAGNIFICAT*.



*This spectacular statue of St. Anne is located in the Basilica of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre in Quebec, Canada, which is the major shrine of St. Anne in the world. The Society of St. John Cantius has always had a special devotion to St. Anne (as evidenced by the name of its new chapel in Lawton, Michigan), so members of the Society studying at Holy Apostles Seminary were very privileged to visit the shrine this past Thanksgiving.*



*The shrine altar of St. Anne in the Basilica of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre in Quebec, Canada is the major site of devotion to St. Anne in the world. The arm-shaped reliquary above the altar contains the forearm bone of St. Anne. Members of the Society of St. John Cantius studying at Holy Apostles Seminary were privileged to visit the shrine this past Thanksgiving.*

## PILGRIMAGE TO KRAKOW AND SOUTHERN POLAND

The Society of St. John Cantius will conduct a pilgrimage to Krakow and southern Poland September 13-23, 2004. Each day will include Mass in a different historic church in such sites as Czestochowa, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Ludzmiierz and Stary Sacz. A trip to the southern Polish mountains will include stops at beautiful village churches and a still-functioning medieval castle. Accommodations in Krakow will be in the historic Old City, which is listed among world heritage sites. For more information, write to [kolinskid@yahoo.com](mailto:kolinskid@yahoo.com) or call 312-243-7373.



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. JOHN CANTIUS

The Society of St. John Cantius is a Public Association of the Christian Faithful in formation as a new religious community of men formed with the approval of Cardinal George and the Congregation of the Resurrection. Its mission is a Restoration of the Sacred in the Church through solemn liturgies, devotions, sacred art, sacred music, as well as instruction in Church heritage, catechesis, and Catholic culture in the context of parish ministry. Along with its founder, the community presently includes two priests, two deacons, three seminarians, one priest in canonical novitiate and six members in formation.

### HELP RESTORE THE SACRED

You too can help Restore the Sacred through your tax-deductible contribution or as an Associate Member of the Society of St. John Cantius. In addition to men who are seeking a vocation in religious life, the Society's statutes also allow the laity—male or female, married or single—to affiliate themselves with the Society as Associate Members in order to aid in the advancement of its mission. For more information about how to become an Associate Member, write to: Fr. C. Frank Phillips, C.R., Superior, Society of St. John Cantius, 825 North Carpenter Street, Chicago, Illinois 60622-5405. You can also send your check made out to "Society of St. John Cantius" to the above address.

### VISIT US ON THE WEB

Learn more about the Society of St. John Cantius on its website [www.societycantius.org](http://www.societycantius.org). You can also learn about the Society's work by visiting the St. John Cantius Parish website [www.cantius.org](http://www.cantius.org), where you can visit the community's mother church on a cybertour or view an exhibit of Sacred Art from the Society's collections.

### GET THE WORD OUT!

Do you know of someone who you think should know about the Society of St. John Cantius? Please send us their names and addresses, so that we can add them to our *Via Sacra* mailing list.

*Via Sacra*

The Society of St. John Cantius  
825 North Carpenter  
Chicago, IL 60622-3654



