



Via Sacra

VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 1 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. JOHN CANTIUS APRIL 16, 2006 EASTER

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FROM THE SUPERIOR'S DESK

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

I take great pleasure in extending Easter Greetings to you from all the members of the Society of St. John Cantius. In addition to my updates on the Society's activities these past months in this issue of the *Via Sacra*, a couple members of the Society will add their own thoughts on what has been happening.

Late this past December, Cardinal George once again spent an evening with the members of the Society. On a very personal level, he shared with us some of his reflections on the recent Papal Conclave, in which he was privileged to participate. While he was bound under oath not to reveal the specifics of the Conclave, he did reflect on how he saw the Holy Spirit working within the College of Cardinals to select the next Successor of St. Peter.

Also, in December, our good friend and Spiritual Advisor, Father Regis Barwig, arrived for a visit with some very unexpected news. Unbeknownst to me or anyone else in the Society, he had

secured my acceptance into the Polish Association of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, commonly known as the Knights of Malta.

Fr. Barwig returned once again on January 6,

2006, to preside over the induction ceremony here at St. John Cantius Church. A more formal official investiture, however, will take place in late November in the Wawel Cathedral in Krakow, Poland. This is a great honor, not so much for me, as it is

April 9, 2006
Palm Sunday



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Anne's Chapel in Lawton, Michigan. (PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)

for the Society and the parish.

In mid-January, a number of parishioners from St. John Cantius traveled to Washington, D.C., under the direction of Father Jim Isaacson for the March For Life. Many of our young people from the parish went along, and as in the past, they stirred up the crowds with their chants and slogans. On their way back to Chicago they were also able to visit a number of shrines. But although it was a very fruitful trip, our hearty pilgrims were very tired by the time they returned home. See the accompa-

nying article written by Br. Brian Schafer for another perspective on this event.

Because “Old Man Winter” did not come around much this year, the mild weather allowed many of the Brothers, as well as a faithful group of young men from the parish, to go a number of times to our retreat center in Lawton, Michigan, during this past winter. Together they did an enormous amount of work clearing the land of trees and brush, burning large piles of felled trees that had to be cleared from the overgrown land. Even though the work was



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Anne's Chapel during a day of retreat in Lawton, Michigan.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)



Fr. Frank Phillips, C.R., after his induction into the Knights of Malta at St. John Cantius Church on January 6, 2006.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)

hard, the Brothers and these young men chanted the Divine Office, sang and served Mass, and offered the Rosary every day. I believe that there was even time for recreation. One of our young men, who is particularly skilled in the kitchen, Anselm Karas, prepared the meals to make sure that everyone ate well.

Father Brendan is now the “chaplain” for a group of homeschoolers who meet at St. John's each Friday. The day begins with Mass followed by a variety of activities and special classes. Many of the mothers assist in this special day and everyone enjoys the spirit of community which is being built among our young parishioners.

In addition to his Friday activities, Father

Brendan also travels to the small community of Volo with Brother Chad one Saturday every month to conduct a program of activities for boys of St. Peter's Parish (where our priests have been saying one of the Sunday Masses since August 2004). Father Brendan gives the boys spiritual formation and Brother Chad conducts sporting activities for them. Not only the boys, but also the parents are eager to attend these monthly gatherings.

In between all of these activities, Brother Chad directs the Holy Innocents Choir, which already has nearly 100 voices. A volunteer from the parish takes the younger children and instructs them in the rudiments of music while Brother Chad conducts the older children. Not

only is there a tremendous amount of enthusiasm among the children in the choir, but the families who bring their children each week show great support for this program. The Holy Innocents Choir has also become a feeder for the adult Resurrection Choir, which I direct myself.

But Saturdays are not just filled with Holy Innocents Choir rehearsals and once-a-month trips to Volo. The day begins with the morning Divine Office, followed by Mass. Then, after a very quick breakfast, the Brothers are off once again—this time, to St. Gregory the Great Schola Cantorum rehearsal to practice Sunday’s chants for Mass, followed by Latin class.

In fact, every day here is busy. Sometimes people ask us, “What do you do all day?” Let me just say that when visitors interested in the community stay for a few days or a weekend, they usually leave tired. While the daily schedule does not seem demanding to us, who have been living it day in and day out, our visitors find that they are constantly trying to keep up with us. They quickly learn to live the daily routine of the communal religious life.

On a more serious note, our Father Seeley had surgery a few months back and as part of his recovery he went to visit family members in California. Because he was still too weak to travel alone at that time, I asked



On February 12, Members of the Society of St. John Cantius and many parishioners took part in a spontaneous march to Holy Name Cathedral in support of Francis Cardinal George. Here, Br. Chad McCoy stands amidst a flock of parish youth.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)

Father Jim to accompany him. This gave Father Jim an opportunity to visit his old Alma Mater, Thomas Aquinas College, and while there, he met with a number of young men interested in Religious Life.

On March 14th, members of the Society took an exciting trip to Rome! Actually, we went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to see a special exhibit entitled, “Saint Peter and the Vatican: the Legacy of the



Despite the brisk winter weather on that day, the march invigorated everyone. They were still in very high spirits by the time they returned to St. John Cantius Church for this parting photo.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)

Popes.” It was truly a wonderful presentation of the history of the Popes from St. Peter to our present Holy Father. Numerous works of art, both liturgical and secular, from various papacies were there right before our eyes. We saw many of the tiaras of previous Pontiffs, sacred vestments, sacred vessels, relics, icons, maps, and much more. It was a very affordable trip because Rome was able to come to us.

On March 16th, Brother Scott Haynes was received into Candidacy for ordination during a special Mass at Holy Apostles Seminary. His next step towards the altar is the Diaconate and finally the Priesthood. This

coming August 15th, both he and Brother Chad will make Final Vows. We ask you to keep them both in your prayers.

I would also like to ask for your help in our upcoming annual fundraiser. This very important event will be held on Sunday, August 6th at the University Club in downtown Chicago. The monies we raise from this fundraiser are essential not only to sustain the Society but also to help it grow. As with any family, costs continue to rise and so it is with our religious family. Even if it is slight, tuition and the ever-necessary insurance costs continue to climb and that is why your financial assistance is so deeply



Following the Mass for Admission to Candidacy at Holy Apostles Seminary on March 16, 2006, Br. Scott Haynes, SSJC (back row, right), posed in the seminary chapel with His Excellency, Robert McManus, D.D., Bishop of Worcester, Massachusetts (right center), seminary rector, Fr. Douglas Mosey, C.S.B. (left center), as well as other seminarians, who were accepted for candidacy that day.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER McGRATH)

appreciated. Tickets for our Benefit Dinner are \$500.00 a person. So, although I realize that many individuals cannot help at that level, I do hope that

you will consider assisting us in any way that you can because without your financial support we cannot continue to Restore the Sacred.

For forty days we fasted with Our Lord during Lent, so now let us feast with Our Risen Lord for the fifty days of Paschal glory at the Banquet of the Feast of the Lamb. We encourage each of you to celebrate the joy of this great feast for the full fifty days, thanking the Lord for the many blessings He has bestowed upon you. As each of us in the Society of St. John Cantius does the same, we will particularly give thanks for all of the blessings that we have received through your generous support. As always, all of our friends and benefactors will be remembered daily in the Society's prayers.



On Saturday, April 1, 2006, St. John Cantius Church was the site of an exceptional musical event and Lenten meditation, the St. Matthew Passion by Johann Sebastian Bach.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)

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

SPIRITUAL VITALITY CHARACTERIZES DC MARCH FOR LIFE

“Look at all the people out here for babies,” an awestruck young parishioner from St. John Cantius exclaimed at the sight of the throng of pro-lifers present at the 2006 March for Life. As one who has participated in several of these marches, I could not help but agree with his sentiment. The pro-life individuals at this annual event appear simultaneously to increase in number and decrease in age with each successive year. A brief perusal of the Internet yielded an estimate of a hundred thousand people in Washington, D.C., for this year’s march.

Our own pilgrims from St. John Cantius generated much of the fervor at the march. Undaunted by the surprisingly quiet crowd, our group persistently injected a vivacity into the march that others found difficult to match. With a relentless barrage of chants such as “We’ve got life, yes we do, we’ve got life, how about you?” and “Hey-ho, hey-ho, Roe v. Wade has got to go,” we managed to rouse some somnolent pro-lifers from the stupor of their “bus lag.” Before long, some even joined us in our cheers and attempted, albeit unsuccessfully, to top our enthusiasm.

The pro-life contingent from our parish, however, was not solely concerned with generating a merely superficial, external expression of support for life. We also attended to the more important and

in addition, we had Mass at the Franciscan Monastery in Washington, D.C., which houses replicas of holy shrines in the Holy Land. On the way home, we celebrated Mass at St. Anthony’s Chapel in Pitts-

over four times last year’s count. Hopefully, more people will join us at the next march and keep this tradition alive.

Many thanks are due to Fr. Jim and Br. Chad for their work in orga-



St. John Cantius parish youth wait for the January 2006 March for Life to begin in Washington, D.C.
(PHOTO COURTESY OF BRENDAN DEMPSEY)

enduring spiritual foundation of the pro-life movement, which derives its power from prayer and the Most Holy Eucharist. Our group prayed rosaries throughout the course of the journey and, while in the nation’s capitol, we visited the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. In

burgh, Pennsylvania, where one can view over 5000 relics and a life-size, wood-carved set of the Stations of the Cross.

The trip reaffirmed and re-energized our commitment to the cause of life. This year, more than fifty-five parishioners took part in the march, most of them teenagers—

nizing and executing this pilgrimage with such success, as well as to all the volunteers who assisted them. May the Restoration of the Sacred always include our efforts to defend and promote one of the most sacred of God’s gifts to us, the gift of life.

Br. Brian Schafer, SSJC



Fr. Jim Isaacson, who organized the youth trip to the March for Life this year, helps some of the participants with their posters.
 (PHOTO COURTESY OF BRENDAN DEMPSEY)



Fr. Jim Isaacson and some of the brothers from the Society wait for the March for Life to begin in Washington, D.C., this past January.
 (PHOTO COURTESY OF BRENDAN DEMPSEY)



Following the January 2006 March for Life in Washington, D.C., St. John Cantius parish youth and members of the Society pose in front of the Library of Congress.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF BRENDAN DEMPSEY)

The Joys of the Novitiate

Before traffic piles up on the expressways or the sun reaches over the Chicago skyline, the fathers and brothers of the Society of Saint John Cantius begin another day. Silent prayers of thanksgiving are tested by shrill sounding alarm clocks echoing through the hallways. Coats, breviaries and mumbled greetings are found on the way out the door. The birds singing happily in the crisp morning breeze make one wish that the walk from the rectory to the Church were a little longer. Soon eighteen are seated in the front pews and soon the bell “St. Anne” tolls six o’clock.

“I gaze on You in the sanctuary...” Its towering altars ornamented with carvings and gold are monuments to a great love of You. But their intricate symmetrical equa-

tions and flourishes are bland and lifeless compared to Your beauty. We become small under the soaring ceilings, so that in our humility You can lift us up to greater heights. Here we sing the words of the Divine Office, meditate on divine things and meet You in the sacrifice of the Mass. Here, before the storm of the day ahead, we take advantage of every quiet moment for assiduous union with God.

After breakfast, we find which chores, which challenges will be our road to sanctification. We may be in the sanctuary keeping down the fresh fall of dust. Other times we will be restoring order to the force of rescued altars, confessionals and sacred things. Some days we are sent to wage war on the dead trees and “shark-toothed brambles of sor-



In preparation for the Tenebrae service on Wednesday of Holy Week, Br. Brian Schafer lights the candles on the “hearse,” which is used during this service.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)

row” in the Lawton woods. All are thankful that some days are easier than others. In our work of restoring the exterior things to sacredness we find ourselves purified and restored interiorly by the submission of our wills to Christ’s.

Sanctification comes also through knowledge. At the hand of the Lord’s anointed we are brought up in the way we should go. We are instructed by their words and example so that we may more fully comprehend all that is the “Via Sacra,” from the Ten Commandments given by the Father, to the Gospel teaching of Christ, to the Holy Spirit working in the Second Vatican Council. The teachings of our Mother Church, her sacred liturgy, her sacred music and her sacred lan-

guage fill our minds with the way of perfection and our hearts with the inspiration to follow it.

Throughout the day, life is enriched with many opportunities to be charitable and to be humble enough to receive charity. There are times of joy, sorrow, rushing, waiting, feast and fasting, all of which make life fulfilling. When the stained glass windows have darkened and the golden gild shines in the sanctuary, when the sound of construction and traffic has died down, and the pages of the breviary replace the business of the day, one cannot help but be thankful for the grace that God gives us and for the mercy He shows in granting us this end of day.

Br. Nathan Caswell, SSJC



On Wednesday of Holy Week, the Society had its traditional Tenebrae service. (PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)



Br. Matthew Lewis walks back from St. Anne's Chapel during a Society of St. John Cantius day of retreat in Lawton, Michigan.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)



An early spring view of St. Anne's Chapel across the Society's lake in Lawton, Michigan.

(PHOTO COURTESY BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)



Br. Brian Schafer avails himself of the beautiful weather to take a walk during a Society of St. John Cantius day of retreat in Lawton, Michigan.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)



Deacon Bart Juncer does some spiritual reading during a Society of St. John Cantius day of retreat in Lawton, Michigan.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)



Fr. Brendan Gibson prays the Stations of the Cross during a Society of St. John Cantius day of retreat in Lawton, Michigan.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)



Br. Nathan Caswell prepares to fell a dead tree, while Br. Matthew Lewis (left) and Br. Brian Schafer rake up dried brush in mid-March, when a number of Society members and young men from the parish spent some time in Lawton, Michigan, clearing brush and dead trees from Society's land.
 (PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)



Members of the Society and young men from the parish take a break for lunch one day in mid-March while they were in Lawton, Michigan, to clear brush and dead trees from Society's land.
 (PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)



Fr. Jim Isaacson cuts up some of the dead trees from the Society's land in Lawton, Michigan, that were taken down by members of the Society members and young men from the parish in mid-March.
 (PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)



Br. Brendan Bartlett (left) and Trevor Karas get ready to throw a log onto the large burn pile that they used for brush and dead trees cleared from the Society's land in Lawton, Michigan, in mid-March.
 (PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)



In mid-March, a number of Society members and young men from the parish spent some time in Lawton, Michigan, clearing brush and dead trees from Society's land.
 (PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)



The new storage barn at the Society's Lawton, Michigan, retreat center is already standing and functional.
 (PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)



Brothers Brendan Bartlett (left to right), Nathan Caswell, Matthew Lewis, Brian Schafer, and Robin Kwan wait patiently for their entrance to the exhibit “Saint Peter and the Vatican: the Legacy of the Popes,” which the Society went to see in Milwaukee this past March. (PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)



Br. Brian Schafer (left to right), Fr. Frank Phillips, C.R., Br. Brendan Bartlett and Br. Nathan Caswell leave the Milwaukee Public Museum after visiting the “Saint Peter and the Vatican” exhibit this past March 14. (PHOTO COURTESY BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)



After visiting the exhibit “Saint Peter and the Vatican: the Legacy of the Popes” at the Milwaukee Public Museum on March 14, members of the Society stopped to see the magnificent St. Josaphat’s Basilica on Milwaukee’s South Side. (PHOTO COURTESY OF BR. JOSHUA CASWELL, SSJC)



SSJC CREST

You have seen the Society of St. John Cantius' crest on our *Via Sacra* newsletter. You have seen it on our stationery and other printed materials. And maybe you have wondered what its elements symbolize.

The red cross on the crest's shield comes from the traditional Resurrection banner used as a symbol of the Congregation of the Resurrection, of which our Founder, Fr. C. Frank Phillips, C.R. is a member.

The cross, however, is placed off-center as in Pope John Paul II's coat of arms to show that we were founded during his pontificate.

The Papal colors of white and gold found on the shield's background declare our unqualified loyalty to the Holy Father.

Finally, the jug on the lower right refers to a legend from the life of our patron, St. John Cantius. According to this legend (in much abbreviated form), a poor peasant girl one day accidentally broke a clay jug, in which she was carrying milk to sell at the market for her impoverished family. Out of the compassion for which he was known, John Cantius helped pick up the pieces and miraculously restored the jug to its original state.

The jug on our crest not only represents this event from the life of our patron but is also a symbolic representation of our charism—"Restoration of the Sacred," which is written in Latin on the bottom of the crest.

SAVE THE DATE!

*Society of St. John Cantius
Annual Benefit Dinner*

August 6, 2006

*University Club
Chicago, Illinois*

A PILGRIMAGE TO KRAKOW AND SOUTHERN POLAND WITH THE SOCIETY OF ST. JOHN CANTIUS

**September 11-21, 2006—\$1,999
(PLUS AIRLINE TAX)**

Although for a long time, Poland's treasures lay hidden behind the Iron Curtain, more and more people have begun to discover its beauty and rich culture. But for Catholics, Poland is a particularly unique spiritual experience—a country that has been staunchly Catholic for over 1,000 years, a country that is still vibrantly Catholic, and a country that produced one of history's greatest popes.

Krakow was once Poland's capital. It was and still remains one of the great cultural centers of central Europe. The proliferation of magnificent churches, chapels and monasteries in this Royal City once gave it a reputation as the "Rome of the North." This pilgrimage will take you to many of these beautiful churches and shrines, the tombs of saints, miraculous images, as well as many places connected with the late John Paul II. Each day of the pilgrimage includes the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in one of many historic churches.

For registration forms and more information about this pilgrimage, call Fr. Dennis Kolinski, SSJC at 312-243-7373.

Space is limited! Reserve your place now.

THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF ST. JOHN CANTIUS

Let us take your special intentions to the tomb of St. John Cantius. On two separate occasions this fall, we will celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at our patron's tomb at St. Anne's Church in Krakow, Poland. You can have the opportunity of having your special intentions placed on the altar of his shrine during each of those Masses. Look for the special Mass cards, which we will be sending in the near future.



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 the Restoration of the Sacred in the Church through solemn liturgies, devotions, sacred art and sacred music, as well as instruction in Church heritage, catechesis, and Catholic culture in the context of parish ministry. The community's eighteen members include six priests, three seminarians, two professed religious brothers 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. You can also learn about the Society's work by visiting the St. John Cantius Parish website 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
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