

CROSSINGS

SAINT JOSEPH'S MONASTERY

SUMMER 2006

The Celebration of a First Profession of Monastic Vows

July 10, 2006, at 5:30 in the evening, we gathered for Vespers in our chapel as we do every day, but this day the choir was full to overflowing with 20 of our dear friends who came to share in the first Profession of Monastic Vows by Br. Nicholas Cuthbert. Some joined in the Gregorian Chants of the Psalms, others simply listened and let the chant envelope them meditatively.

The profession of vows is always a joyous and blessed event in the life of a Religious Order, but for us it was a special blessing as this is only our second profession, as we are 'in our infancy' as a community. To have two names inscribed in the Book of Professions is a milestone for us.



Br. Nicholas kneels and holds the bottom of the Book of Professions in which the formula for profession is written in his own hand, and the Superior holds the top of the book as a symbol of his receiving Brother's vows in the name of the community.

Brother Nicholas has spent the last year and three months as a Novice, a period of intense, directed study of the Rule of St. Benedict, selected writings of the Desert Fathers, Mo-



Left to Right: Fr. Sam, our Chaplain, Br. Nicholas Cuthbert, Br. Vincent, Superior

nastic History and Benedictine Patrimony, the Monastic Vows, and the Constitutions and Customary of St. Joseph's Monastery. He now begins a three year period of less intensive but continued formation in what we call the 'Juniorate'. Brother will now take his place in the Community as Cellarer and put his considerable talents for accounting to full use! (This in addition to his Soap-Making and 'Monastic Barber' jobs) Br. Nicholas has already totally reorganized and streamlined our accounting system far beyond our expectations.



Brother Nicholas gets the honor of helping himself first to the delicious foods prepared for the dinner reception.

I have personally had the great privilege of witnessing Br. Nicholas' growth in the monastic life from Inquirer to Postulant to Novice to a Professed Monk, and this journey has been a true blessing for me in offering many opportunities to learn as well as teach. There is much for all of us to learn from this kind and gentle monk. He brings to St. Joseph's a spirit of humility and community that is immediately apparent to all who encounter him, and is an example and challenge to all.

I ask your continued prayer support of our little community as we seek to come ever closer to our Lord in this 'school of the Lord's service', as our Father St. Benedict puts it in the Rule. The life of a monk is never his own. We offer our prayers and praises, not for ourselves, but on behalf of all the faithful.

Brother Vincent Ignatius, O.S.B.
Superior

More Pictures from the Profession of Brother Nicholas Cuthbert, O.S. B.



Br. Nicholas signs the Act of Profession on the Altar as Br. Vincent and Fr. Sam witness.



St. Cuthbert's Cross



With St. Joseph in the background, Left to Right: Br. Vincent, Fr. Chip- Rector of Trinity Church, Br. Nicholas, and Fr. Sam.



Fr. Sam congratulates Br. Nicholas after the Profession



Susan Hudson serving up a piece of her delicious Caramel Cake!



Donna Harrison, Janeé Novak and Fr. Chip in the Refectory at the Reception.



Left to Right: Dixie Lewis, Donna Harrison, Ann O'Bryant, Janeé Novak, and Susan Hudson in the kitchen.



A beaming Br. Nicholas receives a hug after Vespers from Donna Harrison, good friend of the community.



Br. Nicholas and Fr. Sam go over a few liturgical details in the Refectory before Vespers



Br. Nicholas enjoying good food and a visit with Mirian and Francis Ory in the Common Room

Annual Community Retreat



We were once again happy to observe our annual Community Retreat at St. Joseph's Abbey in Covington, LA, April 24-30, 2006. Our Roman Catholic Benedictine brethren there welcomed us with their usual abundant hospitality. We joined them for all the offices in the Abbey Church each day, and had our own Mass in a small chapel set up for our use.



We enjoyed the family of geese in front of the Abbey Church who always seemed ready to greet those walking up.

The days spent at the Abbey were filled with lots of silence and rest, for which we are most thankful. The Annual Retreat gives us an extended period of time to simply 'be' without the usual duties of keeping up a monastery- a blessed gift.

Monastery Horarium

Monday-Saturday

6:00 a.m. Vigils
6:30 a.m. Lectio- Silent Prayer
7:00 a.m. Lauds
Noon Midday Prayer
Dinner follows
5:30 p.m. Vespers
6:30 p.m. Supper
7:00 p.m. Community Recreation
7:30 p.m. Compline
9:00 p.m. Great Silence
(10:00 p.m. Saturday, and Feast Days)

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 12:05—Parish Church
Wednesday 5:30—Parish Church
Thursday 7:45— Monastery

Sunday

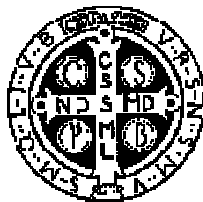
10:30 a.m. Mass at the Parish
(9:30 a.m. -Summer)
Midday Prayer
Dinner follows
5:30 p.m. Vespers
6:00 p.m. Community Devotions
6:30 p.m. Supper

Guests are always welcome to join us for worship in the Monastery Chapel. We serve breakfast after Mass on Thursdays. Please call ahead so that enough food may be prepared.

Monastery Phone: 601.442.4029

Phone calls are not received after 9:00 p.m. at night or before 9:00 a.m. in the morning as a general rule, however, we do have an answering machine for these times should you need to contact us.

Silence is maintained on Friday evenings (except for major feasts) from after Vespers until the next morning to provide extra time for prayer and study.



community news

Br. Vincent attended the Gary Schocker Flute Masterclass at Holy Cross Monastery, June 21-25. Not only was it a wonderful time of musical learning and enrichment, but also a valuable opportunity to visit with our brethren at Holy Cross. Br. Vincent was honored to be able to join the monks in Choir for the Offices.

Br. Vincent will be traveling once again to St. Louis for the RSCM Training Course there where he will serve as Chaplain for the course and Flutist. A special part of the trip will include playing the flute for the Sunday morning Mass at Grace Church where the Rector, Fr. Greg Heins, will be married.

Br. Nicholas has found a talent he never knew he had- Soap making! We have converted the little workshop on our property into an air-conditioned 'Soap Shop' for him. He can be found there most afternoons, busily filling orders!



Our Chaplain, Fr. Sam, will be taking a much-deserved vacation with his wife this summer that will in-

Introducing
MONASTERY SOAP



Handmade in our Soap Shop. Natural ingredients: Goat's Milk, Soybean Oil, Coconut Oil, Shea Butter, Milk, and a few drops of Holy Water.

Fragrances:

Plumeria

Lavendar

English Rose

citrus sage

Egyptian Musk

Blackberry Sage

Bars are hand cut to a convenient and long-lasting 3-4 oz size and wrapped for gift giving.

We ask a \$3.00 donation for individual bars, or \$10.00 donation for four bars- any combination of fragrance. And, if you want to send them as gifts, we can ship them for you!

Contact Br. Nicholas at the Monastery for more information.

Monthly Retreat Group

Our monthly Retreat Group will resume on Monday, September 11 at 5:30 p.m.

The evening begins with Vespers followed by 20 minutes of silent prayer, then a festive meal in the refectory followed by a program on a spiritual topic in the Common Room.

Come join us!

Readings in Refectory

It is our practice, in accordance with the Rule of Benedict, to have reading during the noon and evening meals in Refectory most days. With only two monks in residence at this time we accomplish this by way of audio books on tape or CD.

We have been enjoying conferences given to the Novices and Juniors at the Abbey of Gethsemani in the 1960's by Thomas Merton. Recent subjects have included Prayer, Benedictine Spirituality, Humility, Love, and The Blessed Virgin Mary.

If you have any old audio books of a religious or non-fiction nature that you would like to discard, we would appreciate the donation. This keeps our cost down and affords us the opportunity to utilize the money that would have been spent on audio books for print volumes for our library.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

