

Holy Cross Priory

An Anglican Benedictine Community
In Canada

HOLY CROSSTIDE
2018



Following is an excerpt taken from the sermon preached by Br. Aidan Owen on St. Benedict's Day, July 11, 2018, at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Austin, Texas.

A Reflection on the Benedictine Way of Life

“What do you desire?”

That’s the first question you’re asked when you’re received as a postulant, when you receive the habit as a novice, and you’re asked it again when you make the three-fold Benedictine vow of obedience, stability, and conversion of life to the monastic way.

The question of desire drives the Benedictine Way, and indeed the Christian Way. In his Rule for Monks, Benedict gives a very simple and very challenging answer: prefer nothing whatever to Christ.

You see, Benedict knew that, contrary to the image of monasticism in popular culture as a dour and serious life, the monastic life is really a love affair. For fifteen hundred years Benedict’s rule has provided a structure and a context for pursuing the deepest longing of the heart for wholeness and unity in God. The Christian mystical tradition calls this search the pursuit of “purity of

heart,” though we might more accurately describe it as “unity of heart,” which is to say the uniting of our entire being – body, mind, spirit, heart – centred in love on the One who is Love itself.

Monastic communities have always been spacious places in a crowded world. That space was certainly what drew me to Benedictine life. My whole life I had been driven by a longing so deep and powerful that I couldn’t find a name for it. This longing was a burning secret at the centre of my life. And every context in which I found myself was simply too small to hold it, or to hold me.

When I came to Holy Cross, where I’m now a monk, my intuition told me that I had finally found a place with enough space for that longing. It was certainly one of the few places I had found where people nodded their heads knowingly when I mentioned the deep desire without a name. Monastic life participates, right here and now, in eternity. That is the secret to its spaciousness. In the hallowing of the everyday, Benedict’s rule points towards the holiness of the incarnate life in which, as he points out, the tools of the kitchen or the garden are as precious as the vessels of the altar. With eternity as the context, there is enough space for the whole of one’s life to emerge.

How different that process is from the process of education, identity-building, and success in contemporary society and even in the Church today. In Benedictine life you don’t “become someone.” You don’t “make it.” Instead, over a lifetime, you surrender to God’s desire to stick back together the fragments of your life, so that what once seemed maimed, ugly, or shameful becomes, through the persistent and loving movement of God, beautiful, whole and holy.

The more I live the monastic life and the Christian life, the more fully I am convinced that no one and nothing is beyond God’s love. And that no matter how dark the times in which we live, God is still working through each of us, to break the world’s heart open so that it can become a heart of flesh.

There is nothing and no one who does not ultimately belong to God. There is no part of us, individually or collectively, that is beyond the reach of God’s healing and reconciling love, and if we follow the deep desires of our heart, if we prefer nothing whatever to Christ and allow Christ’s love to break and fill our hearts, who knows what kind of spacious sanctuary we may become?

- BR. AIDAN OWEN



The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

*Celebrate our annual Patronal Festival with us.
Join us in worship and stay for a light reception.*

WHEN:

Saturday, September 15, 2018
11:00am

WHERE:

St. John's, West Toronto
288 Humberside Avenue

GUEST SPEAKER:

The Reverend Louise Peters
Vicar, St. James Cathedral

RSVP:

Email info@ohcpriory.com or call 416-767-9081, ext. 24



Louise Peters has been an ordained Anglican priest for 32 years, serving in varied ministries including team ministry at three cathedral communities, university chaplaincy, incumbency, co-rectorship with her husband, and as an executive director of a retreat and conference centre. Presently she is serving in ministry as the Vicar of St James Cathedral. Louise has also provided spiritual direction, vocational discernment and ministry mentorship to young adults exploring their faith and walk with God. Her best work has been the privilege of sharing in the parenting of three children. Louise is nourished spiritually through art as prayer (collage, word, music, ink doodles), cooking, walking and imagining scripture in small group settings.



Community Notes

The Order

ABOVE: THE ORDER MET FOR ANNUAL CHAPTER (OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING) AT THE "MOTHER HOUSE" IN UPSTATE NEW YORK, JUNE 5-10, 2018.

BR. AIDAN OWEN was ordained to the priesthood on June 5. This was done during the Order's Annual Chapter at West Park.

BR. SCOTT WESLEY BORDEN is now a member of our monastery in South Africa. He has very ably served as prior of West Park and continues to be the assistant Superior of the Order.

FR. CEBOLENKOSI CEBU was clothed as a novice at U Mama We Themba Monastery in Grahamstown, South Africa.

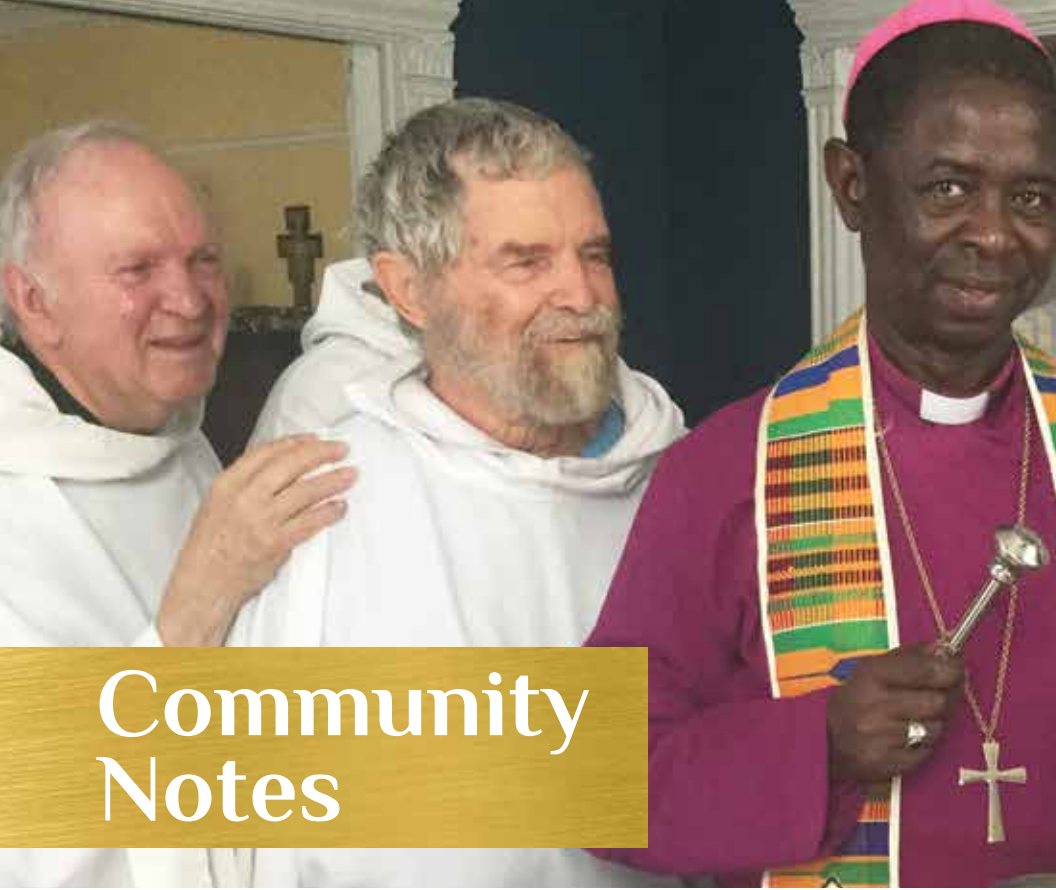
FR. LAURENCE HARMS celebrated his 90th birthday on August 11.

FR. ADRIAN GILL and **BR. ROBERT LEO SEVENSKY** celebrated 70th birthday anniversaries (Br. Adrian on May 31, and Br. Robert Leo on September 7).

BR. RANDY GREVE serves as chaplain for the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church.

The Priory

BR. CHRISTIAN SWAYNE celebrated his 85th birthday on August 10. He has had cataract surgery on both eyes and has recovered nicely. We are grateful for Br. Adrian's skilled nursing care for Christian.



Community Notes

The Priory CONTINUED

BR. DAVID BRYAN HOOPES celebrated his 75th birthday on June 25. Along with Brs. Randy and Joseph, Canon David Brinton OGS (General Secretary of CAROA), Br. James Mahoney, and Br. Thomas Mark Liotta, he was at the Episcopal Church's General Convention in Austin, Texas, July 2-11. Canon David Brinton OGS, Sr. Margaret CSC, and Br. David Bryan attended a CAROA/NAECC meeting in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, August 21-23.

BR. LEONARD KOFI ABBAH has done Sunday parish supply throughout the summer. At home he tends his thriving vegetable garden and assists with many duties in the priory. In late October he will travel to Cape Coast, Ghana where he will assist the bishop with teaching and pastoral care in the parishes. Br. Leonard will return to Toronto in early April. In Toronto he is beloved of countless members of the Ghanaian community and frequently attends all sorts of celebrations and gatherings.



BLESSING OF THE FIRST FRUITS BY ARCHBISHOP DANIEL SARFO (PRIMATE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF WEST AFRICA AND BISHOP OF KUMASI), SEEN HERE WITH (LEFT TO RIGHT) BR. DAVID BRYAN, BR. CHRISTIAN, DR. JOHN LOCKHEAD, KWESI NKUMAH, BR. LEONARD, BR. ADRIAN.

BR. REGINALD MARTIN CRENSHAW has been invited to submit an article to an anthology entitled, “Field Hollers and Freedom Songs.” This anthology looks at the various music genres that African Americans developed and produced as an organized response to slavery and Jim Crow. He was invited to write a piece on alternative ways in which African American women created access to the Sacred to define themselves over and against the dominant society’s definition of their humanity. On September 30, 2018, Reginald completes a year and a half as the Head of the Interim Ministry Team for St. James the Apostle in Brampton. In addition, Reginald continues to develop his growing Spiritual Direction ministry now with several directees outside of Toronto. He continues his consultant work in multicultural ministries in the diocese.

BR. CHARLES MCMULKIN has been engaged in Sunday parish work throughout the summer (St. Leonard’s Church and St. John’s, York Mills). He conducted a quiet day at the priory for young adults from Toronto’s Church of the Redeemer. (See also “First Profession,” page 7).

First Profession of the Monastic Vow



THE REV'D BR.
CHARLES ANDREW
MCMULKIN OHC

On June 30 at Holy Cross Priory, Toronto, Br. Charles made the First Profession of the Monastic Vow. The Father Superior, Br. Robert James Magliula, received his vow in the presence of six Holy Cross brothers, Br. Charles' mother and brother, OHC associates, friends, and religious sisters. The Superior asked: "My brother, what do you desire?" Br. Charles responded: "I, Charles Andrew McMulkin, desire to dedicate my whole life to God and His people in the Order of the Holy Cross, and I wish, of my own free will, to share in this Community's life of Stability, Conversion to the monastic way of life, and Obedience."

In preparation for his First Profession Br. Charles was a postulant for six months and a novice for two years, and was mentored by Br. Reginald Martin Crenshaw who was his director of monastic formation. During the noviciate, Br. Charles had classes on the Rule of St. Benedict, the Rule of the Order of the Holy Cross, extensive reading about monastic history and practice, and books on the spiritual life and practice. He participated in regular seminars with



the novices of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine and novices from Roman Catholic communities. Br. Charles continues to see his Spiritual Director.

Br. Charles was born in Hamilton, Ontario on August 29, 1956. He is the son of Archdeacon John McMulkin (deceased), and Ruth (nee Philips). Br. Charles received his B.A. From the University of Toronto and his MTS degree from Trinity College, U of T.

Ordained Deacon for the Diocese of Niagara he was loaned, at his request, to the Diocese of Western Newfoundland for a period of four years where he was made Priest and served a multi-point parish in the northern fishing outposts. He then served in the Diocese of Niagara for six years and, since then the Diocese of Toronto.

Following a brief leave of absence from full-time parochial work, Br. Charles accepted a position at Renascent, a ministry for persons living with Substance Abuse Disorder. He was highly regarded in his work as Senior Counsellor and Team Leader, departing after 14 years to enter monastic life. Since 2009 he has been Honorary Assistant at Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street in Toronto.

Charles is the 4th generation of Anglican clergy in his family.

At the Priory Br. Charles serves as Director of Associates and Coordinator for Communications. He frequently serves as Sunday supply priest. Along with his siblings, Br. Charles provides ongoing care for their mother.





Guest House

During the summer months we have welcomed guests nearly every week. Our guests have come from across Canada, the USA, and West Africa. From Ghana we have enjoyed visits from Bishop Cyril ben Smith of Maupong, the Primate of the Province of West Africa and Bishop of Kumasi, the Most Rev'd Daniel Sarfo, and the retired Primate Bishop Robert Okine and his niece Adelaide. We were also happy to have Br. Robert Leo with us for a brief visit.

On June 22 we celebrated a requiem for a long-time acquaintance Richard Schenck. For many years Br. Christian was Richard's spiritual director and friend. In gratitude for the steadfast support of Christian and the brothers, Richard has willed his estate to the Priory. May Richard rest in peace and rise in glory.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and offerings which enable us to keep the Guest House open. God bless you. Come and visit.

ABOVE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: CAROLINE MACKIE, TRISTAN JOSEPH PAYLOR, AND BR. CHARLES AT THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER YOUNG ADULT AWAY DAY ON JUNE 2.

Love (III)

by George Herbert (1593-1633)

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,
 Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
 From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
 If I lacked anything.

“A guest,” I answered, “worthy to be here”:
 Love said, “You shall be he.”

“I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
 I cannot look on thee.”

Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
 “Who made the eyes but I?”

“Truth, Lord; but I have marred them; let my shame
 Go where it doth deserve.”

“And know you not,” says Love, “who bore the blame?”
 “My dear, then I will serve.”

“You must sit down,” says Love, “and taste my meat.”
 So I did sit and eat.



**Love must act
as light must shine
and fire must burn.**

- Fr. Huntington OHC

Worship Times

7:00am Matins

8:00am Eucharist

(8:00AM TUESDAY-FRIDAY
5:00PM SATURDAY)

**11:30am Diurnum
(Midday Prayer)**

5:00pm Vespers

7:30pm Compline

*** MONDAY IS THE BROTHERS' "GRACE DAY"
(DAY OF REST)**



Holy Cross Priory

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Holy Cross Priory is a monastery of the Order of the Holy Cross, a community founded in 1884 by The Reverend James Otis Sargent Huntington to provide a specifically North American expression of monasticism for Anglicans. The Order has had a ministry in Canada since the 1890s. The Priory was founded in 1973.

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